



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

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE BLAENGARW  
WORKMEN'S HALL, BLAENGARW AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 6.30  
PM**

Present: Councillor H Griffiths (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles  
D Davies (zoom until 7.50 pm)  
W Davies  
M Jones  
M Lewis  
C Lloyd  
M Thomas  
M Trowbridge

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, N  
Harwood-Scorer and G Walters

No Apologies: Councillor R Jones

Also Present: 1 Member of the Public and Mrs A  
C Harris, Clerk & RFO

**49/23-24 Apologies (as above)**

**50/23-24- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre	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
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member

**51/23-24 COMMUNITY AWARD PRESENTATION 2022**

The Council had invited the winners of the Community Award 2022 to the meeting to present the shield and trophy. The invitation had been accepted but the winners, South Wales Fire & Rescue were not present at the meeting.

**Resolution:** The Clerk was asked to contact SW Fire & Rescue and invite them to a future meeting for a presentation.

**52/23-24 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

Ms. J Winkles had requested to speak at the meeting and gave her thoughts on various matters including 15 minute cities/20 minute neighbourhoods, the new 20 mph speed limits and the increasing number of surveillance cameras.

**Resolved:** Ms. Winkles comments were noted.

**53/23-24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

The July 2023 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the July 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair. The Clerk was asked to amend the attendance list as Councillor M Trowbridge was in attendance, but had been omitted from the attendee list.

**54/23-24 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2023 MEETING**

**Minute 26/23-24 Matters Arising from the June 2023 Meeting**

**Lighting Columns off Victoria Street** - one is still not working.

**T&CC Grant Funding Application** - the Clerk informed Members that there is a possibility of some capital funding for the unsuccessful applicants to this fund. Applicants have been asked to complete an EoI before the deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> September. Councillor Coles is looking for further suitable funding for the project as the National Lottery fund as it is difficult to fit this project to their criteria.

**Vandalism and Fires** - Councillor M Jones said the moment has been lost for a press release regarding the fires. He had spoken to BCBC, but to date nothing had been received.

**Defibrillator Pantygog** - still on hold due to the responder being off work.

**Floral Displays** - the Clerk confirmed a licence had been received for a 3 tier planter in Bettws, which has been installed and welcomed. The licence for the two rail planters has also been received, however the rail pipes turn when a load is put on them so the gardener is looking for a solution to the problem before installing.

#### **Minute 40/23-24 Sponsorship Policy for Sports Teams**

Despite a request no application form or confirmation of meeting the policy criteria has been received from Llangeinor Minis.

In regards to the application from Bettws FC, Councillor M Jones confirmed he'd spoken to the committee to reject the application in this instance as a storage container has been purchased for them and a contribution made towards the Fun Day.

#### **Minute 43/23-24 Members/Ward Reports**

The Clerk confirmed she'd sent a financial support application form to Bettws OAP twice and still hasn't received a completed form returned in order to consider support.

#### **Minute 45/23-24 Clerk's Report**

**Turning Circle** - the Clerk reported that she's been unable to progress the turning circle work at Railway Terrace as the contractor who gave the quote is no longer communicating with the council, so the quote process will have to be started again.

**Hedgerow Cutback** - the Clerk confirmed that the work has been carried out by the Warden and thanks received.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The action of the Clerk was approved in regards to hedgerow cutback, lighting column repairs and grant funding. One of the Bettws ward councillors would speak to Bettws OAP in regards to returning a completed form and it was agreed that the moment had been lost in regards to a press release for the vandalism and fires.

**55/23-25     TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2023**

The crime figures for July and August 2023 had been included with the papers. There were no representatives from SW Police present. The recent incident in the park involving the Warden was discussed following a meeting with SW Police regarding the Warden's on-going safety whilst carrying out his work in Parc Calon Lan (which includes the Community Route and all the council's leased land). Various suggestions were made.

**Resolved:** It was noted that the figures were lower in July than August. It was unanimously agreed that a body camera should be purchased for the Warden to wear. A policy would need to be written for its use.

**56/23-24     DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

The Clerk had prepared a draft annual report which had been sent out to members prior to the meeting. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** The report was unanimously approved and the Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's website.

**57/23-24     PROMOTING THE COUNCIL'S WORK**

Councillor M Jones raised this item and suggested that the Community Council needs to improve its promotion to the community. A newsletter and improved use of social media were discussed.

**Resolved:** It was noted that the council needs to raise its profile.

**58/23-24     BCBC ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENT REVIEW**

The first part of this review being carried out by BCBC is to invite Councils to submit any proposals or changes they may have to assist BCBC in preparing draft reports. This may include boundary amendments, the merging of communities, the warding of communities, the renaming of communities or wards and the electoral arrangements within communities.

**Resolved:** Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed that there is no need for change.

**59/23-24     PUMP PARK PARC CALON LAND**

Councillor Lewis had received some funding which she suggested should be put towards regenerating this area as a Pump Park. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** The Community Council agreed in principle to Councillor Lewis' proposal subject to her finding additional funding and the Clerk was asked to meet with Councillor Lewis to formulate a plan to enable the Clerk to obtain quotes for this project.

**60/23-24 THE STRAND**

The Clerk gave an update from BCBC following the August CAT Steering Group Committee meeting and this area was discussed. BCBC are progressing a possessory title claim for the land.

**Resolved:** The Community Council agreed that Councillor Lewis and the Clerk should meet on site to formulate a plan to enable the Clerk to discuss them with the Parks Department and obtain quotes for this project.

**61/23-24 EVENTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Events Committee had met to discuss the suggested Christmas Community Concert, Halloween events, and Christmas gifts for primary school children. Councillor Heather Griffiths was elected as the Chair of Committee.

The following recommendations were made to full council:

**Concert:**

- The concert is held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.00 pm. The only date available for a concert where both Bois Goytrehen and Ogmores Valley Silver Band are available. The fees charged by those groups are £200 each.
- That the concert is 20 minutes/break for 20 minutes/20 minutes and includes a sing-along section.
- That the Richard Price Centre is the venue for the concert. This has been provisionally booked at the reduced hire rate of £100 for the hall, lounge and bar. The capacity is 150. It is on a bus route and easily accessible from the Garw, Ogmores, Llynfi valleys and Bridgend.
- That the tickets, programmes and promotional material would be additional costs and councillors would need to publicise the event on social media.
- That all councillors will need to help with the organisation on the night as the Clerk is not available on that date.
- That attendees would make their own way to the venue and that transport would not be provided.

**Christmas Gifts for Schools:**

- Recommend selection boxes be purchased for all primary schools.

**Future Events:**

- Not to put on any Halloween events this year.
- To ask Councillor W Davies if he's aware of any Remembrance Day events in the valley for 2023.

**Resolved:** All of the above were discussed. Councillor M Jones said his idea had been for a free community concert with tickets allocated to the four wards to distribute within the community, setting their own criteria. A vote was taken on all the above including Councillor Jones' proposal for a free community concert. Of the Councillors present 7 voted in favour of all the concert recommendations, Councillor D Davies abstained and Councillor J Coles whilst in favour of the concert voted against the free element and the proposed distribution of tickets, he was concerned that tickets would be given out and then people would change their minds. On the vote regarding Christmas gifts and future events all councillors present unanimously agreed to the recommendations.

**62/23-24     FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**Payments:**

The payments and budget monitoring sheets for August and September 2023 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments totalling £16,744.78.

**Income:**

There had been no income in the month.

**Audit 2022/23:**

There had been no questions or feedback received to date and no conclusion of audit.

**Resolved:** Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheets presented. All other information was noted.

**63/23-24     BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

Councillor M Jones thanked the Clerk for her support in purchasing a container for Bettws FC. He gave updates on V2C site visits and pre-planning proposals, Llanmor Homes proposals, the proposals for the Bettws Club site. He also expressed his concerns that there are no regeneration plans for the Garw Valley and suggested the Council writes to BCBC's CEO. Councillor Jones gave an update on the new Garw WI's concern

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regarding outlets for human waste and suggested the Council write to Dwr Cymru and ask them to hold a public engagement session to let residents know what their plans are to improve this situation.

