



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE WILLIAM TRIGG CENTRE,
BLAENGARW AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 15th JULY 2024 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews

J Coles (via zoom from 7.15 pm)

D Davies

W Davies

C Lloyd

M Lewis

G Walters (via zoom)

Apologies: Councillors H Griffiths, M Jones, R Jones, M Thomas and M Trowbridge

Also Present: PCSO A Jenkins (up to Item 5), A Harris (Clerk & RFO)

33/24-25 Apologies (as above)

34/24-25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre Tynyrheol Primary School Community Award 2023	Director Chair of Governors Related to Nominee/Winner
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor
N Harwood- Scorer	Planning Ref: P/23/699/FUL	Local Resident

35/24-25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

The June 2024 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

36/24-25 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JUNE 2024 MEETING

Minute 22/24-25 Matters Arising from the May 2024 Meetings

The Strand: the Clerk had obtained two quotes for the work on the Strand for a replacement retaining wall and replacement steps; these were discussed. The 3 tier planter had been ordered.

Turning Circle Railway Terrace: the Clerk had informed the resident that the work requested to the turning circle was too costly and that the council would not be going ahead. The resident was not happy with the amended decision.

Noticeboards Llangeinor: to date no determination had been received, the due date is now 3rd August.

Community Cushions/Emergency Lifting Chairs/Defibrillators: to date the Clerk had not been able to obtain a response from the responder on the defibrillator for Pantygog and to ask about the cushions or chairs.

Flower Baskets: despite numerous telephone calls, emails and texts the Clerk is having great difficulty in getting this work done. The initial delay was with permission from BCBC, but the contractor has delayed things since permission was given in June and July. She will continue to chase them up if they are not installed by the weekend. The wait form Amberol for the rail planters and sign planters continues.

School Community Awards 23/24: the Clerk had purchased the vouchers and asked who was going to attend the Leavers' Assemblies to present so that they could be given vouchers and a trophy to take with them as the Chair had work commitments.

The following were agreed:

- Bettws Primary School - Councillor C Lloyd
- Ysgol Calon y Cymoedd - Councillor C Lloyd
- Blaengarw Primary School - Councillor M Lewis
- Ffaldau Primary School - Councillor H Griffiths
- Tynyrheol Primary School - Councillor D Davies

Minute 25/24-25 Armed Forces Covenant

Following Councillor M Jones' absence and his resignation (see Correspondence) this would not be a September agenda item as agreed.

Minute 29/24-25 Clerk's Report

Allowances 24/25: there is still one Councillor opt out/in form to be received. The Clerk asked that this form be returned asap as it is delaying the completion of the task for the year.

Resolved: All the information and action of the Clerk were noted. It was agreed to accept SW Contractors' quotes for the wall and steps and that the wall is rendered not covered in stone cladding. The service from the floral contractor and Amberol was not acceptable. The Clerk was asked to ask Councillor Coles to report on the Armed Forces Covenant in September.

37/24-25 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR JUNE 2024

PCSO A Jenkins was present and took Members through the figures. Many of the figures were related incidents rather than individual crimes. Councillors C Lloyd and D Davies reported a burnt out car on Llangeinor Common which is blocking a public footpath and is a danger as there is glass all over the ground.

Resolved: The crime figures were noted. The Clerk was asked to contact the Rights of Way department at BCBC to ask about ownership of the land.

38/24-25 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 23/24

A draft Annual Report for 23/24 had been prepared by the Clerk and included in the meeting papers. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept the Report and the Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's website.

39/24-25 ALLOWANCES POLICY UPDATE

The Clerk had updated the Allowances Policy and a copy had been included in the meeting papers. The amendments were discussed.

Resolved: The amendments were accepted and the Clerk was asked to add one additional bullet point saying, ‘that a Councillor attendance will be monitored throughout the year and dependent on the level of absenteeism, and whether there were extenuating circumstances, the attendance allowance will be paid back pro rata at the end of that financial year.’

39/24-25 T&CC FUND - 2nd ROUND

The deadline for applications for the second round is 31st August 2024. Suggestions were discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to apply for match funding for the steps on The Strand and accept the quote from SW Contractors for both the retaining wall and the steps in this location.

40/24-25 EVENTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING CHRISTMAS 2024

The Events Committee had met on 27th June and Councillor Chris Lloyd gave a report on the meeting and made the following recommendations to full council:

Christmas Concert 2024

- To approach Blaengarw Primary School to ask if the school children would sing at the concert, a preferred date and if tickets could be sold through the school.
- Book Blaengarw Workmen’s Hall on a Friday in December.
- Ask Councillor D Davies to prepare the marketing materials.
- To approach Ogmere Valley Male Voice Choir to see if they would perform.

Christmas Gifts for Primary Schools

- To purchase gifts for all children attending our five primary schools again this year.
- To purchase something different to chocolate - a Christmas water bottle or mug

Community Awards 24/25

- To hold future presentations 15 minutes prior to a council meeting
- For the Chair to be well prepared and speak on the background of the recipient/s
- All wards to nominate an entry for both categories

Future Events

- Not to put on Halloween events due to past issues
- To invite Tanio to hold an Easter Event in Parc Calon Lan
- VE Day 80th Anniversary - to ask the gardener to plant red, white and blue flowers in the planters and to utilize the Lamp Lights of Peace dependent on the Pageantmaster's suggestions for the anniversary. To purchase of an item for each ward to mark animals' work in the war.

Resolved: All Members unanimously accepted all recommendations. It was noted that as previously agreed the cost of the Concert ticket would be £3. Councillor C Lloyd would investigate water bottles and mugs as Christmas gifts and report back to the September meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain information on items available to commemorate the animals' work in the war and report back in September.

41/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments: The payments and budget monitoring sheet for July 2024 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £16,788.86.

Income: There was no income in the month.

Internal Audit Report and Audit Statement for 2023/24: The External Audit had been prepared and submitted on 27th June 2024, prior to the July deadline.

Financial Request

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet and balance c/f were approved

42/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor M Lewis - gave an update on play area refurbishments in the valley, the Children's Federation Choir, Dementia and Mental Health hub and a person sleeping rough in the area.

Councillor W Davies - said residents were complaining about having to walk in the road as the weeds and bushes are overgrowing into the pavement on King Edward Street and that the grass in the Plant! site behind the Co-op is very high. He also mentioned a fridge/freezer put out for collection on the road in Pontycymer.

Councillor D Davies - said the hedgerows throughout Llangeinor Village need to be cut back, some 4ft wide pavements are now only 2ft wide and people are having to walk

into the road. In addition, Councillor Davies said the steps to the side of Tynyrheol School had water running down it is causing green slime on the footway below.

Councillor C Lloyd - updated Members on the water being cut off in Bettws on the previous weekend and she had also received many complaints about the hedgerows in Llangeinor.

Councillor J Coles - informed Members that the wind turbine above Blaengarw is stationary and needs a repair, that the PCSOs were speed monitoring a few weeks ago in the valley and asked if there had been any feedback from item 5 on this matter; there was none. Motorbikes in the upper valley continue to be an issue with some doing worrying speeds, children coming out of Gwendoline Street on pushbikes without looking are an issue too and there have been reports of rats coming out from underneath the broken steps on the Strand.

Resolved: The information was noted. Councillor M Lewis would put in referrals to BCBC on all hedgerow, overgrowth, fridge/freezer, rats and footway issues. The Clerk would ask the Warden to cut back the grass in the Plant! site and the Clerk was asked to request that the PCSOs visit the primary schools to remind children of the dangers of cycling.

43/24-25 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had been unable to attend the AGM at the Bridgend Samaritans at the last minute, so there was nothing to report.

Resolved: Noted.

44/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's Report for July 2024 had been included with the meeting papers.

Footpaths Parc Calon Lan: The four paths have now been replaced. The Warden has received a lot of positive feedback. It looks a little untidy at the moment around the edges as the grass needs to reclaim that land so that it covers the edges of the paths and around the benches.

Flower Beds Parc Calon Lan: These needed repair and so were removed before the footpath work began. The Clerk asked if Members wanted them replaced?

Remembrance Monument Pontycymer: the grass has now been kindly cut by the owner of the land.

Grass Cutting Blaengarw and Bettws: The Clerk informed Members that the contractor has had an accident and is unable to cut the grass in August and possibly September.

Annual Leave: The Clerk reminded Members of her leave dates in August/September.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to inform the Warden not to replace the flowerbeds, but to create a second area of wildflowers in that area and to employ a temporary contractor to cut the grass in Blaengarw and Bettws.

45/24-25 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:

- One Voice Wales - Reminder ref. Innovation Conference. Councillor M Lewis had not been able to attend as the Conference was in person in Builth Wells.
- Bettws Primary School - thank you for the Headteacher for the £850 donation towards a bus for the Garw Valley Federation Choir
- Maesteg Town Council - enquiry ref the council's Welsh Policy and a save the date for their Civic Service in September.
- Tenovus Cancer Care - additional request for information sent out to all councillors via email
- Age Cymru - request to circulate information on their Listen and Connect Service sent to all members to share on their social media pages and local hubs
- Carn Rovers - request for funding for a storage container and completed financial request form (received too late to discuss at the July meeting)
- Tanio Cymru 0 request to use Parc Calon Lan for a Rubbish Orchestra on 6th August 2024
- Councillor M Jones - resignation as a Community Councillor

Resolved: All information was noted. Councillor M Jones had been absent from council meetings since February 2024 and had written a letter of resignation to the council. This was unanimously accepted. The Clerk was asked to notify Tanio of their agreement for them to use PC Lan on 6th August subject to the Warden being present and a copy of their Risk Assessment and Public Liability insurance being received in advance of the event. The Clerk would contact BCBC and arrange for a Notice of Vacancy to be published following Councillor Jones' resignation.

46/24-25 PLANNING MATTERS

In total 2 planning requests had been received and there was 1 decision and 0 appeals.
2 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out via email.

Resolved: All information received was noted including the Clerk's update that she could not submit an objection to a planning decision on P/23/699/FUL as following a check with Planning Aid Wales and BCBC's planning department there is no opportunity to object to a decision other than through the courts of justice. The council were unhappy with the retrospective conditional consent given to P/24/206/FUL.

47/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

- Christmas Concert 2024
- Armed Forces Covenant (JC)

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

The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 16th September 2024 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the Richard Price Centre and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm