



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 15TH JANUARY AT 6.45 pm (delayed start due to late opening of the centre)

Present: Councillor G Andrews (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles
W Davies
H Griffiths
N Harwood-Scorer
M Jones
R Jones
M Lewis
M Trowbridge

Apologies: Councillors D Davies, C Lloyd,
M Thomas and G Walters

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

112/23-24 Apologies (as above)

113/23-24- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
H Griffiths	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Ffaldau Primary School	Member Chair of Governors
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member

**114/23-24 TO RECEIVE YIOTA HARALAMBOS OF REACH REF. CAPITAL FUNDING
PROJECT PARC CALON LAN**

Yiota Haralambos of REACH attending the meeting to provide information on the Northern Valleys Initiative and to ask the council for permission to include a bid on the Garw Valley Community Council's behalf. A request was made for permission to work at the site, which will cause some disruption, and permission for the site.

The Clerk had provided a printout of the Northern Valleys Initiative PowerPoint presentation and one of the quotes received, including plans, for a pump track design for the current 'bmx track'. The proposal is for capital works totalling £700,000 to include:

- Installation of an energy efficient, wi-fi enabled work hub
- Pump track re-development
- Maintenance of existing mountain bike trails and a new mountain bike trail
- Tarmac park footpaths
- New park interpretation signs
- General route signage

The requests and details of the bid were discussed, on-going costs for the maintenance and running costs of the hub were of concern. Yiota was asked to explore if other organisations could be brought into the bid to work in partnership with the council, possibly to take the bookings and run the hub and to explore the community need for a hub.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to give REACH permission to Yiota to her requests. The council unanimously agreed that they would support the initial concept and work with REACH subject to looking for partners. The Clerk would speak to the management at Parc Bryn Bach which already run a wifi hub to find out their on-going costs for maintenance and running the hub.

115/23-24 CALON Y CWM CIO - FUTURE PROJECT

Councillor M Lewis as director of this charity gave an update on a CAT for the old football field at Carn, following Carn Rovers move. Councillor Lewis outlined the

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15th JANUARY 2024

charity's plans for the area and explained that she is working with REACH on possible funding. The plans would need the Community Council's agreement to allow access across its leased land.

Yiota Haralambos of REACH had stayed for this item of the meeting. Many questions were asked including regarding car parking, refreshments and considering the plans in item 3 on the agenda with this project.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to support this project and the Clerk would investigate the lease regarding allowing access. Yiota Haralambos agreed to look at the two projects together.

116/23-24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2023 PRECEPT MEETING

The December 2023 Precept Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

117/23-24 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER 2023 MEETING

Minute 105/23-24 To Discuss and Agree the 2024/25 Precept Budget

The Clerk confirmed that the precept request had been made to BCBC and that a requested acknowledgement of receipt had been received.

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

118/23-24 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023

The Clerk informed Members of a change to the PCSOs for the valley. The crime figures against a person were noted. The Clerk updated Members on an email from PC C Harper regarding an off-road bike surveillance prior to Christmas.

Resolved: The information was noted.

119/23-24 TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING PROJECT IDEAS

Members had been asked to suggest project ideas for an application for this funding. Councillor J Coles suggested the footpaths in the park would fit the criteria. The Clerk said that following the recent rainfall the paths were in a bad state and needed work asap. The recent Light Walk had highlighted concerns regarding the condition of one path to the Warden.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Coles would prepare an application for the footpaths and the Clerk would obtain up-to-date quotes.

120/23-24 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments:

The payments and budget monitoring sheet for December 2023 and January 2024 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments totalling £15,952.88 for December and £17,564.96 for January.

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.

121/23-24 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor D Davies is absent from the meeting but asked the Clerk to raise the following ref. the Llangeinor Ward:

- Resident who lives at the start of Llangeinor disappointed with Christmas tree.
- Residents asked the reason there were no decorations through the village.
- Grit bin at bottom on Heol Tynant, opposite turning for Bettws, needs pulling upright and refilling.
- Thank you to the police for the quick response to the break-ins at Llangeinor Club and the subsequent arrests.

Councillor M Lewis - confirmed that the streetlights are now working on the road outside the surgery off Victoria Street.

Councillor H Griffiths - said December had been a busy month with attendance at carol concerts and school concerts. She said the council's concert at the Richard Price Centre had been well received by all who attended, despite the attendance numbers being lower than the number of tickets given out.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15th JANUARY 2024

Councillor Griffiths reminded Members that the 40th Anniversary of the Miners' Strike is in 2024.

Councillor J Coles - raised on-going concerns regarding motor bikes in Parc Calon Lan.

Councillor M Jones - said budget talks at BCBC were continuing with a consultation being held. He confirmed that budgetary decisions would not be made until February, so any speculation in the media and on social media should be disregarded. He said issues with rats in the borough continue to be a problem.

Councillor Jones asked if a meeting could be organised for the 3 borough councillors, Guy Smith of BCBC and the Clerk to look at the pocket park.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to arrange an Events Committee meeting to discuss future events and the Anniversary of the Miners' Strike. The Clerk would organise a meeting at the Pocket Park.

122/23-24 CHAIR'S REPORT

Resolved: There was no Chair's report this month.

123/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Tree and Scrub Clearance Work Parc Calon Lan: Councillor G Walters had raised this matter at the recent Precept meeting and it had been agreed that the work could be carried out by the Warden. However, following the meeting and on discussion the work with the Warden it is too large a job. Work is needed along the community route riverbank from Garregside to Pont Lake and tree clearance work along the route from the park to the end of the route at Carn. The Clerk had obtained a quote for the work and updated the council on the cost. The work needs to be carried out before the deadline for nesting birds.

Code of Conduct Courses BCBC: the Clerk informed Members that courses are available at BCBC if they wish to refresh their Code of Conduct knowledge.

Pontycymer Lake: the work has been completed at Pontycymer Lake as requested by the council. The Clerk requested authority to write to the local resident who had stored the equipment safely to thank them for their help. The Clerk raised her concerns that the work had only taken a day and it seemed very costly. Whilst they are a speciality company, the Clerk said the cost is very high and asked for authority to seek an alternative for next year.

The Strand: the Clerk asked for clarification on the way forward for the Strand as there appeared to be many emails being sent by different members regarding this area.

Litter Bags: The Warden had been advised by the refuse collectors that the free supply of red and grey bags for the park bin litter would cease shortly and the collection service may also cease. The Clerk asked if borough councillors could confirm this policy.

Wales On-Line: The Warden had seen a nice article on Parc Calon Lan on Wales On-line and had provided the Clerk with the link.

Body Camera: The Clerk informed Members that the Warden was not happy with wearing a body camera for H&S reasons.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to include the Tree and Scrub Clearance Work on the February agenda for further discussion. Authority was given to the Clerk to seek an alternative contractor for the lake work. The Clerk was asked to speak to Parks at BCBC to establish authority to refurbish this area once quotes had been received for the replacement retaining wall and steps and then to progress the work. Quotes for the replacement benches, bins, planter and floral baskets have already been obtained by the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to remind the borough councillors to put in a referral regarding litter bags. The Clerk was asked to invite Guy Smith at BCBC to a site meeting at the Strand to update him on the council's plans for the area. The Clerk was asked to seek other similar organisations' policies on wearing body cameras and draft a council policy for discussion at the February meeting.

124/23-24 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been sent out to Members since the last meeting and with the Chair's consent an additional sheet had been distributed for items received after the papers were distributed.

The Clerk highlighted the following:

- BCBC - public consultation sessions in relation to the Valleys Regeneration Strategy taking place on 22nd and 23rd January 2024, along with an online consultation and a link and QR codes.
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru - funding request
- Hope Rescue - funding request
- Eisteddfod yr Urdd Maldwyn - funding request
- BCBC - PSPO Dog Control Order (consultation closes 6th March 2024)

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15th JANUARY 2024

- Morgannwg Endeavour Charitable Trust - details of planning application P/23/769/FUL for a renal dialysis unit in Bridgend.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to defer the 3 funding requests to the March meeting and to respond to Morgannwg Endeavour Charitable Trust supporting the application and thanking them for their hard work.

125/23-24 PLANNING MATTERS

In total 5 planning requests had been received and there was 2 decisions and 0 appeals. 2 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out .

The Clerk had requested extra time to respond to P/23/714/FUL as the deadline for comments was before this council meeting. An extension to 16/1/24 had been granted.

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

126/23-24 ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING

- Body Camera Policy
- Pocket Park CAT
- Tree & Scrub Clearance Parc Calon Lan

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 19th February 2024 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Bettws Life Centre and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm