



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

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT BETTWS LIFE CENTRE AND  
VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor G Andrews (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles  
W Davies  
H Griffiths  
Neal Harwood-Scorer  
M Jones  
C Lloyd  
M Trowbridge

Apologies: Councillors D Davies, M Lewis, M Thomas and G Walters

No Apologies: Councillor R Jones

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

163/22-23 Apologies (as above)

Note: Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chair welcomed him to the Council and to the meeting.

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023

### **164/22-23- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
M Jones	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

### **165/22-23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

The March 2023 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

### **166/22-23 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH 2023 MEETING**

#### **Minute 149/22-23 Presentation from Halo Leisure Ref. Playscheme**

The Clerk had confirmed the budget for 2023/24 to Halo. Costings had been received. Halo had confirmed that they had secured the Bettws Life Centre for 6 weeks.

#### **Minute 151/22-23 Matters Arising from the February 2023 Meeting**

**Defibrillator Pantygog** - the Clerk is waiting for the local responder to return to work to hold a site meeting.

**Bridge Repairs** - no vandalism in the last two weeks

**Clerk's Report** - email ref. dog fouling sent to Councillor M Jones, no update yet.

**Camera** - this has been purchased and will be installed asap. Signs saying cameras in operation in the area will be installed.

**Lighting Column near Police Station, Pontycymer** - the lantern is not working again and needs to be reported.

#### **Minute 154/22-23 King's Coronation 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

All 5 schools had been pleased to accept the gifts. They are due to be delivered to the Clerk by 25<sup>th</sup> April and will be delivered to the schools asap after that.

**Minute 159/22-23 Clerk's Report including the Warden's Report**

**Floral Baskets** - these have been ordered for installation in June. The Clerk is seeking permission to use the identified lighting columns.

**Tools for the Warden** - these have been purchased

**Projects for 2023/24** - the planters have been ordered and the Clerk will obtain the necessary licences

**Minute 160/22-23 Correspondence**

**Llangeinor Boys & Girls Club** - another finance request had been received and the Clerk gave details.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted. The Clerk would report the lantern to Centre Great again. The Clerk would notify all 5 Community Council Governors when the Coronation coins have been delivered into the schools so that they can then make contact with the schools to arrange the presentation. It was agreed to donate to the Llangeinor Boys & Girls Club out of Llangeinor ward funds but not for purchasing items that could be deemed as running items such as a toaster and sandwich maker.

**167/22-23 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR MARCH 2023**

PCSO Michael Rees attended the meeting and explained the crime figures for March 2023. Some of the crimes were discussed including the constant entry and vandalism at the Royal.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**168/22-23 COMMUNITY AWARDS 2022**

The Clerk had circulated a draft Community Award notice and this was discussed.

**Resolved:** The draft notice was accepted and the Clerk would advertise the award and invite residents to put forward nominations.

**169/22-23 GREAT GLAMORGAN WAY - EQUESTRIAN/CYCLING TRAIL**

The Clerk had circulated information received from the Rights of Way team at BCBC who are currently working with four other counties in the South Central Wales area to develop a new regional trail idea for long distance horse riding and mountain biking and this was discussed. Councillor John Coles was opposed to horses using the same path as pedestrians.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed that there was additional information needed for the Council to give an opinion. These included a photo of a horse style, clarification on who's paying for the changes and who's responsible for it going forward.

### **170/22-23 IRPW REPORT**

The latest IRPW report had been received and circulated with the papers. There were some changes to T&CCS to note:

- A change to the grouping number to Group 3
- That Council's must pay their Members £156 a year towards the extra household expenses of working from home (an increase of £6 on the previous year)
- That Councils must either pay their Members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

**Resolved:** The changes were noted, the Clerk would re-draft the Allowances Policy to reflect the changes and this would be included as an agenda item for May.

### **171/22-23 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

#### **1. Payments:**

During the meeting the Clerk had noticed a typing error on the payment sheet for 15<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March and April 2023 and therefore would defer the request for authorisation for the payments to the May 2023 meeting.

#### **2. Income:**

A Rights of Way Agency Agreement payment for 2022/23 had been received of £4,300, this included £600 Community Path maintenance.

#### **3. Budget 2023/24:**

The Clerk informed Members that the Blaengarw Ward had overspent on their ward funds in 2023/24 and the overspend had been deduced from their 2023/24 allowance. The Clerk presented a table of earmarked projects for 2023/24 and earmarked reserves for items agreed in the previous financial year where the invoice had not been received or it had not been possible to carry out the work in the previous year. The large VAT reclaim was also explained. Councillor M Jones said he hoped match funding would be agreed for future projects in Bettws and Llangeinor.

#### **4. Full Audit:**

The Conclusion of Full External Audit had been received but not in time to include in the April papers.

**Resolved:** The payments for end of year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and April 2023 were deferred for authorisation at the May 2023 meeting. The Conclusion of Audit would be included as an agenda item for the May meeting.

**172/22-23 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

Councillor H Griffiths gave updated on planned BCBC upgrades to play areas in the valley - 2 in Bettws, 1 in Llangeinor, 1 in Pontyrhyl and 3 in Pontycymer.

Councillor M Jones gave an update on his recent Mayoral duties, the Welsh Nursery in Bettws, blue refuse bags and in response to Councillor W Davies' question confirmed that BCBC's offices are open.

Councillor D Davies had sent in an update in her absence, which included thanks for reported matters being dealt with ie a bench repair and hedge cutting, that residents are annoyed at the amount of litter on the New Road and S bends, residents concerns regarding report of sewage disposal into the Garw river, that the GVHS are looking at doing an exhibition of Daniel James and that there are lots of activities going on at the Richard Price Centre. In addition, she reported that Nia Lewis has just returned from participating in a UEFA development tournament playing for Wales' U16s national team. The team played against Israel, Czech Republic and Iceland and Nia was named player of the match against Iceland and play of the squad.

**Resolved:** The updates were noted.

**173/22-23 CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was nothing to report.

**174/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Warden's report had been circulated to all Members.

**Digital Statement: Digital Health of Community and Town Councils:**

Following the report an internal working group, including representatives from key partners and WG officials will now develop a sector-led plan of action. The Minister has agreed an investment of up to £3150,000 to support and inject pace into this work.

**Training:**

Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer has been booked onto a Code of Conduct training course.

**Reported This Month:**

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023

Litter on the road from Llangeinor to the Ogmores Valley.  
**Town & Community Council Grant Funding:**

The Clerk informed Members that a decision on the Council's application had been deferred from 11<sup>th</sup> April to May.

**Resolved: The information was noted**

### **175/22-23 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:

- Ronald McDonald House - thank you for the donation
- Wales Air Ambulance - thank you for the donation
- Marie Curie - thank you for the donation
- National Lottery Fund - notification that the council's application was not successful
- Dentist Near Me - request to add to the website

**Resolved: All correspondence was noted. It was unanimously agreed not to include Dentist Near Me on the website.**

### **176/22-23 PLANNING MATTERS**

In total 2 planning requests had been received and there were 2 decisions and 0 appeals. 2 Planning Aid emails had been sent out in the month for information.

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

### **177/22 ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

- Allowances Policy Update
- Spring Bulb Order

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

**The date for the next meeting is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 starting with the Annual Meeting at 6.00 pm and followed by the Ordinary Meeting at 6.30 pm at a Bettws Life Centre and via Zoom.**

The meeting closed at 7.43 pm.