



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE RICHARD PRICE CENTRE,
LLANGEINOR AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 20th NOVEMBER AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor G Andrews (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles
D Davies
W Davies
N Harwood-Scorer
M Jones
R Jones
C Lloyd
M Trowbridge
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors H Griffiths, M Lewis
and M Thomas

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

84/23-24 Apologies (as above)

85/23-24- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre	Director
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor

86/23-24 TO RECEIVE AMANDA EVANS OF MENTER BRO OGWR

The Chair welcomed Amanda Evans, Chief Executive Office of Menter Bro Ogwr to the meeting. Amanda gave some background on the organisation - to promote the Welsh language and raise its profile. They work in partnership with BCBC. A few questions were asked and answered.

Resolution: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to pass on Amanda Evans' contact details to Councillor J Coles.

87/23-24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING

The October 2023 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

88/23-24 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER 2023 MEETING

Minute 73/23-24 To Consider Matters Arising from the September 2023 Meeting

Tree Maintenance: the work at Prospect Place has now been completed.

Pump Park and The Strand: the Clerk had met with contractors to obtain quotes for the Pump Park. One has responded with a ballpark figure quote. The quotes for bins, benches and a 3 tier planter for the Strand have been received, obtaining quotes for the retaining wall and steps are proving harder.

Lakes: the Clerk has found a place to store the Luxor safely during the work which will be carried out the week beginning 4th or 11th December.

Christmas 2023: The 4 new motifs for Victoria Street will be installed before 1st December. The tree for Bettws School is being installed in the week. The new columns on Heol Richard Price have been installed and look good. The numbers for Selection

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Boxes have been received from all schools and the Clerk is waiting on numbers for allergy boxes from Bettws Primary.

Minute 74/23-24 To Receive the Crime Figures for September 2023

It was noted that the body camera has been purchased and handed to the Warden. A policy for use needs to be drafted.

Minute 75/23-24 Community Concert Update

Volunteers were requested to help on the night.

Minute 80/23-24 Clerk's Report Including Warden's Report

Despite being contacted several times a quote had not been received from R Francies for work to the war memorial and stone benches at Parc Calon Lan. In addition, quotes for the turning circle were proving difficult to obtain.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted and approved. Councillors M Jones and N Harwood-Scorer offered to volunteer on the door on the night of the concert. Councillors D Davies and C Lloyd would be running the refreshment area, Councillor G Andrews will welcome the audience and performers, Councillor G Andrews and H Griffiths will thank the audience and performers for their attendance and present gifts to the Accompanist and Musical Directors. Other councillors would also be present to help. Councillors J Coles and M Trowbridge gave their apologies.

89/23-24 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 2023

The crime figures for October 2023 had been included with the papers. PC Craig Harpur attended the meeting and explained some of the figures. It was noted that ASB numbers for Pontycymer were high and continuing issues with motorbikes were noted.

Resolved: The information was noted

90/23-24 EVENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chair of the Events Committee was not present so Committee member, Councillor C Lloyd, gave an update and made recommendations to full council.

The recommendations made to full council were:

Christmas Concert:

- An equal amount of tickets would be given to each Councillor at the November Ordinary Meeting which would be distributed on a first come basis.

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- The poster for the concert would be put up in the noticeboards on 20th November and copies given to Councillors to display in local shops, businesses and organisations in their wards.
- The Clerk would write an introduction from the Chair for the programme and they would be placed on seats on the night. Bois Goetre-Hen and the Ogmores Silver Band have also provided write ups and their set lists.
- The Clerk would purchase flowers/small gift for the accompanist and the two musical directors and the Chair, aided by the Chair of Events would present them at the end of the concert with a thanks.
- No school choirs would be included in this concert as the programme is full, though consideration for a schools' concert would be given at a later date.
- The Mayor would be invited to attend; the Leader has also requested a ticket.

Light Walk Event:

The council has been approached by Awen Cultural Trust to use Parc Calon Lan for a Christmas Light Walk event. The event would be a willow light walk with workshops for the public and schools, making light up decorations for the trees. It is planned for Sunday 17th December 2023 from 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm. The Warden is available to be on site during the event and a copy of the Trust's public liability insurance and their risk assessment has been provided to the Clerk. The Events Committee recommends that permission is given for the event.

D-Day 80th Anniversary:

The Committee had been asked by Full Council to consider this event. The Committee recommends that the Clerk registers the Community Council for the lighting of a beacon and purchases a beacon. The Events Committee will discuss an event around the lighting at a future committee meeting to be held in January/February 2024.

Resolved: All recommendations to Full Council were accepted and approved.

91/23-24 IDEAS TO INCLUDE IN THE PRECEPT BUDGET FOR 2024/25

Councillors were asked at the October meeting to bring their ideas for projects for consideration to be included in the precept budget for 24/25 to the November meeting.

The ideas brought forward were:

- Clear the bank along Garregside of overgrowth
- Install a Tommy Remembrance Silhouette in each of the wards

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- Update The Strand with a replacement retaining wall, update the steps, replace the benches, add a 3 tier planter and 2 new bins
- Aid organisations with CAT

The on-going lake clearance, the repair of the base of the war memorial, the contribution for a future de-silting of the lake, the replacement footpaths in Parc Calon Lan and the installation of a Pump Park were also to be included.

Resolved: All the ideas were agreed. It was noted that the bank along Garregside, the repair to the base of the war memorial and the installation of the benches and bins at the Strand could be carried out by the Warden. The Clerk was asked to find out information of the CATs being progressed in the valley, compare precepts with other councils in the borough and forecast year-end figures.

92/23-24 IRPW DRAFT REPORT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Information on T&CC Allowances, Homeworking Arrangements and Consumables had been received and the Clerk informed Members that from 2024 the Councillor Allowance and the Consumables payments would be tax free.

Resolved: The information was noted.

93/23-24 PORTACABIN/CONTAINER FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUESTS

A financial request has been received from SBGC Football Club. The Clerk had sent out a grant funding form for them to complete and a copy had been included in the meeting papers. Other clubs undergoing CAT had also made verbal enquiries to councillors regarding the provision of storage containers.

The SBGC application was read and discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to request further information from SBGC ie the amount requested, to confirm that they have a girl's team etc.

Note: Councillor D Davies had declared an interest as a Director of the Richard Price Centre and left the room for the following item.

94/23-24 GARW VALLEY ACTIVE FOR LIFE SCHEME 2023 AND 2024

This item had been included in the agenda following feedback on the 2023 scheme from Halo at the October meeting.

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Items discussed were the invoice received which included provision for 6 weeks in Bettws whereas only 5 weeks were provided. The request for funding for 2024 of £9,650 to be included in the 24/25 precept budget, the fact that in 2024/25 only 3 days provision will be included per week in Bettws and the provision for the Llangeinor Ward.

Resolved: The following were unanimously agreed:

- That the Clerk would request a reduced invoice from Halo for 2023 to reflect the 5 weeks not 6 weeks' provision in Bettws.
- To include funding of £9,650 in the 2024/25 precept budget.
- To inform Halo that they want 5 days provision in Bettws to continue.
- That as the RP Centre has opted out of the Halo provision that any future funding requests would be considered out of Llangeinor ward funds.

94/23-24 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments:

The payments and budget monitoring sheet for November 2023 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments totalling £8,767.63

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 information was noted.

95/23-24 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor M Jones said BCBC were in extensive discussions on budget setting now. He gave an update on the Bridgend Valleys Regeneration Strategy which has been commissioned by BCBC to produce a Valleys Regeneration Strategy for the upper valleys of the Ogmere, Garw and Llynfi areas. The aim of the project is to identify projects, provide strategic direction and set priorities for these communities. BCBC has invited local members to meet with the commissioned consultants on 13th December. This was discussed.

Councillor D Davies reminded Members that 2024 is the 40th Anniversary of the Miner's Strike, that Tynyrheol Primary School's Christmas concert is on 13th December during the

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day and that Dwr Cymru are holding a drop in session at the RP Centre on 24th November.

Councillor J Coles said he'd repaired a damaged road sign in Blaengarw.

Councillor N Harwood-Scorer gave an update on feedback from the community on the pre-planning application for Bettws Club, which Councillor M Jones gave further updates on.

Councillor M Trowbridge gave an update on a recent youth forum event held at Bettws Ecolodge and said how proud she was of the local children who asked intelligent questions on issues such as public transport and safer streets. Councillor Trowbridge said there would be a spring bulb planting event on Saturday in Bettws subject to the weather being suitable.

Resolved: The updates were noted. Councillor M Jones would request a meeting for all Community Councillors with the commissioned consultants. The Clerk would send out a copy of the REACH report commissioned some time ago for the valley.

96/23-24 CHAIR'S REPORT

There was nothing to report by the Chair.

Resolved: No report given.

97/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Potential for Capital Funding:

REACH has approached the Clerk regarding a potential capital funding stream and they are looking initially for an agreement in principle for them to start an application for funding for a workspace in the Visitor Centre car park for home workers with the park being used for well-being and recreational purposes which would bring improvements to the park with a Pump Park and scope for an additional bike trail. This was discussed.

Town & Community Council Grant Funding 2024/25:

The Clerk had received details of the funding for 24/25 and Members were asked to consider projects for applications to be submitted by 29th February 2024.

Salary Increase:

The National Pay Agreement for 23/24 had been received and sent out to Members. The increased is aligned to the salary scale within the Clerk's contract of employment. All spinal points up to 43 are being awarded a flat rate payment of £1,925 and for those over sp 43 it's 3.8%. The Clerk's salary scale is under sp 43 so the flat rate payment is awarded pro rata.

Spring Bulbs:

One sack of spring bulbs for Blaengarw had not been planted and this was discussed.

Referrals to BCBC:

This month the Clerk had referred an audit of the Llangeinor ward grit bins for inspection and refill ready for winter and some footpath clearance around Tynyrheol School

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. It was unanimously agreed in principle to accept the offer, though there were questions to be asked regarding the workspace opening and locking etc and the Clerk was asked to include this for further discussions and updates on the January 2024 agenda. The Clerk was asked to include T&CC Grant Funding on the January 2024 agenda. The National Pay Agreement was accepted and the changes to the Clerk's salary, backdated to 1st April 2023 was unanimously accepted and approved in line with her contract of employment. The Clerk would ask the Warden to plant the Blaengarw bulbs in Parc Calon Lan.

98/23-24 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 note were the following:

- OVW - Road safety strategy consultation
- South Wales Fire & Rescue Service - Your Voice Matters - closes 24th January 2024
- BCBC - Morgannwg Endeavour Charitable Trust Forthcoming Events
- C Megias - request to include home pet euthanasia service on the council's website
- NPT Council - call for Candidate Sites 2023 now open - closes noon 18/12/23
- OVW - Future Generations Cymru Strategy
- BCBC - Potential for Capital Funding from REACH
- Cancer Information and Support Services - Financial support request
- South Wales Police - SW Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Community Survey - closes 18th December 2023
- Welsh Government - Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024/25

Resolved: All correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to defer the financial support request from CISS to the March 2024 meeting. The request to include a home pet euthanasia service was agreed subject to further investigation.

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99/23-24 PLANNING MATTERS

In total 3 planning requests had been received and there was 2 decision and 0 appeals.
4 Planning Aid Wales emails had been sent out .

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

100/23-24 URGENT ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER 2023 PRECEPT MEETING

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 4th December 2023 at the earlier time of 5.30 pm and will take place at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.23 pm