



**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> MARCH 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor D Davies

Councillors:

G Andrews  
J Coles  
W Davies  
H Griffiths  
M Jones  
M Lewis  
C Lloyd  
M Trowbridge  
G Walters (via zoom)

Apologies: Councillor M Thomas

No Apologies: Councillor R Jones

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

147/22-23 Apologies (as above)

**148/22-23- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Tynyrheol Primary School Richard Price Centre	Vice-Chair of Governors Director
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
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

**149/22-23 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM HALO LEISURE REF. PLAYScheme 2022**

The Chair welcomed Rhian Thomas of Halo Leisure to the meeting. A 2022 Active4Life Review had been sent out to Members with their meeting papers and this was discussed and questions asked.

**Resolved:** It was confirmed that there is £9,650 for the 2023/24 scheme in the 2023/24 budget. The Clerk was asked to confirm to Halo that the council would continue to support the scheme to this amount.

**150/22-23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

The February 2023 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

**151/22-23 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING**

**Minute 134/22-23 Consider Matters Arising from the January 2023 Meeting**

**Defibrillator Pantygog** - Councillor H Griffiths, the local responder, Don Sage, and the Clerk would attend a site meeting to discuss further.

**Parc Calon Lan Bridge Repairs** - the sides of the bridge had been vandalised twice since the last meeting.

**Condition Survey Richard Price Centre** - the Clerk had been informed by the CAT Officer that the last survey had taken place in 2016.

**Clerk's Report** - Councillor M Jones asked the Clerk to forward the correspondence regarding the dog fouling to him and he'd chase up a response from BCBC.

**Minute 136/22-23 Ballot for T&CC Representative on Local Access Forum**

The Clerk had submitted the council's ballot but the outcome was not yet known.

**Minute 137/22-23 Draft Biodiversity Report**

The Clerk had published the report on the council's website under the Policy, Guidelines and Reports tab. It had also been submitted as requested to OVW.

**Minute 138/22-23 Social Media Policy Update**

The policy had been updated and published on the council's website under the Policy, Guidelines and Reports tab.

**Minute 139/22-23 Trail Cameras**

The Clerk had discussed the council's wishes with the Warden and following that conversation advised the council to only purchase one better quality camera which Rural Crime Wales had suggested. She also explained the amount of additional work that the Warden would have to do to man 3 cameras. In addition, the Clerk had discussed the council's suggestion of a boardwalk down to the water's edge at Pontycymer lake and again following that conversation the Clerk advised the council that the project should not go ahead as the council shouldn't be encouraging residents to go too near the water.

**Minute 141/22-23 Borough Council/Ward Updates**

The Clerk had reported the broken lantern to Centre Great who had been out to fix it, however it was reported by councillors that it is still not working.

As regards the reinstatement of BCBC's anti-social behaviour meetings, the Clerk had been informed that they've not stopped as they were set up as a short term task and finish group and anti-social behaviour is low in the area so they are unlikely to be reinstated.

**143/22-23 Clerk's Report including the Warden's Report**

The additional branding signage had been purchased and the Warden would install asap. Prior to the discussions with the Warden the Clerk had enquired about the available funding of £5,000 from BCBC being used for the trail camera and the boardwalk idea but a response had not been received to date.

The improvements to the Sitting Out area at Lluest were in discussion with BCBC and would be progressed asap.

**Minute 144/22-23 Correspondence**

The representative of Menter Iaith had agreed to attend the June meeting. It was noted that Tanio Cymru had changed two of the dates for their events in Parc Calon Lan.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted. The Clerk would forward the dog fouling emails to Councillor M Jones to refer. The Clerk was asked to purchase and install the one trail camera as suggested by Rural Crime Wales and the boardwalk idea would not be progressed. The Clerk would chase up the repair to the lantern off Victoria Street.

**152/22-23 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 2022**

PCSO M Rees was present. The crime figures for December 2022 had been circulated with the meeting papers. Anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue in the valley with damage to the council's bridge several times since the last meeting, issues with entry into the boarded up Royal Hotel and anti-social driving.

The Clerk informed Members that at another council meeting Sargeant Lea had offered to provide more up to date crime figures to all councils and she would provide him with a list of due dates for the year.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**153/22-23 CO-OPTION BETTWS WARD**

Only one application had been received and the application was discussed and a vote taken.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Neal Harwood-Scorer as a Councillor for the Bettws Ward.

**154/22-23 KING'S CORONATION 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

The Clerk had circulated commemorative gift ideas for primary school children with the papers and these were discussed. A proposal was made to purchase a gift.

**Resolved:** Following a vote it was unanimously agreed to purchase Coronation Coins for each child in the valley's 5 primary schools, that the Clerk would deliver the gifts to each school, that the Chair would attend a presentation at each school and the representative governors for each school would make the presentation arrangements with the schools in time for the Coronation date.

**155/22-23    DEFERRED FINANCIAL REQUESTS TO MARCH 2023**

A list and details of the deferred financial requests to March 2023 had been circulated with papers, there was £75 left in the donations budget for the year. Each request was discussed and a vote took place.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to donate £25 each to the Wales Air Ambulance, Marie Curie and Ronald McDonald House.

**156/22-23    FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**1.Payments:**

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

**2.Income:**

Donation of £850 from a local family which is to be used towards the cost of the Visitor Centre defibrillator.

The final payment for the Bettws footpath from BCBC of £5,513.42.

**3.External/Full Audit:**

No conclusion has been received to date, although some queries had been received from Wales Audit Office, which the Clerk had answered.

**4.Rights of Way Agency Agreement:**

The Clerk confirmed that she'd submitted the 2022/23 claim for footpath maintenance and the community path maintenance.

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

**157/22-23    BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

Councillor M Jones informed Members that there is a BCBC budget increase of 4.9% and explained the pressure from social services and education provision. He said the Richard Price Tricentenary had been a brilliant event and said there should be a statue of Richard Price in Llangeinor. He acknowledged the Garw Valley Heritage Society's role in the event.

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Councillor H Griffiths said that she'd received lots of compliments about the daffodils in Pontycymer and that anti-social driving continues to be a problem in the valley.

Councillor M Lewis agreed with the previous 2 councillors. She thanked Councillor W Davies for all his hard work in collecting Easter eggs on behalf of the food bank.

Councillor W Davies raised his concerns about the amount of used dog waste bags being dumped in the rear lanes of houses.

Councillor C Lloyd said drug dealing continues to be an issue in some areas. She thanked all who volunteered at the Richard Price Centre for the Tricentenary event and noted informed members of the death of a local resident.

Councillor G Walters raised his concerns regarding traffic speed and fly tipping that continues to be a problem in the valley.

Councillor J Coles had attended BCBC's T&CC Forum where amongst the items discussed were 7 different ways of working, warm hubs and T&CC agenda items for future meeting, the nature recovery action plan. He also said the bins at the BCBC lakes had still not been replaced. Councillor M Lewis said she'd refer the matter to BCBC.

Councillor M Trowbridge - raised continuing litter issues.

**Resolved: The updates were noted.**

### **158/22-23 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair said the Richard Price Tricentenary event held at the Richard Price Centre had been a huge success. People had travelled from wide and far, the speakers and exhibits had been excellent, the buffet received many compliments and she thanked the Mayor Martyn Jones for his closing speech. It was an excellent example of working in partnership with other organisations and the children of Tynyrheol Primary School and visited the Senedd and their project will be used as an example to roll out to other primary and secondary schools. Councillor Jones said it illustrated how valuable the building is to the community and suggested Awen Cultural Trust could be approached by the RP Centre committee to locate some of their services there.

**Resolution: All agreed the event had been a success.**

### **159/22-23 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. The oil substance pollution and action of the Warden and outcome were noted.

**Floral Baskets:**

Provision had been put in the 2023/24 budget for 10 hanging floral baskets for each ward. The Clerk presented the costs to purchase the baskets, install, fill and water for 18 weeks.

**Falconry Display:**

The event had been enjoyed by the community but it was noted that on the day much of the arrangements by the organisers had been correct ie posters advertising the event from 10 to 12, yet the event was 11 to 3, the agreed area for the display vehicle etc. etc. Many lessons had been learned regarding future events to be held on the field.

**Tools for the Warden:**

The Warden had requested some additional hand tools and the Clerk gave the details of the items and the costs.

**Budget 2023/24:**

The Clerk requested the go ahead to action and progress the projects and works identified in the 2023/24 budget.

**Tree Work:**

The conifers and buddleia had been removed as agreed.

**Bench Heol Gelliodre:**

The Clerk had reported this damaged bench to V2C who had confirmed that they would review and repair it.

**Annual Leave:**

The Clerk reminded everyone of the staff members annual leave dates being taken before the end of March.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was given the go ahead to action the additional baskets for each ward. Future events would require the Warden to be on site, a site visit organised beforehand etc. The Clerk was given approval to purchase the requested tools for the Warden. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk could action and progress the projects and works identified in the 2023/24 budget.

**160/22-23 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:

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- IRPW Report
- Tynyrheol Primary School - invitation to event on 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- Cwm Taff Morgannwg CIC - invitation to a meeting.
- McMillan Cancer Support - funding request had been included in item 9 on the agenda
- Llangeinor Boys & Girls Club - further funding request
- Garw Valley Heritage Society - thank you for the partnership with the Richard Price Tricentenary event and for the funding support
- Richard Price Centre - thank you for the funding support for the Richard Price Tricentenary event.
- National Lottery Fund - confirmation of receipt of the council's grant funding application for funds to renew the footpaths around the monument in Parc Calon Lan.
- Digital Statement: Digital Health of Community and Town Councils
- Llangollen International Eisteddfod - arrived too late for inclusion in the meeting papers.
- Garw Valley Railway - newsletter

**Resolved:** All correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to include the IRPW Report on the April agenda. It was noted that the Community Health Board is now known as Llais, that the funding request from McMillan Cancer Support had been discussed in item 9 on the agenda and that as the funding request from Llangeinor Boys & Girls Club is the second in the financial year it could not be considered. The Clerk had written to them to see if they could access any other funding pots but had not received a reply. The Clerk was asked to inform the Llangollen International Eisteddfod of the reasons why their funding request could not be considered.

### **161/22-23 PLANNING MATTERS**

In total 0 planning requests had been received and there were 3 decisions and 0 appeals. 5 Planning Aid email had been sent out in the month for information and one pre-application planning consultation document for CTIL 24145321 Blaengarw Farm CF32 8AL.

**Resolved:** All information received was noted. There were no observations.

### **162/22 ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

- IRPW Report
- Community Award

**Resolved:** The agenda would be kept open for items to be added in the month. Councillor M Jones would speak to Zena at Bettws Life Centre ref. a venue for the April and May meetings.



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**The date for the next meeting is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at a Bettws venue tbc and via Zoom at 6.30 pm.**

Note: Councillor G Walters gave his apologies for the April, May and June meetings and explained why he'd be unable to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.