



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT PONTYCYMER OAP CENTRE
AND/OR ZOOM ON MONDAY 16th MAY 2022 AT 6.30 PM

Present: Councillor D Davies

Councillors:

G Andrews
J Coles
W Davies
H Griffiths
M Jones
M Lewis
C Lloyd
M Thomas
M Trowbridge

No Apologies: Councillor R Jones

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

1/22-23 Apologies (as above)

June 2022 Ordinary Meeting

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The incoming Chair, Councillor Deb Davies, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2/22-23- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Activity Scheme 2022 Tynyrheol Primary School	Director Richard Price Centre Chair of Governors
H Griffiths	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Ysgol Cymunedol y Dderwen Ffaldau Primary School	Member Governor Chair of Governors
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Bettws Primary School	Member Governor
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member

3/22-23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2022 ORDINARY MEETING.

The April Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

4/22-23 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APRIL 2022 MEETING

Minute 158 To Consider Matters Arising from the March 2022 Meeting

Bettws Footpath: The work has not yet been started. The Clerk had not received an update or the go ahead for the contractors to start from the Rights of Way department despite several emails and had not been able to obtain a reply via telephone.

Bins: Despite reminders the Clerk was yet to receive confirmation of installation from BCBC for Federation Lane, Ffaldau School and the broken bin in the Pontyrhyl play area.

Leased Land Map: The Clerk had now been supplied with a detailed map of the leased land, however the boundary line crosses the road half way up Railway Terrace so she'd queried its accuracy with BCBC and is awaiting a reply.

Fence Plant! Site: The contractor has confirmed that the work will be carried out in the first week of June.

Minute 161 Place Making Charter

At the April meeting the council had agreed in principle only to sign up to this Charter as it was a pre-election period and this was discussed further.

Minute 162 Donation

Following last month's advice regarding a donation to Ty Hafan, the Clerk had made further enquiries from One Voice Wales and clarified the advice given last month to the Council.

Minute 163 Dog Waste Bin Oxford Street

The Clerk had sought permission from BCBC and was awaiting a response.

Minute 168 Correspondence

The Clerk had submitted the observations made by the Council regarding the Forest Resource Plan and read out the response to Members.

Resolved: The information was noted. Councillor M Jones agreed to refer the Bettws footpath issue to BCBC. Councillor Griffiths agreed to refer the bin issue to BCBC. The council now wished it to be minuted that Members had unanimously agreed to sig up to the Place Making Charter.

5/22-23 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR MARCH 2022

The crime figures for March 2022 had been circulated to Members. PCSO Mike Rees and PCSO Janine Dulson were present at the meeting. PCSO Rees gave some detail behind some of the crimes listed on the February crime figure sheet circulated at the April meeting.

Members raised their concerns about crime at and in the car park of Halo Leisure Centre, Pontycymer. The PCSOs were asked when the crime figures for the period of problems will be released and they were informed July/August.

The PCSOs reiterated that all crimes need to be reported. Councillor Griffiths invited them to the OAP Centre coffee mornings held on Fridays.

Resolved: The information was noted.

6/22-23 ACTIVITY SCHEME 2022

Rhydian Jones, Halo Leisure was welcomed to the meeting. Rhydian had provided Members with a request for additional funding for this year's activity scheme in advance of the meeting and the reasons were discussed. He also informed the Council about the persistent problems with criminal damage and anti-social behaviour around the Centre. Following Rhydian's presentation Members were informed that the scheme to be held at the Richard Price Centre would not be going ahead this year due to the damage done during the previous year's scheme.

Rhydian said invites to participate in events are sent to schools but the only response had been from Tynyrheol.

Resolved: It was agreed to retain the budget provision at £9,650 which would be sufficient funding for the scheme now that the Richard Price Centre had been taken out of the offer. School Governors were asked to speak to the Head Teachers and inform their schools of the scheme and to ask the schools to publicise it. Councillor M Jones said he'd look to see if the anti-social behaviour group run by BCBC could be reinstated.

7/22-23 SPRING BULBS

The order for daffodil and/or bluebell bulbs is due this week and the Clerk asked if Members wanted to continuing rolling out this planting scheme in the autumn of 2022. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to go ahead and the Clerk was asked to order the following:

- Bettws - 3 daffodil, 1 bluebell
- Blaengarw - 2 daffodil, 2 bluebell
- Llangeinor - 3 daffodil
- Pontycymer - 3 daffodil, 3 bluebell

8/22-23 PARC CALON LAN FOOTPATHS

During the previous Council's term, Councillor S Dendy had been looking for grant funding for this project. Unfortunately Sorrel is no longer a Member of the Council so the Clerk asked how Members wanted to continue to progress this matter? This was discussed.

Resolved: It was agreed that Councillor J Coles would be responsible for finding and applying for funding for this project. The Clerk would obtain an up-to-date quote given the recent increase in the cost of building materials.

9/22-23 **FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

1. Payments:

The Clerk requested authority to pay the May 2022 payments as detailed on the payment sheets. The balance carried forward to June 2022 was accepted.

2. Income:

The following income had been received this month:

- £120,001 precept funding 2022/23
- £600 Community Path reclaim
- £2,850 Rights of Way agency agreement reclaim

Resolved: The payments for May 2022 were approved and authority was given to make the payments. All income was noted.

