



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 19th FEBRUARY 2024 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor G Andrews (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles
D Davies
W Davies
H Griffiths
M Jones
C Lloyd
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors M Lewis, M Thomas
and M Trowbridge

No Apologies: Councillors R Jones & Neal
Harwood-Scorer

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RF

127/23-24 Apologies (as above)

127/23-24- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Tynyrheol Primary School	Chair of Governors
H Griffiths	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Ffaldau Primary School	Member Chair of Governors
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor

128/23-24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

The January 2024 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the January 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

129/23-24 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER 2023 MEETING

Minute 114/23-24 To Receive Yiota Hamblos of REACH ref. Capital Funding

Since the last meeting the Clerk had met again on site with Yiota Hamblos to look at an alternative site for the working hub within the park. The Clerk had also been in touch with the Operations Manager at Parc Bryn Back who had a similar set up to identify costs, and updated Members on her findings.

Minute 123/23-24 Clerk's Report incl. Warden Report

Lakes: The Clerk informed Members that 2 surveyors had been in the park for 4 days in the previous week to survey the lakes in regard to de-silting.

The Strand: The Clerk had met with another contractor to obtain a quote for the work at The Strand and is awaiting receipt of the quote. In addition she'd met the gardener on site to look at suitable columns for the Blaengarw hanging baskets around the Strand; the outcome of that is that the lighting columns are likely to be too small in circumference to be granted permission, but the Clerk had sought permission from BCBC to see what they say. The Clerk had noted that since her last visit two new green benches and a bin had been installed, though it was noted that they are not recyclable and will need maintenance going forward. It was noted too that there are Christmas lights dangling within the trees and that the trees need to be risk assessed prior to taking over management of the site, plus that there are two overgrown flower beds on the site and the Clerk asked if Councillors would like these planted up once the contractors have carried out the planned work to the steps and retaining wall.

Body Camera: The Clerk is still waiting for a copy of NRW's body camera policy to enable a similar one to be adopted by GVCC.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to request further information about the lake surveys and to arrange for the two flower planters at the Strand to be planted once the area has been refurbished.

130/23-24 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR JANUARY 2024

There were no representatives from South Wales Police present at the meeting.

The crime figures were discussed and the violence against a person figures were noted. #

Resolved: The information was noted.

131/23-24 TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION

Councillor John Coles had prepared an application to this grant funding scheme to renew the footpaths around the monument in Parc Calon Lan. Councillor Coles explained the reasons behind some of the content and asked for the Council's approval to submit the application.

The Clerk updated Members on the state of the footpaths in this area and said the continuous heavy rain seen over recent months had damaged the paths beyond repair and that if this, the council's third application for funding, which has delayed repairs is not successful the council needs to review the budget to enable the repairs.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to submit the application and Councillor Coles was thanked for his work. The Clerk's comments were noted.

132/23-24 POCKET PARK, PANTYGOG CAT

Councillor M Jones explained that there are two parts to this item 1) to discuss the works needed at the Park following a site visit and 2) a future CAT on the park.

Councillor M Jones gave some background to the original works at the site and highlighted what needs to be done going forward. It was noted that there is budgetary provision in the 2024/25 budget for some works.

The Clerk said she'd asked the Warden to move the large stones back into position and clear up the litter caught in the brambles. Councillor H Griffiths had also requested a clear up of litter by BCBC.

Resolved: It was agreed to move forward with the plans for the Park, to invite Guy Smith, CAT Officer, to a further site meeting and to consider a CAT on the Park in the future.

133/23-24 TREE & SCRUB CLEARANCE PARC CALON LAN

The Warden had requested tree and scrub clearance in the park along the community route riverbank from Garregside to Pontycymer Lake and some tree clearance work along the route from the park to the end of the route at Carn. The Clerk had provided quotes for the work within the meeting papers and these were discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotes from ARB Cymru and for the work to be carried out asap before the nesting season.

134/23-24 EVENTS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

The Committee had held a meeting on 15th February 2024 and the Chair of Committee, Councillor H Griffiths, made the following recommendations to full council:

Christmas Concert 2023 Review:

- That future concerts should be arranged in early autumn.
- One concert per year to be held which would travel around the wards. In 2024 it will be held in Blaengarw, 2025 Bettws and 2026 Pontycymer.
- All councillors to commit to assisting at their ward concert.
- Involve the schoolchildren from the host ward.
- Invite one performer not two, plus a local school choir.
- Charge a nominal fee to encourage attendance, say £3.00 a ticket.
- Marketing to begin in September each year.

D-Day 80th Anniversary - 6th June 2024:

- To purchase 4 Lamps of Peace at a cost of £220 (£55 each) and place one in each ward.
- Ward councillors to man the lamp during the evening.

40th Anniversary of the Miners' Strike 6th March 2024:

- To arrange a silent walk, with people's phones lit and use the lamp light of peace around Parc Calon Lan
- To see if an original banner could be borrowed and put it at the front of the walk.
- To ask the PCSOs to be present.
- For the marketing to stress it's a peaceful, silent, remembrance.

Easter 2024:

It was agreed to recommend to full council to agree to Awen Cultural Trust's request to use the park for an Easter Egg Hunt for primary school children, which will be followed by a film at back to Blaengarw Workmen's Hall. The Clerk had already requested and received a Risk Assessment and Insurance, The Warden will be on site for the event.

Resolved: All recommendations to full council were unanimously accepted.

135/23-24 CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SCHEME PROVISION

At a previous meeting enquiry regarding some of the costs were raised and the Clerk informed Members of the responses. The previous years' provision for Bettws were also discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with the provision on offer, with 3 days in Bettws at the quoted cost of £9,650, which is already in next year's budget.

136/23-24 LITTER COLLECTION PARC CALON LAN

As mentioned at the January 2024 meeting the refuse collectors had informed the Warden that the provision of red bags and the bag collection was stopping at the end of January. The Clerk had obtained confirmation from BCBC that this was correct and had been given until the end of February to arrange a replacement service.

The Clerk had provided quotes and options in the meeting papers from local licensed waste carriers for bag collection on a twice weekly basis plus ad hoc fly tipping and a lockable skip. All the options and prices were considered.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to put Option 4 in place on a trial basis; a lockable skip which would take an estimated 6 weeks' worth of bags and fly tipping removed from the lakes, river and park. The cost per year would be approximately £3,000 including the purchase of waste bags to insert into the bins. The Warden would continue emptying the litter bins around the park.

137/23-24 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments:

The payments and budget monitoring sheet for February 2024 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments totalling £19,018.89.

Income:

There had been income of a VAT reclaim totalling £22,342.56 and bank interest on the Cambridge Building Society account of £1,284.83.

Audit 2022/23:

There had been one query regarding councillor allowances received but no conclusion of audit to date.

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

138/23-24 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths - issues this month had been with potholes, litter, lack of bins and inconsiderate parking in disabled bays and vehicle damage.

Councillor M Jones - issues this month with potholes, parking issue, an update on attendance at a WI meeting and how it's flourishing in the Garw Valley, schools' Estyn report and budgetary meetings at BCBC.

Councillor D Davies - issues raised in the month litter, potholes and a request to remove the old phone box on the main road outside the Richard Price Centre and problems with parents parking on the pavement outside Tynyrheol School on the bend.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was suggested to Councillor Davies to contact Open Reach regarding the phone box.

139/23-24 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had not represented the Council this month at any event.

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

140/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's report had been circulated to all Members via email. One thing to note was that there had been wild camping in Parc Calon Lan near Pont Lake. The PCSOs had been contacted and had visited the site. The campers had now moved on. The Warden has asked if the council could arrange for the steps from the surgery down to Pont lake could be power washed.

Floral Baskets:

The Clerk had visited the 4 wards with the gardener to look at suitable lighting columns for permissions for the hanging baskets. The Clerk ran through the areas that were most suitable.

Councillor M Jones asked if it was possible to have additional baskets in Bettws around the area of the planter on Heol Dewi Sant and that they are charged to the Bettws ward.

Noticeboards:

The two noticeboards for Lluest and Pontyrhyl have arrived and permission has been granted by BCBC to remove the old Communities First noticeboards which are no longer in use. The Clerk will apply for advert consent for the new boards and arrange for them to be installed asap after the consent is granted.

Community Award 2022 Presentation:

Now that the Fire Station refurbishment is complete, the Clerk had contacted the station in regard to the Community Award 2022 presentation. Unfortunately the station did not appear to be aware of the award but were delighted and I'm waiting on them to ring me back in regard to a date for the presentation.

Railings Pontyrhyl:

The Clerk had reported the missing sections of railings to the roadside in Pontyrhyl, following the removal of a car which had crashed into them. A resident had reported the matter to BCBC and had been told that it's not their land. It is not the Community Council's land so Councillor H Griffiths has made a referral to BCBC.

Rights of Way:

The Rights of Way Manager at BCBC has mentioned meeting up for a site visit with the Clerk in order to find a solution to the continuation of the Glamorgan bridgeway down the valley.

Allotments Blaengarw:

The Clerk has received a request to place a poly tunnel on the unofficial allotment side on the Community Council's leased land at Railway Terrace.

Bettws Footpath:

I've received a complaint that the new path is covered in horse manure. I've referred it to the Rights of Way Manager to ask for it to be cleaned or if there's funding for it to be cleaned, although with horses in the field it will be an on-going issue.

Funding Request:

SBGC have forwarded an updated funding request form in regard to a request for £2,000 towards a container. They have all gender membership of 40 but not enough females for a team.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerks' suggestion of lighting columns was approved and she would seek permission from BCBC. In addition she would look into additional baskets for Bettws. It was unanimously agreed that the steps could be power washed, it was also unanimously agreed that no poly tunnels, sheds or anything would be given permission for installation at the allotment site and the Clerk was asked to keep an eye on developments at the site. The council agreed that the re-presented application form from SBGC is still not detailed enough, does not state its aims and objectives and whether it's aligned to a CAT. The Clerk was asked to seek more information.

141/23-24 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:

- Kids Cancer Charity - financial donation request
- Resident - enquiry ref. ownership of land at Pantygog

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to defer the funding request to the March. The enquiry ref. ownership of land was noted and no action would be taken.

142/23-24 PLANNING MATTERS

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

Resolved: All information received was noted. The only observation was on P/24/48/FUL regarding energy efficiency which would be referred to planning.

143/23-24 ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING

- Body Camera Policy
- Deferred Financial Request 2023/24

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 18th March 2024 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Halo Leisure, Pontycymer and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm