



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

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE RICHARD PRICE CENTRE  
AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor D Davies

Councillors:

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

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, J Coles and  
M Jones

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

131/22-23 Apologies (as above)

**132/22-23- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Tynyrheol Primary School Richard Price Centre	Vice-Chair of Governors Director
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

**133/22-23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

The January 2023 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

**134/22-23 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY 2023 MEETING**

**Minute 120/22-23 Consider Matters Arising from the December 2022 Meeting**

**Apologies:** A Notice of Vacancy was published for the vacancy in the Bettws Ward and there was no call for an election. A co-option notice has now been published and any applications will be considered at the March 2023 meeting.

**PC Lan Footpaths:** The National Lottery grant funding application has been completed and is ready to submit. However the original quote from one of the suppliers is two years old and a new quote has been obtained from them which has increased. This means that the match funding budget allocated for this work of £10,000 is not enough and needs to increase to £15,000. The second quote is of a similar price. This was discussed and a vote taken. The Clerk will also make an application for match-funding to BCBC'S T&CC fund.

**Bettws Footpath:** This has been completed and signed off. Some issues during the work were raised for information.

**Defibrillator Pantygog:** This matter is on-going. As the installation will be on a private house then a builder will have to be employed to carry out the installation.

**PC Lan Bridge Repairs:** The bridge has been vandalised several times since the last meeting.

**Clerk's Report:** A defibrillator and cabinet has been purchased. The recent donation of £850 from the Griffiths/Keeble family will be used towards the funding. It has been

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

installed on the front of the Visitor Centre and a photo was taken in front of it along with Mr Peter Keeble and Don Sage the local first responder.

**Stage Curtains:** These have been purchased and are now being used at the Richard Price Centre.

### Minute 121/22-23 Crime Figures for September and October 2022

PC Harper's contact details have been circulated to Members via email.

### Minute 123/22-23 T&CC Fund

The CAT Steering Group have suggested that the Council should obtain possessory title for the Strang at Blaengarw via the Land Registry which would then allow the Community Council to formally maintain, refurbish or transfer the area. This will assist the Community Council in achieving their ambitions going forward. However, BCBC advise that this process could take up to 12 months due to delays at the Land Registry.

### Minute 125/22-23 Borough Council/Ward Updates

**Richard Price Tricentenary:** An update on the event was given. The Community Council unanimously agreed to sponsor the event.

**Condition Survey Richard Price Centre:** A quote of £3,950 had been received for the condition survey to include mechanical and electrical as well as an aerial drone survey. The cost was discussed as this is a BCBC building.

### Minute 127/22-23 Clerk's Report including Warden's Report

As suggested by Councillor M Jones at the last meeting I wrote to again to BCBC regarding the dog fouling issue and have not received a reply.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted. It was unanimously agreed to increase the budget for the footpaths from £10 to £15,000 moving funds from general reserves. The information regarding the Strand was welcomed. A match funding grant application to the T&CCC fund will be made for 2024/2025. The Clerk was asked to find out when the last survey had been carried out on the RP Centre.

### 135/22-23 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 2022

PCSO M Rees was present. Members noted that the Llangeinor crime figures were higher than usual and that Blaengarw's were lower. PCSO Rees answered queries on the issues with vandalism to the bridge in Parc Calon Lan and other queries.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**136/22-23    BALLOT FOR T&CC REPRESENTATIVE ON LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Ballot papers had been received from BCBC for the election of a person to represent the T&CCs on the Bridgend Local Access Forum. Five nominations had been received and a copy of statements from three of the people nominated had been sent out with the meeting papers. The Chair asked each Member to rank the nominees in order of preference up to a maximum of 1 to 5 where 1 is the preferred person and five is the least preferred person. Councillors D Davies, M Thomas and G Walters did not vote.

**Resolved:** Following the voting the Clerk was asked to submit the nominees in the following order: 1 Cllr J Coles, 2 Cllr D Unwin, 3 Cllr J Pratt, 4 Cllr Y Walton-Davies and 5 Cllr B Doughty

**137/22-23    DRAFT BIODIVERSITY REPORT**

The Clerk had drafted an up-to-date biodiversity report and a copy had been included in the meeting papers. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to approve the draft and publish it on the council's website.

**138/22-23    SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY UPDATE**

The Clerk had drafted an amendment to the Council's Social Media Policy to include that Councillors would not respond to any member of the public using a pseudonym.

**Resolved:** This amendment was accepted and approved.

**139/22-23    TRAIL CAMERAS**

Councillor H Griffiths raised the idea of purchasing some trail cameras to place in PC Lan to help identify the vandals and this was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed to purchase 3 cameras and to put up signs informing the public that cameras are in operation in the park.

**140/22-23    FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**1. Payments:**

The Clerk requested authority to pay the February 2023 payments as detailed on the payment sheet. The balance carried forward to March 2023 was accepted.

**2.Income:**

Income of £29,855.89 had been received from BCBC for the footpath payments made recently in the partnership working. £145 had also been received from St Brides Minor Community Council in refund for payment of a bench installation.

**3.External/Full Audit:**

No conclusion has been received to date.

**4.Local Government Pension Fund**

The Clerk informed Members that the employers' contributions for the next 3 years will decrease and gave them the percentages.

**Resolved: The payments for February 2023 were approved and authority was given to make the payments. All other information was noted.**

**141/22-23 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

Councillor H Griffiths reported a faulty lighting column 1<sup>st</sup> on left as you enter the area to the side of the Police Station in Pontycymer. It was noted that this column is not serviced by BCBC. Councillor Griffiths gave an update on objections being received regarding the development off Pontycymer square.

Councillor M Lewis highlighted the Post Office's move to a new location and the craze of kicking in doors that is going on in the valley at the moment.

Councillor M Trowbridge asked if the anti-social behaviour meetings that used to be held with various organisations are still being organised. She also highlighted issues with the burning of waste and using the footway as their own at a local property.

Councillor C Lloyd said there'd been complaints about litter, and in particular litter to the side of a house near Tynyrheol School and continuing issues with drugs.

**Resolved: The updates were noted. The Clerk was asked to seek Centre Great's advice regarding the lighting column and get it fixed. The Clerk was asked to find out if the anti-social behaviour meetings were still being organised.**

**142/22-23 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair gave an update on the recent meeting regarding the bottom section of Community Route which the Community Council is not responsible for. It is the land owned by the Crown.

**Resolution:** There was no progress regarding the likelihood of any maintenance works being carried out.

**143/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Warden's report had been circulated to all Members. The continuing vandalism to the newly repaired bridge was noted. 4 times since its refurbishment.

**King's Coronation:** The Clerk highlighted the coronation date of 6<sup>th</sup> May and the commemorative items on sale to mark the occasion and asked if there was an appetite to consider a gift for the children of the Garw Valley.

**Queen's Jubilee Bench:** it was noted that the final bench has been installed outside Dan y Mynydd in the Blaengarw ward.

**Signage:** More branding signage was needed for benches, bins and defibrillators installed.

**Cwm Taff Nature Network Funding:** PC Lan has been allocated funding up to £5,000 for hard works and access improvement. A quote must be obtained and the supplier set up on Constructionline as per the standard at BCBC. They will consider other works.

**Turning Circle:** A quote had been obtained for the work to the turning circle. BCBC has planings available free of charge from April which would reduce the quote of £2,100.

**20mph Road Map:** The Clerk informed Members that the maps for the proposed exception roads are currently being uploaded on the BCBC's consultation pages of their website and will be available for members of the public to view before the end of February. All parties will then have a chance to consider the exceptions and respond with any comments within the time frame which will be included in the published documents.

**Floral Baskets:** The Clerk had been on location visits with the gardener to look at possible sites within each ward. There is provision in the 2023/2024 budget for 10 baskets for each ward. It was noted that the Clerk had approached the Co-op to support two for either side of the entrance to their car park and she is waiting for a reply. The following were agreed with ward members:

- Pontycymer 7 around the square plus 3 in Pantygog.
- Blaengarw 5 around the Strand and 5 on the main road outside Dan y Mynydd
- Bettws 4 bottom site same as Christmas light columns, 3 top site outside the shops and 3 on Heol Richard Price.
- Llangeinor: 2 in Tylagwyn, 1 opposite houses on Bridgend Road Pontyrhyl, 5 in Lluest, 2 additional one in Llangeinor. It was noted that Llangeinor already fund 6 on the main road.

All are subject to meeting BCBC's criteria for the use of lamp posts and the weight.

**Flower Planters:** It was noted that the Clerk has requested a licence from BCBC to locate a three tier planter on a triangle of land on Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws. Other suggested locations were Pontyrhyl (where the Christmas trees are located) and two post troughs on the Pontycymer and Blaengarw signs opposite the shop on Victoria Street.

**Garw Valley Activity Scheme:** The Clerk suggested inviting Rhian Thomas of Halo Leisure to the March meeting to give a presentation on the success of last year's scheme and discuss costs and plans for this year's scheme.

**Falconry Event:** The request to hold a falconry event had been approved and 100 tickets have been sold. The Warden is on leave and the Clerk asked for a volunteer to open the toilet from 10 to 12 on the day of the event.

**Reported this month:** A broken bench at Heol Gelliodre, a damaged car parked in Pontyrhyl and a damaged drain in Llangeinor.

**Tree Maintenance Parc Calon Lan:** The Warden has requested the removal of 5 conifers along the river edge and the removal of all the invasive buddleia along the bmx/ball court track. The Clerk had obtained two quotes.

**Sitting Out Area Lluest:** Following a meeting with BCBC Officers it appears this land is not owned by BCBC though they have maintained it in the past. They suggested that any improvement would be welcome and they would not object. However if a bin is placed there BCBC would not empty it.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to put the Coronation on the agenda for March and present the gift options available. The Clerk was authorised to order more signage. The purchase of train cameras and a boardwalk down the lake at Pontycymer was suggested for the funding and the Clerk was asked to discuss other ideas with the Warden and apply. It was agreed to wait until April to carry out the work. The Clerk was asked to progress the hanging baskets at the suggested locations. The locations of suggested planters were agreed and would be funded by ward funds. The invitation to the March meeting was approved. Councillor W Davies offered to open up the Visitor Centre for the falconry event. The tree maintenance was approved and the Clerk was asked to arrange the work to be carried out by ARB Cymru by the beginning of March. The Clerk was asked to progress the improvements to the Sitting out area in Lluest with the Llangeinor Councillors' approval to use ward funds.

#### **144/22-23 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received plus with the permission of the Chair some additional correspondence received since the papers were distributed. Of particular note were the following:

- Financial donation request Ronald McDonald House

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

- Richard Price Centre - invite to the Richard Price Tricentenary Event
- Hugh Irranca-Davies - invite to Garw Valley trail meeting.
- Tanio Cymru - request to use PC Lan for a group walk as part of Bridgend's Love2Walk Festival on 20<sup>th</sup> June and a further request to use the park in early March for Forest Art sessions.
- Menter Iaith Cymru - request by Chief Officer to attend future meeting to inform Members of their work
- One Voice Wales - letter requesting payment for membership registration for 2023/2024
- One Voice Wales - request for nominations for the King's New Year Honours deadline 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**Resolved:** All correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to defer the financial donation request to March 2023 meeting. Members were asked to respond to the RPrice event. Tanio Cymru were given permission for their events subject to risk assessment and insurance being given to the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to invite the Menter Iaith representative to the June meeting. Authority was given to pay the OVW membership registration for 2023/2024.

### **145/22-23 PLANNING MATTERS**

With the permission of the Chair one additional planning application received since the papers were distributed was included for discussion.

In total 4 planning request had been received and there were no decisions and one appeals. 6 Planning Aid email had been sent out in the month for information.

**Resolved:** Councillor Coles had sent the Clerk his objection to one of the planning applications and a vote was taken with a unanimous decision not to object. No objections were made to the planning applications, the other information was noted.

### **146/22 ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at the Richard Price Centre and via Zoom at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.