Councillor M Lewis expressed her concern that referrals are not being dealt with. She said that the old Ysgol Cwm Garw Grammar School site has been offered to the Health Authority. Councillor Lewis said that the Youth Club held on a Friday night for approximately 40 children is in desperate need of volunteers and asked everyone to spread the word for suitable candidates. Members were informed that a McMillan Coffee Morning will be held at Dan y Mynydd on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Councillor H Griffiths had visited the new Meadow View site on the old Brynmenyn Primary School site. She said it is an impressive facility. Issues with Dwr Cymru digging up Oxford Street were raised; it is affecting shop trade and the OAP centre has closed as it is currently inaccessible. Another McMillan Coffee Morning will be held at Tabernacle Chapel. Pot holes and issues with the cemetery continue.

Councillor J Coles had attended biodiversity meetings where views could be put forward.

**Resolved:** The updates were noted. The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC's Chief Executive to ask him to attend a future meeting to inform Members of BCBC's regeneration plans for the valley.

### **64/23-24 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair was not present at the meeting therefore no report was given.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

### **65/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

**Lakes:** Following discussions with the Warden, the Clerk informed Members that clearing the pond weed and cutting the reeds at Pont Lake would be more beneficial this year than in Blaengarw.

**Barrier Visitor Centre:** The Clerk informed Members that the couple who have opened and closed the barrier to the Visitor Centre car park for some years are moving and are no longer able to carry out this role.

**Christmas 2023:** Following a site meeting with a representative from Centre Great the Clerk confirmed the following:

- That there are no suitable lighting columns on the Bridgend Road side of the river bridge to enable any Christmas column motifs or lighting to be installed.
- That there are 3 lighting columns on Heol Richard Price that are suitable for Christmas column motifs, subject to BCBC approval.

- That a larger Christmas tree will be installed in Bettws as it is further back from the roads than all the other trees so looks small from the road.

In addition, following BCBC adapting 4 lighting columns in the Pontycymer ward on Victoria Street in error, when they should have been on King Edward Street or Blaengarw Road, how did Members of both those wards want to correct this going forward? This was discussed.

**Website:**

The Clerk had had issues administering the website as a message kept popping up saying it was unsafe. On taking advice on this matter, a safety certificate has now been purchased at a cost of £49.99 and software installed as a precaution.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted and approved. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for Pont Lake for 2023, to write a letter to the couple thanking them for their role with the barrier, to purchase 3 column motifs for the Bettws Ward and that the Pontycymer ward would pay to have 4 lighting columns adapted in Blaengarw and asked the Clerk to purchase 4 column motifs for the Pontycymer ward to use on the columns in Victoria Street.

**66/23-24 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:

- The Welsh Ombudsman's public consultation: Our Equality Plan 2023-2026
- Consultation on the fee scales 2024/25 Wales Audit Office
- The number of Clerk & RFO vacancies within the local area
- Bettws FC - thanks for storage container
- IRPW - request for Councillor Allowances info 22/23
- Bridgend Carers Centre - request for financial support
- Correspondence from residents regarding overgrown hedges, allotments and memorial bench

**Resolved:** All correspondence was noted. The Clerk informed Members that she had already submitted the IRPW request for Councillor Allowances and had dealt with the correspondence and matters raised by residents; Members accepted and approved the Clerk's actions. The Clerk was asked to defer the financial request from Bridgend Carers Centre to the March 2023 meeting.

**67/23-24 PLANNING MATTERS**

In total 5 planning requests had been received and there were 3 decisions and 0 appeals. 1 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out following the distribution of the meeting papers with the Chair's approval.



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

### **68/23-24 ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

- To receive a representative from Menter Bro Ogwr (to the October or November meeting)
- To receive a representative from Halo Leisure

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6.30 pm and will take place at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall, Blaengarw and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.