



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S
HALL AND/OR ZOOM ON MONDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor D Davies

Councillors:

W Davies
H Griffiths
M Jones
R Jones (via zoom from 6.44 pm)
C Lloyd
M Thomas
M Trowbridge
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, J Coles &
M Lewis

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

58/22-23 Apologies (as above)

59/22-23- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Tynyrheol Primary School	Vice-Chair of Governors
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor
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	Member

60/22-23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2022 ORDINARY MEETING

The July Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

61/22-23 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2022 MEETING

Minute 42/22-23 Matters Arising from the June 2022 Meeting

Bettws Footpath: An up-to-date quote had been obtained and approved by Row at BCBC. The contractor is ready to start asap

Bins: Dog waste bin installed on Oxford Street and near Ffaldau School. We're still chasing a replacement for Federation Lane and a new dog waste bin to the rear of Ffaldau School.

Parc Calon Lan Footpaths: Councillor J Coles has found suitable funding from the Lottery and requests approval from full council to go ahead with the quote subject to match funding of £10,000 being available in the budget. There is currently £9,000 for this project in the budget.

Tree Surgery Railway Terrace: A quote for reducing the height by 30% including the two individual trees a little further up has been received for £1,650 plus vat. However, the contractor advised that the trees are healthy, do not need cutting back and if done will re-grow quickly causing on-going costs and maintenance.

Minute 47/22-23 War Memorial

The Clerk had carried out some research and it appears that the war memorial is registered in the wrong place, it is registered as further down Victoria Street on the opposite side in Hill View. The Clerk had written to War Memorials Online to ask for it to be identified in the right location in order for the council to be able to apply for grant funding to repair it.

Minute 48/22-23 Defibrillators

Several attempts have been made to contact the owner of the identified property but to date this has not been successful. Councillor H Griffiths will meet with Don Sage and make another attempt to call to the property.

Minute 54/22-23 Clerk's Report

Jubilee Benches:

Two licences have been granted one for Lluest and one for Bettws. The Clerk gave an update on installation date.

The one for Blaengarw originally for the Strand is on hold due to land ownership issues. The Clerk asked if Members wanted to suggest an alternative location and it was agreed to request permission to place it outside Dan y Mynydd.

Llangeinor Ward:

The Clerk informed Members that the possible asset transfer of the sitting out area in Lluest is being discussed at the next CAT steering group committee meeting at BCBC on 3rd October 2022. However it is unlikely that a CAT will be possible due to the close proximity of the road, though there is a possibility of a licence to maintain and update it. The Clerk asked if the second option is of interest to the Members.

Spare Keys Visitor Centre and Event Committee Items:

The Clerk confirmed that they've been returned.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was unanimously agreed not to go ahead with the tree work to Railway Terrace. It was unanimously approved that Councillor Coles makes the grant funding application for the footpaths in the park and that the budget line will be increased by £1,000 from the General Reserve budget line to provide match funding. The Clerk was asked to seek permission to install a jubilee bench at Dan y Mynydd.

62/22-23 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR JUNE AND JULY 2022

The crime figures for June 2022 had been circulated to Members, the ones for July were not available in time to distribute. The PCSOs were unable to attend the meeting.

These were discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to request a permanent presence in the valley at Pontycymer police station.

63/22-23 CO-OPTION BETTWS WARD

The vacancy in the Bettws ward has been advertised for the 3rd time since the local elections, but no applicants were made. The Clerk will now readvertise the vacancy.

Resolved: The information was noted.

64/22-23 EVENTS COMMITTEE VACANCY BETTWS WARD

A vacancy on the Events Committee for the Bettws ward remains empty and this was discussed.

Resolved: Councillor Rees Jones was nominated to fill the vacancy, which he accepted. A vote was taken and he was unanimously elected.

65/22-23 CHRISTMAS 2022

The Clerk thanked all who confirmed their Christmas lighting/decoration requirements. A request was made by Councillor M Jones regarding viewing the trees before they are installed.

Events were also discussed and it was suggested that in these difficult financial times that the council purchases a selection box for every primary school child in the area.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to contact Centre Great to make the request about viewing trees. The Clerk was asked to confirm primary school children numbers including those children from Bettws who attend Brynmenyn and St Robert's schools.

66/22-23 LAKES

Councillor H Griffiths said that there are lots of negative comments being made on social media about the condition of the lakes and the Community Council is getting most of the blame.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Clerk would put a statement on the Council's website explaining why the lakes can't be de-silted.

67/22-23 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed to support councils to understand their strengths and areas of improvement through self-assessment by reviewing the financial management, governance and accountability arrangements they have in place and to consider how effective those arrangements are and how they might be improved.

Resolved: It was proposed that this item be discussed by the Finance Committee for them to make recommendations to full council and this was unanimously agreed.

68/22-23 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1.Payments:

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

2.Income:

No income had been received in the month.

3.New Bank Accounts:

The Clerk had had no luck in finding a suitable account without incurring charges.

4.IRPW Reporting of Allowances:

The council had a duty to report any allowances taken by councillors in the previous year and the Clerk confirmed that this had been done and published on the council's website.

5.2021/22 Audit:

Following the completion and submission of the external audit to the Wales Audit office, a request had been made to present additional papers so that a full audit could be undertaken and these papers had been provided too.

Resolved: The payments for August and September 2022 were approved and authority was given to make the payments. The Clerk was asked to look again at Nat West.

69/22-23 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Blaengarw: Councillor M Thomas highlighted the need for more waymarkers on the footpath near the wind farm

Pontcymer: Councillor H Griffiths said parking in Oxford Street continues to be a problem including parking on the zebra crossing and on the zig zags. Non collection of the blue refuse bags from Albany Road was also an on-going problem due to a car being parked on double yellow lines meaning the refuse lorry cannot enter the street. Councillor Griffiths asked if some Ffaldau Primary Schoolchildren could be given a slot at a future meeting to give a short presentation.

Bettws: Councillor M Jones stressed that councillors need to sit down with sports clubs carrying out CAT transfers to reassure them. He'd dealt with a number of highways issues and explained that the civic offices are now open and residents can make attend the offices for help in completing the winter payment process as it is only accessible online. Councillor Jones also asked the Clerk to meet with him and a resident who had raised issues with him in Blaengarw and to write to him in response to his requests. Councillor Jones supported a suggestion by the Clerk to purchase a selection box for every child in Primary School. Councillor M Trowbirdge informed members about a recent litter pick in Bettws.

Resolved: The updates were noted. The Clerk would arrange to meet with Councillor M Jones and the resident and write to him. The Clerk would also request more waymarkers be installed on the footpath near the wind farm by the Rights of Way department at BCBC. It was agreed that the schoolchildren could attend a future meeting.

71/22-23 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended the Proclamation of the King held in Bridgend. In July, following the last meeting, the Chair had also attended the Community Award giving ceremony at Tynyrheol Primary School.

Resolution: The information was noted.

71/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT

The report from the Warden, circulated to Members, was noted. Of particular interest was the success of the Tanio event held at Parc Calon Lan which attracted over 60 attendees and that the Warden had attended a Knotweed Education Project event.

Policy for Lake Use:

The Clerk drew Members' attention to several enquiries over the summer months requesting use of the lakes, which highlighted the fact that the council has no policy on its usage. This was discussed in some detail.

It was unanimously agreed that the lakes were not for any type of recreational use due to them being protected environmental areas. It was also unanimously agreed that should they be used for such activity the council does not accept any liability.

Bridge Repair Parc Calon Lan:

Now that the birds are no longer nesting an up-to-date quote for the work needed to one of the wooden bridges had been obtained for £1,900. This shows an increase in the quote of £100 due to the increase in building materials and fuel. The only bridge not repaired now is the bottom bridge at Pont lake which is metal and the Clerk is trying to obtain a quote.

Remembrance Wreaths:

The Clerk confirmed she'd ordered two remembrance wreaths. The Bettws Councillors asked if another could be purchased for them to place on the Lest We Forget bench in Bettws.

Summer Activity Scheme:

The Clerk asked if Members wanted Halo Leisure to attend a future meeting to give feedback on the summer activity scheme.

Ffaldau Arms Development:

The contractor developing the Ffaldau Arms had requested a slot at a future meeting in order to inform Members of their plans.

Spring Bulbs:

The Clerk reminded Members to collect their bulbs from the Warden.

Issues Reported This Month:

The Clerk gave an update on all referrals made this month to BCBC, V2C etc.

Bins:

The Clerk informed Members that whilst the Warden had been on holiday for a week recently a complaint had been received about overflowing bins. She informed Members that it had proved impossible to get a contractor to cover the 22 bins in the park for just a week but that provision had been put in place to empty the bins around the Visitor Centre car park area which are the most heavily used. She asked if Members were happy that in future this arrangement stays in place.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to put a notice on the website in regard to the Council's policy for use of the lakes. The quote for the bridge work was accepted and the Clerk was asked to engage the services of the contractor. The Bettws Councillors asked the Clerk to purchase another remembrance wreath for them to place on the Lest We Forget bench in Bettws. The Clerk was asked to invite Halo Leisure to the November meeting and invite the

developer of the Ffaldau Arms to a future meeting. It was agreed that no cover would be sought for the bin emptying if the Warden is away.

72/22-23 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:

- Agenda items for the next T&CC Forum at BCBC.
- Thank you letter from the Children's Air Ambulance Wales for a donation
- Tablet Loan Scheme now available via Awen Cultural Trust
- Footpath enquiry regarding the footpath at Carn Rovers field
- Possible Garw Valley Community Route meeting with Huw Irranca-Davies
- Update on changes to referring items to BCBC
- Correspondence from the Garw Valley Railway confirming who's responsible for the Community Route.

Resolved: All correspondence was noted.

73/22-23 PLANNING MATTERS

5 planning requests had been received, there were 7 decisions and one appeal included in the meeting papers.

Two Planning Aid emails had been sent out in the month for information, along with information on two Town and Country Planning Act applications.

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

74/22 ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2022 MEETING

- Invite Halo to the meeting for feedback on the summer activity scheme
- Invite Ffaldau Primary School to the meeting to give a presentation at their request.
- Invite the developer of the Ffaldau Arms to the meeting

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 17th October 2022 at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall and via Zoom at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.