



**GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**OCTOBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor H Griffiths

Councillors:

D Davies  
S Dendy (from 6.49 pm)  
M Jones (from 6.42 pm)  
R Jones (from 7.20 pm)  
M Lewis  
C Lloyd  
M Trowbridge  
G Walters

Apologies: Councillor G Lloyd and M Thomas

No Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, C Gillard-Sage,

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

59/22 Apologies (as above)

**60/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters incl. Planning	Member
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member

**61/22 SHAPING THE FUTURE PRESENTATION FROM BCBC**

BCBC Officer, Nicola Bunston attended the meeting to give a short presentation on BCBC's budget consultation Shaping Bridgend's Future and to answer any questions raised on the consultation.

Nicola gave an update on the previous years' engagement and said the pandemic had lowered participation. This year the questions are no so specific and ask about the pandemic, performance, partnerships, investment, digitalization, opening civic offices etc. Members asked questions about the information given.

**Resolved:** The information and comments were noted.

**62/22 SUMMER ACTIVITY SCHEME FEEDBACK FROM HALO LEISURE**

Unfortunately due to an internet issue Rhian Thomas of Halo Leisure had been unable to join the meeting. However, prior to the meeting she'd provided a written review of the Garw Valley summer activity scheme and members were asked to feedback any questions they may have to the Clerk.

**63/22 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2021 ORDINARY MEETING**

The Ordinary September Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

**Resolved:** The minutes were approved and were signed by the Chair of the Meeting.

**64/22 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING**

**Minute 58/22 - Correspondence re Pre-Planning Application**

A response had been received from Amity Planning:

The access road utilises an existing vehicular access to the site. The proposals include improvements to the access to provide greater visibility splays and this has been

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designed by a qualified Highways Engineer. The provision of an alternative access to the site would be challenging due to levels on site and would require a significant amount of groundwork and the removal of a section of the wall bordering Victoria street. The wall has been identified as offering potential for bat roosts, so we are understandable reluctant to remove any of the wall. The layout of the scheme has been designed to ensure a suitable buffer from the wall to protect any bats which may use the wall as a roost.

We understand that you have concerns regarding the provision of a pedestrian crossing. The crossing was suggested by our Highways Consultant as an opportunity to provide an improvement in pedestrian safety along Victoria St. I have spoken with our client and we will omit this proposal from the scheme, as per your wishes.

**Resolved: The information was noted.**

### **65/22 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR JUNE AND JULY 2021**

The Clerk had distributed a graph and narrative of the crime figures for June and July 2021 with the meeting papers.

**Resolved: The information was noted.**

### **66/22 COVID MEMORIAL**

Councillor Griffiths suggested a small wood be planted at the Plant! site behind the Co-op or an alternative of a large tree with a plaque. These were discussed.

**Resolved: It was agreed to go ahead with the large tree and plaque.**

### **67/22 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE**

Guidance for T&CCs had been received and considered on action to be taken on the passing of Queen Elizabeth. The Clerk had obtained a quote for an online Condolence Book.

**Resolved: The information was noted and the website recommendations had already been put in place. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for an on-line condolence book to be designed.**

### **68/22 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**

Councillor Griffiths raised her concerns about the state of the roads, particularly the side roads and this was discussed.

**Resolved: The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC about this matter and to request a full audit of the roads in the valley.**

**69/22 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCL. FINANCIAL REQUESTS**

**1. Payments:**

The Clerk requested authority to pay the payments for August, September and October 2021 as detailed on the payment sheets. The balance carried forward to November was accepted.

**2. Income:**

No income was received in the above months.

**3. External Audit:**

The audit outcome should have been received by 30<sup>th</sup> September, however the Welsh Audit office have not completed them in time and a notice has been published on the council's website.

**4. Financial Request:**

A copy of a financial request had been received from the Garw Valley Miners Basketball Club.

**Resolved:** The payments for August, September and October 2021 were approved and authority was given to make the payments. It was unanimously agreed to donate £25 to the basketball club. All other information was noted.

**70/22 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

Councillor M Jones gave an update on V2C matters, waste in the community, a planned monthly litter pick and BCBC's budget consultation.

Councillor S Dendy gave an update including matters concerning the community path and footpaths.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**71/22 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair had attended the OVW virtual Innovation Conference. Matters of concern this month were the anti-social behaviour of youths and the burnt out garages behind Waunbant.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to write to Councillor Shaw as borough councillor for Pontycymer to ask him to make a referral to BCBC about the garages.

## **72/22 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING WARDEN'S REPORT**

A written report from the Warden had been circulated with the meeting papers.

### **Issues raised in the month:**

- Water leaking down Lower Adare Street
- Lights out Pontycymer Square
- Burning trees and abandoned car at Ffaldau Estate

### **Mountain Bike Trails**

The final stage of the work has now been completed. Two motorbikes were seen using the track after the work had been completed, but fortunately there had been no damage. The bikes had been reported to 101.

### **Warden**

The Warden's jacket has now been embroidered as per the council's instructions. The logo has been digitised so that it can be used in future for t-shirts.

### **Insurance**

The council's annual insurance premium had been renewed.

### **Bettws Footpath**

BCBC's Rights of Way Manager had asked if the community council could procure and project managed the footpath work.

### **Benches**

The council do not have permission to go ahead with the installation of the bench before Remembrance Day as the lease renewal has still not been completed.

The Clerk had been told to consult with the residents of Oxford Street, write a risk assessment and put a traffic management plan in place before a licence could be considered.

### **Daniel James Memorial Plaque**

Following correspondence with Huw Irranca-Davies the Clerk had been asked to discuss it with the Heritage Society. They are happy with the suggestion of the Strand but would like it mounted on a stone or a plinth.

### **Footpaths Around the Parc Calon Lan Monument**

Following difficulties in obtaining quotes to renew the four paths around the monument, the Clerk had received a quote for £17,206.25 from a BCBC approved contractor. This was discussed. Councillor M Jones, supported by 2 Bettws Councillors suggested that this expenditure would be supported but wanted an agreement in principle that similar support would be given to any future projects in Bettws, Llangeinor and Pontycymer.

Note: The Chair lost internet connection and at 7.33 pm the previous Chair, Councillor C Lloyd, took over the Chair. Councillor Griffiths returned as Chair at 7.47 pm.

### **Timber Steps Picnic Area Pont Lake**

There is £3,000 in the budget for the repair to the steps. A quote had been received from a BCBC approved contractor to carry out the work for £4,910. The Pontycymer ward councillors agreed to make up the difference from their ward funds.

### **Floral Displays**

The planter at Lluest had been planted and will be watered by the gardening contractor. All planters will be emptied in the next few weeks and replanted for winter.

The Clerk asked the wards who had not collected their spring bulbs to do so asap and plant. The Bettws ward asked that the Warden helps with their planting in the coming week.

The hanging baskets in Llangeinor have been removed for winter.

### **Remembrance Wreaths**

These have been ordered and collected.

### **Love It, Don't Trash It Scheme**

The GVCC scheme is scheduled to start in the next few months.

### **Blaengarw Lake**

The work to cut back the reeds and remove the pondweed has been scheduled for January.

### **Panto Donation**

The Llangeinor ward has been asked to make a donation of £600 towards the pantomime.

**Meetings in Person**

The Clerk asked if the council wanted to continue with virtual meetings.

Councillor Walters said the bridge at the top of Pont lake needed some attention.

**Resolved:** The Clerk would discuss the bridge repairs with the Warden. It was agreed that the council would procure and project manage the Bettws footpath work and that the Clerk would keep a record of the time spent on the project to reclaim from BCBC. It was agreed to put PC Lan Footpaths on the agenda for the November meeting and that in the meantime Councillor Dendy be asked to look into grant funding for the project. The donation to the pantomime was agreed by the Llangeinor councillors and meetings in person would re-start in January 2022. The Clerk was asked to write to SW Police ref. motorbikes in the park.

**73/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received, including the additional sheet distributed with the consent of the Chair as the correspondence had been received following the meeting papers being sent out. Of particular note were the following:

- Many consultations and surveys
- IRPW statement of payment returns 2020-2021.
- IRPW DRAFT Annual Report Consultation and highlighted the changes to consider
- Potential Candidate Sessions 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Residents' correspondence
- Councillor Shaw's request re Christmas tree lights Pontycymer
- SW Police request re Remembrance events
- Sustrans Cymru - Consultation on Garw Valley 'Missing Link'

**Resolved:** All correspondence and action of the Clerk was noted. It was agreed that members would respond individually to the IRW Draft changes, noted that Councillor Shaw's request had been referred to BCBC, Councillor M Jones agreed to help a resident with a neighbour issue and to invite a representative from Sustrans to the November meeting. The request for a bench at Pont lake was approved.

**74/22 PLANNING MATTERS**

9 planning request had been included in the meeting papers; 14 decisions were included in the planning table and there was one appeal which was dismissed. 7 emails from Planning Aid Wales had also been circulated.

**Resolved:** No objections were made to the planning applications. The Planning Aid correspondence was noted.

**75/22 ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER ORDINARY MEETING**

- Invite a representative of Sustrans to the meeting to discuss the Garw Valley 'Missing Link'

**Resolved: The agenda will be kept open for urgent items to be added in the month.**

**The date for the next meeting will be Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 via Zoom at 6.30 pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm.