



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

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT PONTYCYMER OAP CENTRE ON**  
**MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor D Davies

Councillors: G Andrews  
J Coles  
W Davies  
H Griffiths  
M Lewis  
C Lloyd  
M Trowbridge  
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors M Jones and M Thomas

No Apologies: Councillor R Jones

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

**89/22-23 Apologies (as above)**

**90/22-23- 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<br>Ysgol Cymunedol y Dderwen<br>Ffaldau Primary School | Member<br>Governor<br>Chair of Governors |

**91/22-23 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF FFALDAU PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Resolved:** There were no representatives present.

**92/22-23 TO RECEIVE RHYDIAN JONES OF HALO LEISURE FOR SUMMER ACTIVITY SCHEME FEEDBACK**

**Resolved:** Rhydian Jones had sent his apologies.

**93/22-23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2022 ORDINARY MEETING**

The October Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

**94/22-23 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER 2022 MEETING**

**Minute 79/22-23 Matters Arising from the September 2022 Meeting:**

**Bettws Footpath:** This was due to be completed by 9<sup>th</sup> November, however completion has been delayed due to the bad weather making the ground very wet. The Rights of Way Manager was meeting with the contractor on site on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Parc Calon Lan Footpaths:** Councillor Coles and the Clerk had been unable to meet in November and are scheduled to meet in early December to complete the Lottery funding application.

**Defibrillator Pantygog:** No progress in contacting the residents. Councillor Griffiths will continue to try to make contact.

**Christmas 2022:** The trees and motifs from storage had been installed. New columns are due to be adapted in the days following the meeting in Tylagwyn, Llues, Pantygog and Oxford Street. The two new motifs for Blaengarw had been erected in error, as last year, along the section of Victoria Street that is Pontycymer and not Blaengarw and this was discussed. Despite regularly pursuing the matter, the Clerk had not yet received confirmation from BCBC on whether the lights on the tree in Pantygog could be switched on due to the condition of the tree.

**Clerk's Report:** The materials for the bridge repair at Pont Lake have been ordered by the Clerk and as soon as they arrive the bridge will be repaired.

**Spring Bulbs:** Planting was discussed. The Bettws ward still had bluebells to plant.

**Llangeinor Ward:** The CAT Steering Group at BCBC have agreed to licence the sitting out area in Lluest to the Clerk who needs to speak to the Highways Department to take this forward.

**Minute 83/22-23 Borough Council Updates/Ward Reports:**

**Bins:** Cleaner Streets have informed the Clerk that it is not possible to install a bin at the rear off Ffaldau School due to access issues with the servicing team. The replacement bin at Federation Lane is now being dealt with by Phil Beaman.

**Minute 85/22-23 Clerk's Report:**

**Pontycymer Lake:** work has now been completed to cut back the reeds and remove the pondweed.

**OVW/SLCC Conference:** The Clerk had attended the conference which was interesting.

**Solicitor:** The Clerk confirmed she'd obtained the council's file from King Davies Solicitors and the council now needs to appoint another solicitor to handle its affairs.

**Minute 87/22-23 Planning Matters:**

**Llangeinor:** The Clerk had contacted the council regarding the planning permission for the garage in Llangeinor and they've considered the case and decided it would be inappropriate to take enforcement action and the developer is being advised to submit an application to try and regularise the matter.

**Resolved:** The information was noted and it was agreed that the motifs on Victoria Street will be discussed when planning the 2023 Christmas offer. The clerk was asked to write to the residents of Pantygog regarding the defibrillator. The Clerk was asked to check with planning to see if an application had been received following their advice.

**95/22-23 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR AUGUST 2022**

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

These were discussed.

**Resolved:** The information was noted and it was noted that the drugs figures for Llangeinor have increased and the Blaengarw figures have been reduced.

**96/22-23 KEEP WALES TIDY LITTER FREE ZONE SCHEME**

**Resolved:** This item was deferred to the January 2023 meeting as Councillor Trowbridge had been unable to obtain the information she needed for the item.

**97/22-23 TURNING CIRCLE & BENCH RAILWAY TERRACE BLAENGARW**

Councillor M Jones and the Clerk had met with a resident of Railway Terrace to further discuss requests for a replacement bench on Railway Terrace and for the turning circle to receive some repair. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Blaengarw ward would fund a replacement bench off Railway Terrace and the general GVCC fund would cover the cost of the turning circle repair which the Clerk would organise.

**98/22-23 CO-OPTION BETTWS WARD**

One application had been received and this was discussed.

**Resolved:** A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to co-opt the applicant onto the council.

**99/22-23 DATE OF PRECEPT MEETING 2022**

The date of the next meeting falls in the week leading up to Christmas, a very busy week for all. Moving the meeting to earlier in the month was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to move the meeting to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to enable more councillors to attend.

**100/22-23 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**1. Payments:**

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

**2.Income:**

Income of £21,731 had been received in payment of a refund from BCBC for money paid out for the Bettws footpath reinstatement.

**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. All other information was noted.**

**101/22-23 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

Councillor M Lewis gave an updated on anti-social behaviour within the Co-op. She also gave an update on Nia Lewis, a footballer from Llangeinor representing Wales under 15s in the USA.

Councillor G Walters raised an issue with a tree growing in the lane in Pontycymer and that it's restricting access for residents.

Councillor W Davies said he'd received complaints from residents living near the recent firework display as regards the noise.

Councillor J Coles raised the issue of a hedge overgrowing into the footway in Blaengarw. He informed Members that the recycling bags had now been delivered. Councillor Griffiths said that some residents in Pontycymer were still waiting for bags.

Councillor M Trowbridge informed Members that a remembrance wreath had been laid on the Lest We Forget bench in Bettws, though it had been removed several times. She also gave an update on V2C grass cutting and the bank of trees to the side of Heol Richard Price and a planned litter pick which would involve the children.

Councillor D Davies informed Members that the spring bulbs had been planted in Llangeinor near the allotment gardens and the Richard Price Centre. She also mentioned the song written by a local for the World Cup which he had sung to pupils of all the primary schools and been filmed and televised. She updated Members on a meeting held to discuss the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Richard Price and the plans discussed. That the Llangeinor Boys and Girls Club hoped to restart and an issue with rats behind Craiglas.

**Resolved: The updates were noted. It was suggested that the Clerk writes to all the schools regarding the anti-social behaviour. Councillor Lewis would make a referral to BCBC regarding the overgrown hedge in Blaengarw. The Clerk was asked to write to the footballer to congratulate her on her achievement.**

**102/22-23 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair had attended the Pontycymer remembrance service and laid a wreath on behalf of the Community Council.

**Resolution:** This was noted.

**103/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Warden's report had been circulated to all Members. The quad bike had broken down and is being repaired.

**Christmas Selection Boxes:** The Clerk had contacted all primary schools to see if they'd like to receive selection boxes and to obtain numbers. The deadline for responses had been set for 14<sup>th</sup> November. 3 schools had responded and had provided numbers. The Clerk had also contacted St Roberts and Bryncethin schools to ask if they'd distribute selection boxes on the council's behalf to those children from the GVCC wards who attend their schools. No response had been received. The Clerk asked Members how they wanted to proceed and this was discussed.

**Staff Appraisals:** These would take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November and comments were welcome, Warden to the Clerk, Clerk to the Chair.

**Bettws Minis:** A request for financial assistance had been received and the Clerk had sent them a financial donation form to complete and had asked questions regarding DBS checking etc. the form had been received although it did not answer all the questions and provide the paperwork requested. This was discussed.

**Community Route:** I'm still receiving complaints about the state of the bottom half of the route. Huw Irranca-Davies' office are in talks about it and will call a meeting of interested parties asap.

**Biodiversity Reporting:** Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires all T&CCs to prepare and publish a plan every 3 years in the form of a report setting out what they propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience.

**Finance & Resources Committee Meeting:** will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00 pm.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. It was proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed that the Clerk would purchase selection boxes for those schools that had responded. However at the time of writing, 7 councillors have written to the Clerk (in line with Standing Orders protocol) to ask to change this resolution to purchase for all as emails had not been picked up from spam folders in order to respond. The Clerk would now purchase the boxes and distribute. It was agreed that there was not enough information regarding the Bettws Minis to make a decision. The second Biodiversity Report must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 for publishing so the Clerk will draft an update of the last one and raise it at the Precept Meeting in December for approval.

### **103/22-23 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:

- Council Tax; Consultations on draft Regulations to extend exceptions to second home premiums and on Guidance.
- Innovative Practice Conference has been rescheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- Salary Scale increases for Clerks to be implemented from April 2022.
- Section 137 Expenditure Limit 2023/24
- T&CC Fund 2023/24
- Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2023
- Natural Resources Wales - request for Plant! inspection
- PTA Calon y Cymoedd - financial request
- University of Glamorgan - filming request
- Noah's Ark - financial request
- BCBC Warm Spaces scoping meeting GV Life Centre 24/11/22

**Resolved:** All correspondence was noted. The salary scale increases and implementation date were in line with the Clerk's contract and should be implemented. The Plant! inspection would be organised, it was unanimously agreed to give the PTA at Calon y Cymoedd a £25 donation, to agree to the filming request subject to risk assessment and a copy of their insurance and to defer the Noah's Ark financial request to March 2023. Councillor Maxine Lewis would attend the Warm Spaces scoping meeting.

### **104/22-23 PLANNING MATTERS**

One planning request had been received and one decision; there were no appeals. Four Planning Aid emails had been sent out in the month for information.

**Resolved:** No objections were made to the planning applications, the other information was noted. The Chair had attended Planning Enforcement training by Planning Aid Wales.

### **105/22 ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER 2022 PRECEPT MEETING**

**Resolved:** This is a precept meeting for urgent matters only.

The date for the next meeting is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall and via Zoom at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm.