



**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 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor D Davies

Councillors:

J Coles  
W Davies  
H Griffiths  
M Lewis  
C Lloyd  
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors M Jones and M Thomas

No Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, R Jones  
and M Trowbridge

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

**39/22-23** Apologies (as above)

The Chair, Councillor Deb Davies, welcomed Councillor Glyn Walters to the meeting.

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### 40/22-23- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
J Coles	Footpath	David Street
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 Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member

### 41/22-23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2022 ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

The June 2022 Ordinary and Extraordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

### 42/22-23 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JUNE 2022 MEETINGS

**Extraordinary Meeting:** None

**Ordinary Meeting:**

#### **Minute 20/22-23 Matters Arising from the May 2022 Ordinary Meeting**

**Bettws Footpath:** Rights of Way are keen to go ahead with this work. The contractors have been asked for a start date and an up-to-date quote.

**Bins:** Still no update despite chasing it up on the replacement bin for Federation Lane, the new bin at Ffaldau School and the request for permission to install a dog waste bin at Oxford Street.

**Parc Calon Lan Footpaths:** An up-to-date quote has been obtained which has increased by £4,000. Councillor Coles will now look for grant funding.

**Tree Surgery Railway Terrace:** The contractor's advice was that the Warden had thinned out the trees and no more work was needed on that. He said the trees are a fast growing variety and to cut them down to a lower level would not achieve a long term solution and if you remove them you'd be cutting down healthy trees which is not

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advisable. He will provide a quote for the works but does not recommend any action is taken.

**The Strand:** The solicitor has advised that the Community Council cannot make an adverse possession as it has to be within the Community Council's management for the previous 12 years.

**Car Parking Cuckoo Street:** The Clerk reported the parking issues to BCBC who confirmed that they are aware of the parking issues at this location and scheduled patrols are being conducted as staffing levels allow. Any vehicle found to be parking in contravention of the parking restrictions will be liable to a penalty charge notice.

### Minute 24/22-23 Footpaths and Dog Waste Bins

Councillor Lewis would make a referral to BCBC regarding the footpath and dog waste bins as previously discussed.

### Minute 27/22-23 School Community Awards 2021/2022

Only 3 of the 5 schools contacted had confirmed they wished to take part in the scheme this year - Calon y Cymoedd, Ffaldau and Tynyrheol. Vouchers and trophies had been delivered to the 3 schools and the Chair and Councillor Lloyd had attended the leavers' assembly at Calon y Cymoedd, the Chair will present at Tynyrheol and Councillor Griffiths will attend the one at Ffaldau.

### Minute 31/22-23 Clerk's Report

The spraying of unpleasant graffiti has continued in Parc Calon Lan and is getting more unpleasant each time. It has now also been painted on a house and SW Police are involved. The Warden will continue to remove it as it appears.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk will continue to chase up the bins for the valley, Councillor Coles will look for grant funding for the PC Lan footpaths around the monument and Councillor Lewis will make a referral regarding the footpath and dog waste bins.

### 43/22-23 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR MAY 2022

The crime figures for May 2022 had been circulated to Members. The PCSOs were unable to attend the meeting.

**Resolved:** It was noted that the crime figures for Llangeinor had increased.

**44/22-23 CO-OPTION BETTWS WARD**

The vacancy has been advertised twice by the Community Council since the May local elections but no applications have been received. It now refers back to BCBC for them to re-advertise it and if no one applies in that 35 day cycle it continues to be readvertised until it's filled.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. There were no Bettws councillors present to comment.

**45/22-23 COUNCIL GOVERNOR BLAENGARW/BETTWS FEDERATION**

A vacancy for a Community Councillor representative exists for this Federation. Councillor Maxine Lewis was proposed and seconded.

**Resolved:** Councillor Maxine Lewis was unanimously elected to this role.

**46/22-23 EVENTS COMMITTEE VACANCY BETTWS WARD**

There were no Bettws ward councillors present at the meeting.

**Resolved:** This item could not be discussed as there were no Bettws ward councillors present at the meeting.

**47/22-23 WAR MEMORIAL**

Councillor Lewis raised her concerns regarding the condition of the base of the Memorial and the regularity of the grass cutting.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Clerk would check the registration of the monument and look for grant funding.

**48/22-23 DEFIBRILLATORS**

Councillor Griffiths asked the Community Council Members if they would consider installing a defibrillator in Pantygog.

**Resolved:** The request was unanimously agreed and would be funded from the general reserve. The Clerk was asked to consult with the local responder regarding purchase and installation. Councillor Griffiths would speak to a local resident to seek permission for installation on their garden wall.

**49/22-23 CHRISTMAS 2022**

Councillors were asked to discuss their ward requirements with their ward colleagues over the summer break and let the Clerk know their requirements by 9<sup>th</sup> September at the latest.

**Resolved:** This was noted.

**50/22-23 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT**

This large document had been sent out to Members via email. All Members were asked to ensure they read it so that it can be discussed at the September Ordinary Meeting as there are action points in it that need discussion to enable it to be taken forward.

**51/22-23 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**1. Payments:**

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

**2. Income:**

No income had been received in the month.

**Resolved:** The payments for July 2022 were approved and authority was given to make the payments.

**52/22-23 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

**Bettws:** There was no Bettws report.

**Blaengarw:** Councillor John Coles said he'd conducted litter picks regularly around Nanthir. He raised issues with A frames limiting access to Parc Calon Lan for some users and updated Members on his meeting with Andrew Mason in June. He'd raised issues with 3 footpaths which are blocked, overgrown and have missing signage and said the RoW Maintenance Manager is going to inspect them. In addition, he highlighted how footpath 68 could be joined up to run all the way down the valley and requested that the Community Council support that it is included on the definitive map.

**Llangeinor:** Councillor Deb Davies said she'd received several complaints about rats around 4 empty houses in Llangeinor.

**Pontycymer:** Councillor Griffiths had been contacted by Pontycymer rugby club to ask for assistance with getting the grass cut. She also raised concerns regarding parking on Oxford Street, some foliage that needed cutting in Pantygog which had been referred to BCBC and she thanked the contractor and Warden for the installation of the Queen's Jubilee bench at the Plant! site. Councillor Maxine Lewis informed Members of the

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Youth Club summer activities which start on 25<sup>th</sup> July and regarding areas that need cleaning up.

**Resolved:** The updates were noted.

### **53/22-23 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair informed Members about the Funday at the Richard Price Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> July. She also raised a request that the Clerk contacts V2C to ask them to cut back weed overgrowth on the path/steps next to Tynyrheol School as well as overgrowth opposite the school and between the school and the hill. She also updated Members on the Leaver's Assembly she attended with Councillor Lloyd at Calon y Cymoedd Primary School.

**Resolution:** The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to contact V2C and Highways regarding the weed and bramble overgrowths.

### **54/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT**

The report from the Warden, circulated to Members, was noted, particularly the on-going problems with bridge vandalism and Community Route graffiti.

#### **Jubilee Benches:**

Pontycymer's bench has been installed. Bettws residents local to the proposed bench site had been consulted and no objections had been received so the Clerk would obtain a licence and arrange its installation. BCBC has confirmed that the proposed replacement of the broken bench in Lluest is not under Highway control and suggested the Clerk should identify ownership with BCBC's property section. The one for Blaengarw is on hold as we do not have permission to install it on the Strand.

#### **Fence Plant! Site:**

The work has been completed.

#### **Llangeinor Ward:**

The two Bettws Councillors would like to asset transfer, improve and manage the sitting out area in Lluest and Members agreed this is a promising idea and would support it going forward. The Clerk had asked the CAT Officer if it would be possible and a map of the site had been requested.

#### **Reported This Month:**

- Road sinking at St David's Street, Pontycymer.
- Drain at Herbert Street full of debris.
- Drain at David Street full of debris.

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- Broken bench at Church Place, referred by the Clerk to BCBC several times, still not repaired so asked Councillor Griffiths to refer.

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### **Spare Keys Visitor Centre and Event Committee Items:**

Despite several requests these had not yet been received.

### **Proposed Cycling Event:**

Western Bike Events had contacted the Clerk as they wished to discuss the possibility of holding a mountain bike event at Parc Calon Lan in 2023. Unfortunately, the Clerk was on leave for the suggested initial meeting dates so the Warden Agreed to meet him to check the logistics of holding it in the park. Following the meeting he informed the Warden that he would send a report to me, but this has not been received. However, the Warden informed the Clerk that it needs input from NRW as it also involves part of their land.

### **Annual Leave:**

The Clerk reminded Members of her annual leave dates from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

**Resolved: All information was noted**

### **55/22-23 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received and additional correspondence received since the papers were circulated, agreed by the Chair for inclusion at the meeting. Of particular note were the following:

- Statutory Guidance Relating to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
- Outcome of the Consultation on Ysgol Bro Ogwr
- Outcome of the Consultation on Heronsbridge School
- SW Fire Service pre-consultation document
- Tanio request to use Parc Calon Lan on two days during the school summer holidays
- Correspondence from Huw Irranca-Davies, AM regarding the condition of the lakes following contact from a resident
- Welsh Government consultation on a Fairer Council Tax which closes 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- Resident request for a bench at Railway Terrace

**Resolved: All correspondence was noted. It was unanimously agreed that Tanio could use PC Lan for their summer activities. The Clerk was asked to consult with the Warden and Tanio. It was unanimously agreed that an additional bench is not needed at Railway Terrace as there are several on that street. The Clerk had provided HID with an update on why the lakes have not been desilted and its commitment to getting the work done once permission has been received from NRW**

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and BCBC. The Clerk's action was accepted and until permission is received it was agreed that no further action or response is needed.

### **56/22-23 PLANNING MATTERS**

2 planning requests had been received, there were no decisions and no appeals included in the meeting papers.

Two Planning Aid emails had been sent out in the month for information, along with a document from the Welsh Government on an application by Renewable Energy Systems Ltd application ref. DNS/3213662

**Resolved:** No objections were made to the planning applications, the other information was noted.

### **57/22 ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2022 MEETING**

- Finance & Government Toolkit
- Co-option Bettws Ward
- Events Committee Representative Bettws Ward

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall and via Zoom at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm.