



**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 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor H Griffiths (Chair)

Councillors:

D Davies  
W Davies  
N Harwood-Scorer (from 7.02 pm)  
M Lewis  
C Lloyd  
G Walters (internet signal fail)

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Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, J Coles, M Jones and M Trowbridge

No Apologies: Councillors R Jones & M Thomas

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

69/23-24 Apologies (as above)

**70/23-24- 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

**71/23-24 TO RECEIVE RHIAN THOMAS, HALO LEISURE REF. GARW VALLEY ACTIVE FOR LIFE SCHEME**

The Chair welcomed Rhian Thomas of Halo Leisure to the meeting. A report on the 2023 scheme had been included with the papers. Rhian updated members on the numbers for 2023 and explained that the 6 weeks summer provision had only been 5 weeks due to staff shortages. In addition Rhian informed members of the financial support the scheme would require in 2024 of £9,650 and that the Bettws scheme would only be available for 3 days not 5, Wed - Friday due to the availability of the café; the cost however would remain the same at £1,500.

Members thanked Rhian for all her support.

**Resolution:** The Clerk was asked to include the scheme on the November agenda for further discussion on the financial support for 2024, that the 6 week scheme paid for in 2023 was only held for 5 weeks, that provision for Llangeinor is not included in the scheme and that the Bettws scheme for 2024 will only be on a 3 day a week basis.

**72/23-24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

The September 2023 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the September 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

**73/23-24 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING**

**Minute 51/23-24 Community Award Presentation 2022**

The Clerk had contacted SW Fire & Rescue the day after the next meeting to see why they hadn't attended the presentation as arranged, and they replied, without

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explanation, asking if the council members would attend the new station to present it to the whole team when it reopens.

### Minute 54/23-24 Consider Matters Arising from the July 2023 Meeting

**Lighting Columns off Victoria Street:** this has been reported again.

**T&CC Funding Application:** confirmation of receipt of the council's Expression of Interest has been.

**Tree Maintenance Prospect Place:** when the tree surgeon was cutting back the trees at Prospect Place recently it was noted that a willow tree on the end of the row had substantial decay and rot sections at its base and needs to be removed. They'd provided a quote and reduced it due to the fact that they hadn't included the work to it in the original cut back and the Clerk sought authority to get the work carried out at a cost of £400.

**Defibrillator Pantygog:** still on hold due to absence from work.

### Minute 59 and 80 Pump Park and The Strand

Councillor M Lewis and the Clerk had held a site meeting to ensure the Clerk was clear on the vision for the area. The Clerk hoped to have quotes for both projects in time for the November meeting.

### Minute 65/23-24 Clerk's Report

**Lakes:** A quote had been received from the specialist company to remove the pond weed and cut back the reeds at Pontycymer Lake. It is the turn of Blaengarw Lake this year, but following discussions with the Warden it was decided that Pontycymer Lake needed more work. A quote of 10,912 excl. vat had been received.

**Christmas 2023:** It was noted that some of the lighting column motifs have been installed. The additional ones for Pontycymer and Bettws had been ordered but had not yet been received in order to install.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. It was unanimously agreed that members would attend the Pontycymer Fire Station opening to present the awards. The Clerk was given authority to get the willow tree at Prospect Place removed; she would issue letters to the residents prior to the work taking place. The Clerk was given authority to accept the Salix quote and for the work to be carried out.

### 74/23-24 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

The crime figures for September 2023 had been included with the papers. PCSO A Jenkins attended the meeting and took members through the crime figures. He

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explained that the thefts in Pontycymer were mostly shoplifting and there are a lot of neighbour disputes in the figures.

The court outcome following the assault on the Warden was given and discussed.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to write to the perpetrator to reiterate that he should refrain from entering the council's leased land.

### **75/23-24 COMMUNITY CONCERT UPDATE**

The suggested itinerary was discussed and approved. It will start at 7.00 pm with a 20 minute interval. It will end at 9.15 pm with an audience sing-along of traditional carols.