10/22-23 **BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

Bettws: Councillor M Jones apologised for not attending the Annual Meeting and congratulated all re-elected and newly elected. He said feedback from the campaigning was all regeneration, regeneration, regeneration. He suggested the council should improve its communication with the public and suggested a Facebook page. Councillor Jones had attended the Men's Shed book launch, which was well attended and a success, he said the donation from the Community Council towards the buffet was mentioned and the Council was thanked.

Blaengarw: Councillor J Coles shared his concerns regarding the broken benches in the valley. He suggested setting up a volunteer group to look into repairing benches. Councillor M Thomas raised her concerns about the service currently being provided at the local surgery. She also requested that the trees on Railway Terrace are reduced in height and asked what the provision for allotments should be.

Llangeinor: Some hedge overgrowth had been reported and these had been referred by the Clerk to BCBC and V2C. It was noted that there had been some drug related issues in the village.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to look into setting up a Facebook page and the rules around it. It was suggested Councillor Coles links into Pontycymer Men's Shed who already have a volunteer group set up. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for the tree cut back on Railway Terrace.

11/22-23 **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The incoming Chair, Councillor Deb Davies, did not have anything to report as the report is retrospective and therefore outgoing Chair, Councillor Heather Griffiths gave an update which included issues with the surgery service. It had come to her attention during the campaigning that there is a defibrillator at Bryn Stores but it is not in a cabinet and the proprietor has requested that it's reinstalled on an outside wall to enable 24/7 access for the public. He had requested funding for a cabinet.

Resolution: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to speak to the local responder, Don Sage, to organise a cabinet and its installation and registry on the Ambulance Service database and the Council would fund the cabinet.

12/22-23 **CLERK'S REPORT**

The report from the Warden, circulated to Members, was noted.

Fly Tipping Parc Calon Lan:

The Clerk showed Members a photo of the fly tipping to the rear of a property at Church Terrace, Blaengarw. She explained that this was not the first time fly tipping had occurred in this area.

The Strand:

Despite carrying out a Land Registry search it had not been possible for the Clerk to identify the ownership of the land in Blaengarw known as the Strand. The legal department at BCBC believe it is land that was in Creation's possession, though it is not registered at the Land Registry. Western Power, who have a sub-station directly next to it has confirmed it is not their land. The legal department is waiting for the planning department to provide any previous planning applications for it to try and identify ownership.

Land Behind Darren Bungalows:

Residents have raised the matter of rats within the trees in this area.

Turning Circle Railway Terrace:

Legal department at BCBC has provided a map of the leased land, though its accuracy is questionable as the boundary crosses the road over to the houses half way up Railway Terrace. The Clerk is awaiting a reply. The Clerk therefore is still unable to respond to Huw Irranca-Davies AM in regards to filling in the turning circle puddle.

Code of Conduct Training:

Councillor Davies completed his training on 10th May and Councillor Coles training has been booked.

New Councillor Training:

The Clerk informed Members that there are New Councillor training sessions available via One Voice Wales.

Co-option Pontycymer and Bettws Wards:

The Clerk has asked BCBC for the notice for co-option so that it can be displayed asap.

Draft Training Plan:

The Clerk would prepare a draft for the June meeting, she asked anyone with specific needs to let her know if they wish a particular session to be included.

She informed Members that there are two free training courses for councillors available on each of the following modules:

- Council as an Employer
- Understanding the Law
- Local Government Finance (Basic)
- Local Government Finance (Advanced)

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to refer the fly tipping matter to BCBC. The 3 borough councillors said they would work together to identify the land ownership at the Strand. The Clerk was asked to raise the rat issue with Public Health Protection. Anyone who wishes to attend training was asked to let the Clerk know. The Clerk was asked to find out who is now in charge of Bus Shelters at BCBC and request that the one on Pontycymer Square is cleaned and painted.

13/22-23 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received, including additional correspondence included with the permission of the Chair as they were received after the papers for the meeting had been circulated to Members. Of particular note were the following:

- Evans Banks Planning Ltd - confirmation of receipt of comments by the Council regarding the application consultation for land formerly Ffaldau Arms
- Resident - complaint re. the condition of Blaengarw Lake
- Teenage Cancer Trust - thank you letter for a recent donation
- BCBC - Cost of Living Event Richard Price Centre 17th May 2022

Resolved: All correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to respond to the resident's complaint regarding the condition of Blaengarw Lake, explaining that the

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Council is just as frustrated, that they have their contribution towards the de-silting of the lake in the budget but will not be given the go ahead for the work by both Natural Resources Wales and BCBC until the work NRW is carrying out at the top of the valley is completed.

14/22-23 PLANNING MATTERS

2 planning requests, 3 decisions and 1 appeal had been included in the meeting papers.

Resolved: No objections were made to the planning applications.

15/22 ITEMS FOR THE JUNE 2022 MEETING

- Rights of Way (JC)
- Bettws Ward Committee Representatives
- Draft Training Plan
- Dog Waste Bins & Benches (JC)
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Resolved: The agenda will be kept open for items to be added in the month.

The date for the next meeting is earlier than usual and will be held on Monday 6th June 2022 at Pontycymer OAP Centre and via Zoom at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.