



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S HALL AND/OR ZOOM ON MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 6.30 PM

Present: Councillor D Davies

Councillors:

J Coles
W Davies
H Griffiths
M Lewis
C Lloyd
M Trowbridge (via zoom)

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, R Jones, M Jones, M Thomas and G Walters

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Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

75/22-23 Apologies (as above)

76/22-23- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Tynyrheol Primary School	Vice-Chair of Governors
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
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

77/22-23 TO RECEIVE JAMIE HIGGS AND COLLEAGUE REF. FFALDAU ARMS SITE, PONTYCYMER

The Chair welcomed Jamie Higgs and Richard Banks to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Richard Banks explained the planning application made to develop the Ffaldau Arms site, members had received copies of the plans. To date the site had been cleared to enable the levels of the land to be seen clearly and for fencing to be erected. There will be 3 social housing 1 bedroom properties which will be let through a local agent. There is no intention to work with local housing associations. The project is expected to be completed within 12 months. Questions were asked about the shops being planned and the glut of empty shops already in the valley were mentioned.

Resolved: The information was accepted and the project unanimously welcomed.

78/22-23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2022 ORDINARY MEETING

The September Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

79/22-23 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2022 MEETING

Minute 61/22-23 To Consider Matters Arising from the July 2022 Meeting

Bettws Footpath: the compound was set up last Thursday/Friday. Work started today.

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Parc Calon Lan Footpaths: Councillor Coles and the Clerk need to complete parts of the grant funding application.

Defibrillator Pantygog: Councillor Griffiths had again tried to contact the owners of the property without success. She would continue to try to make contact.

Queen's Jubilee Benches: The one for the Bettws ward had been installed in the week.

Llangeinor Ward:

The Clerk has been informed that a CAT on this area has not been granted but a licence is on offer. In addition, a request to put a hanging basket either side of the bus stop on the square in Llangeinor has not been granted due to the height clearance not being high enough for the shared use pavement below.

Minute 62/22-23 Crime Figures

The Clerk has made arrangements to meet with Councillor Jones to draft a letter.

Minute 63/22-23 Co-option Bettws Ward

A new notice has been published and shared with councillors to share on their social media pages.

Minute 65/22-3 Christmas 2022

It is not possible to choose Christmas trees as they are delivered in a net and remain in a net so that they're easily transported to the installation locations. However the advice is to check the tree as soon as it's installed and if you're not happy to report it to the Clerk asap so that a replacement can be installed.

All requests to adapt and use additional lighting columns in Blaengarw (2), Pontycymer (2), Lluest (2), Tylagwyn (2) have been agreed by BCBC and lighting column motifs ordered. In addition 2 in Pantygog have been accepted one outside the new build on the bend as you enter Pantygog near the pocket park and one on the bend by the flats as you leave Pantygog.

There is still a query over the switch on of the lights on the tree in the pocket park and the Clerk is awaiting an update.

Minute 66/22-23 Lakes

The Clerk has put a statement on the website under the news tab and also one on the policy page regarding recreational use of the lakes.

69/22-23 Borough Council Updates/Ward Reports

The Clerk has made arrangements to meet with Councillor Jones to visit the resident who requested the bench in Blaengarw. The Clerk had made a request for more waymarkers to the path near the wind turbines but had not received a response to date. Ffaldau schoolchildren were unable to attend the October meeting so will be attending the November one.

71/22-23 Clerk's Report

Bridge Repairs Pont Lake: The work to the wooden bridge will take place in November. The metal bridge quote will be a different contractor with a separate quote.

Remembrance Wreaths: The Clerk has ordered an additional one for the Bettws ward.

Spring Bulbs: The Clerk reminded the councillors for Bettws, Blaengarw and Pontycymer to collect their bulbs for planting in their wards.

Summer Activity Scheme: A Halo Leisure member of staff has accepted the invitation to present feedback, but they could not attend the October meeting so will attend in November.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to accept the licence for the sitting out area in Lluest and progress the Llangeinor ward's requirements.

80/22-23 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR JULY 2022

The crime figures for July 2022 had been circulated to Members. The PCSOs were unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk had been asked to removed PCSO Jenkins from the distribution list and add PCSO Jade Haverson. It was noted that PCSO Mike Rees had picked up and cleared the rubbish and mess in the bus shelter on Pontycymer Square.

These were discussed.

Resolved: The information was noted.

81/22-23 IDEAS FOR THE PRECEPT 2023/24

The following were suggested:

- Management of Blaen Park (The Strand) replacement benches, bins, flower displays and possible hanging baskets around the park.
- More hanging baskets in the Llangeinor ward
- Bettws and Pontycymer hanging baskets
- Repair to the war memorial
- Bettws monument behind the fountain on Bettws Road
- 3 tier planter on triangle of land at Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws

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Resolved: The information was noted, the Clerk would obtain quotes where possible to include in the draft precept budget.

82/22-23 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1. Payments:

The Clerk requested authority to pay the October 2022 payments as detailed on the payment sheet. The balance carried forward to November 2022 was accepted.

2. Income:

No income had been received in the month.

3. External/Full Audit:

No conclusion has been received to date.

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

83/22-23 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor Griffiths gave an update including feedback on her attendance at the OVW Conference. One of the issues raised was the lack of take up on the training. It was noted that all GVCC councillors had received Code of Conduct training. She informed the Llangeinor councillors that she continues to refer the grass verge cutting in Llangeinor to BCBC. The problems with the distribution of recycling bags was highlighted.

Councillor Lewis said there had recently been an increase in anti-social behaviour in and around Halo Leisure Centre. Issues also included drug use and used contraception being disguard; CCTV cameras are now being installed.

Councillor Billy Davies raised the issue of a lack of bins in Pontycymer and Blaengarw.

Councillor Lloyd said that issues continue with the steps in Llangeinor next to the school, with continued dog fouling and overgrown foliage onto the steps pushing a fence into the path of the steps.

Councillor Coles agreed with the concerns regarding the distribution of the recycling bags. He said he'd phoned Kier on behalf of residents but was told that only the resident themselves could requests them. He agreed with Councillor Davies regarding the lack of bins. The two near the lakes off David Street were in need of attention. He requested an update from Councillor Lewis on the referral she was asked to make to BCBC in July? Councillor Lewis said she'd chase the matter up. He also said the bin on Herbert Street is in the wrong place and needs to be relocated.

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Councillor Trowbridge updated Members on the planned litter picks; the one for October had been cancelled. She asked for an item on the November agenda meeting regarding the Keep Wales Tidy litter free zone scheme.

Resolved: The updates were noted. It was unanimously agreed to add the Keep Wales Tidy scheme to the November agenda, the Clerk was asked to write to BCBC/Kier about the recycling bag issue and the Clerk would chase up the bin issues.

84/22-23 CHAIR'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

Resolution: This was noted.

85/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT

Councillor Marlene Thomas had sent a request to the meeting to thank the Warden for all his hard work in carrying out his duties. A report from the Warden had been circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting.

Pontycymer Lake

The quote for the work to remove the pond weed and cut back the reeds in Pontycymer Lake is £9,004.50 just over the £9,000 in the budget for the works. If the quote is accepted the work will be carried out in the next two weeks.

Reported This Month:

- Again reported the fly tipping behind Nantyruchain Terrace.
- Cleanupthecounty say it's private land. I asked what we do as it's a health risk to children and I haven't had a reply.
- Reported fly tipping of barbed wire on the edge of the lane into Pretoria Street, this has now been removed.
- Drain grills removed and missing in Llangeinor, now replaced by BCBC.

Leave

The Clerk informed Members of her leave for two days in the coming week.

Resolved: All information was noted. The quote for the work at Pontycymer Lake was unanimously accepted and the Clerk was instructed to arrange the work.

86/22-23 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:

- Joint OVW/SLCC Events 9th November 2022

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- IRPW Draft Report 2023
- Council Solicitor - closure of office and instruction on how to obtain the council's files
- Financial Request to Llangeinor Ward for donation towards their Pantomime
- Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper
- New Grant Scheme for Veterans and Families

Resolved: All correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to make a donation of £640 out of the Llangeinor Ward funds, towards the Pantomime. The Clerk was asked to attend the Joint OVW/SLCC events 9th November 2022 and share the registration costs with the other councils she works for. The Clerk was asked to obtain the council's files from the solicitor's office. It was agreed that the IRPW Draft Report 2023 would be included on the next Finance Committee agenda.

87/22-23 PLANNING MATTERS

One planning request had been received, there were 4 decisions and 1 appeal included in the meeting papers.

One Planning Aid email 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. The Clerk was asked to check the planning register to see if planning permission had been given for a garage extension in the Llangeinor ward.

88/22 ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 21st November 2022 at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall and via Zoom at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.04 pm.