The itinerary had been suggested by Bois Goytrehen and the Clerk is waiting for the Ogmores Silver Band to agree. Bois Goytrehen had drafted a poster, but the council had already drafted one, with the same design being used for tickets and the programme.

The distribution of tickets was discussed.

**Resolved:** Councillor Deb Davies was thanked for her work on the poster; the final version would be approved by the Events Committee given the time constrictions between the next council meeting and the concert. It was unanimously agreed that the tickets would be divided between wards, and then divided between councillors to issue on a first come basis.

### **76/23-24 DRAFT TRAINING PLAN 2023/24**

The Clerk had drafted a training plan for the year; this needs to be published on the council's website.

**Resolved:** The Draft Training Plan was discussed and unanimously agreed. The Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's website.

### **77/23-24 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

#### **Payments:**

The payments and budget monitoring sheet for October 2023 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments totalling £9,613.72.

#### **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.

**Audit 2021/22:**

No response had been received regarding the complaint about the outcome of the previous audit and this was discussed.

**Resolved:** Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheets presented. It was unanimously agreed that as the audit 2021/22 outcome was some time ago, the moment has passed and no further action would be taken. All other information was noted.

**78/23-24 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

Councillor M Lewis said it had been a busy month with referrals, issues regarding the traffic management on Oxford Street and a possible land grab proposed in Gwendoline Street.

Councillor H Griffiths said that some of the Oxford Street issues had been resolved now the traffic lights had been removed. She had attended many functions including a civic service in Maesteg and dealt with many reports regarding fly tipping.

Councillor D Davies said that she'd received requests for dog litter bins in the main village and asked if a bigger bin could be requests for the post near the shop on Llangeinor Road.

Councillor N Harwood-Scorer gave an update on the opposition to some of the proposals for the redevelopment of the old Bettws Club.8

Spring bulb planting was discussed.

**Resolved:** The updates were noted. The Clerk was asked to deal with the bigger bin issue raised for Llangeinor.

**79/23-24 CHAIR'S REPORT**

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

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**80/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

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**Quotes:** The Clerk has asked local stonemason, R Francis, to quote for the work to be carried out in time for remembrance day, but that is unlikely to happen as a quote had not yet been received.

**Spring Bulbs:** The Blaengarw ward is the only ward that hasn't collected its bulbs; they've been reminded.

**Remembrance Wreaths:** The Clerk had purchased two. Councillor M Lewis received one to place in Pontycymer and Councillor N Harwood-Scorer had received the other to attach to the Lest We Forget bench in Bettws.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted and approved.

### **81/23-24 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:

- One Voice Wales - consultation: scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024/25
- OVW - cancelled Conference and AGM
- OVW - D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- OVW - Support to capture older people's experiences of GP services
- Neath Port Talbot Council - replacement LDP 2023/38 draft delivery agreement consultation
- BCBC - temporary traffic regulation order
- BCBC - confirmation of receipt of the possible Capital Grant Scheme Expression of Interest
- Bettws FC - request ref. funding for firework display and ref. football kit outcome.
- Wales Air Ambulance - financial support request
- BCBC - Bridgend LDP Additional hearing session 21/11/23

**Resolved:** All correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to defer the Wales Air Ambulance financial support request to March 2024, the Clerk's explanation to Bettws FC regarding the number of financial applications that can be granted in a year was approved and the Clerk was asked to add the D-Day Anniversary to the next Events Committee meeting agenda.

### **82/23-24 PLANNING MATTERS**

In total 0 planning requests had been received and there was 1 decision and 0 appeals. 3 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out .

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

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**83/23-24 ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

- Ideas to include in the Precept Budget for 2024/25 (All)
- IRPW Draft Report and other Matters
- Portacabin finance for CAT transfers
- Garw Valley Active for Life Scheme 2023 and 2024

**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> November 2023 at 6.30 pm and will take place at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.04 pm