



**GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE RICHARD PRICE CENTRE  
AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2024 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles  
D Davies  
W Davies  
H Griffiths  
C Lloyd  
M Lewis  
M Thomas  
M Trowbridge  
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews

No Apologies: Councillor R Jones

Also Present: PCSO M Rees (up to Item 6), 1  
member of the public and A Harris (Clerk &  
RFO)

**69/24-25** Apologies (as above)

**70/24-25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre Tynyrheol Primary School	Director Vice-Chair of Governors
H Griffiths	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Ffaldau School and Federation of Schools	Member Governor
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor
N Harwood- Scorer	Co-option Bettws Ward	Personal/Prejudici al Interest

**71/24-25    PRESENTATION BY HALO LEISURE ON THE SUMMER ACTIVITY SCHEME**

**Resolved:**    This item was not discussed as the representative of Halo had not been able to attend the meeting. Council requested that the item is deferred to the November 2024 meeting.

**72/24-25    TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING**

The September 2024 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

**73/24-25    TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING**

**Minute 51/24-25 Consider Matters Arising from the July 2024 Minutes**

**Noticeboards:**    have been installed in Lluest and Pontyrhyl today.

**Allowances:**    the allowances expected to be paid this month have been declined so there is additional money in the allowances budget line.

**Minute 54/24-25 Places of Worship Garw Valley**

No correspondence had been received from the Diocese. Councillor W Davies gave the Clerk a contact so that she could write direct.

**Minute 63/24-25 Ward Reports**

The Clerk had not received contact details for the original supplier of the Bettws decorative panels in order to obtain a quote. Councillor Trowbridge gave the details to the Clerk at the meeting.

**Minute 65/24-25 Clerk's Report**

**REACH Project:** Claudia Frost of Land Studio the successful contractor for the initial study has requested to speak at the November 2024 meeting.

**Daffodil Bulbs:** All sacks have been collected from the Warden, some have been planted, others would be planted asap.

**Defibrillators:** Councillor C Lloyd had met with the retired Responder and has checked all the batteries and pads in the valley. Lots were out of date and this was discussed. Councillor Lloyd is now the named responsible person for replacement items on the Ambulance Trust's database.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. The Clerk would write to the church contact, obtain a quote for the decorative panelling and invite Claudia Frost to the November meeting. Councillor C Lloyd would purchase pads as a matter of urgency and replace and a discussion would be included on a future meeting agenda regarding who pays for the items going forward.

**74/24-25 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024**

The crime figures for September were discussed, PCSO M Rees explained the figures.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**75/24-25 ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

Councillor Coles gave a summary presentation on the Covenant information received some months ago. Councillor Coles presented a draft of the wording for GVCC.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to sign the Covenant.

**76/24-25 CHRISTMAS/CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2024 UPDATE**

**Christmas:** the Clerk confirmed that all motifs and trees had been ordered. The Clerk had completed all external fixture forms and had passed them on to Centre Great to complete for her to forward them to BCBC. Some of the motifs have already been installed.

Councillor C Lloyd had brought a sample of the boxed Christmas mug. All primary schools had agreed to accept the gifts

**Christmas Concert:** the Clerk confirmed that Blaengarw Primary School would take part. The price given for the hall hire at the last meeting of £193.95 closed at 9.00 pm but if council wanted the hall to remain staffed and refreshments served until 10.00 pm the cost would be £237.42. Councillor D Davies had amended the poster. Programme information will be passed on to Councillor Davies in early November to prepare the programme. The Clerk would share the poster for councillors to share on their social media pages and on local hubs and would deliver the tickets and posters to the school when it re-opens after half term. Posters would be published on the council's website and on its noticeboards. The Clerk asked what dignitaries should be invited to the concert.

**Resolved:** The Clerk and Councillor Lloyd would purchase and deliver the mugs and the Clerk would get stickers made of the council logo to put on the box. It was unanimously agreed that the hall would remain open until 10.00 pm at the hire cost of £237.42. The Clerk was asked to invite the following: Borough Mayor, Borough Deputy Mayor, Leader BCBC, Rev Geraint and Councillor M Jones. Tickets are available from Blaengarw Primary School or on request from Councillors.

#### **77/24-25 BOTTOM HALF OF THE COMMUNITY ROUTE**

Councillor M Lewis gave an update on the bottom half of the Community Route. The condition of the bridges is not as bad as originally thought. Gareth Hughes, from Chris Bryan's Office is arranging a meeting with BCBC, Sustrans and Network Rail to discuss re-opening in the interim whilst the lease is being sorted.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

#### **78/24-25 AWEN CHRISTMAS EVENT PC LAN**

The Council had given its permission to Awen to run its Christmas Lantern Parade in PC Lan again this year. The Clerk had now received an additional request in regards to the inclusion of Spark Christmas Drummers at the event. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that this would be a great addition and the Clerk was asked to liaise with Awen.

**Note:** The Chair declared an interest and left the room, Councillor M Lewis, Vice-Chair of Council, took over the Chair for the next item.

**79/24-25    CO-OPTION BETTWS WARD**

The person co-opted at the last meeting had now declined the offer. Members were asked to co-opt the second applicant.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr W L Thomas of Bettws.

**80/24-25    FINANCIAL REQUESTS X 5**

Five financial requests had been received:

**Dylan Sage:** a request for a donation to this 17 year old racing cyclist who is the current British Junior Champion who is competing for GB in the World Championships in Zurich. A completed financial assistance form had been received.

**Bettws Primary School:** a request for a donation to replace floodlight bulbs at Bettws School. A quote of £1,230 had been received although LED bulbs would be a better option though more costly. Councillor M Jones had also written to the Clerk about this matter and the Clerk read out his email.

**Carn Rovers:** a request for £2,000 for a storage container and £1,000 for its base. A completed financial assistance form had been received.

**Pontycymer Rugby and Community Sports Ltd:** a request for funding for a shipping container had been received. A financial assistance form had been sent out for completion but had not been received in time for the meeting.

**Note:** Councillor D Davies declared an interest in the next request and left the room.

**Richard Price Centre:** a request for £650 to help fund a Christmas pantomime had been received.

All the above were discussed and a vote taken.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed that due to the restrictions of the discretionary expenditure powers of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 a donation could not be given to Dylan Sage, though he would be a worthy candidate for the Sports Community Award 24/25. It was agreed to request further information from Bettws Primary School ie a quote for the LED lights, what the charges are to use the facilities, who uses them, what local children's teams use the facilities and to include it for further discussion on the November agenda. It was agreed to donate £2,000 to Carn Rovers for their storage container, that when the completed financial

assistance form is received from Pontycymer Rugby and Community Sports Ltd the request will be considered and that the Llangeinor ward would donate £650 to the Richard Price Centre for the pantomime.

#### **81/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING CONCLUSION OF AUDIT**

**Payments:** The payments and budget monitoring sheet for October 2024 was included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £10,141.00. The balance carried forward to November is £135,324.67.

**Income:** Income of £235.20 had been received as a refund for incorrect number of sacks of daffodils.

**Conclusion of Audit 2023/24:** An unqualified conclusion of audit had been received with no matters raised. The Clerk was thanked for her work and an excellent result.

**Resolved:** Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet and balance c/f were approved and the income noted. The Clerk was asked to publish a Notice of Conclusion of Audit and invite the electorate to inspect the Audit Statement at a cost per copy of £0.00.

#### **82/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

**Councillor H Griffiths** - gave an update on parking on Oxford Street, fly tipping in Llangeinor, surface water issues on the roads, pot holes, a complaint that the Christmas column motifs have been installed to early and a scam.

**Councillor M Thomas** - said she'd referred issues with a footpath to the Clerk

**Councillor D Davies** - said she'd referred issues with blocked drainage causing surface water to the Clerk outside Tynyrheol School and on the bend at Moelgilau. In addition she reported that Rolly Patrolly had visited the area following problems with parking outside the school, she had also reported overgrowth of foliage on New Road. Parents in Llangeinor have received letters regarding school transport for pupils from Llangeinor who now have to walk to school along the dangerous New Road.

**Councillor M Trowbridge** - gave an update on some funding available from the Bettws Community Partnership, work carried out in Bettws and issues with Himalaian balsam. V2C issues with grass cutting and the number of cuts being carried out per year, fly tipping, open man holes, daffodil planting and rundown garages. Councillor Trowbridge also alerted the Clerk to damage to the handrail at Bettws Life Centre and problems along a Rights of Way, Japanese knot weed on Heol Dewi Sant and enquiries regarding the proposed power plant stories in the press.

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024

**Councillor G Walters** - raised concerns about the overgrowth on the private land to the side of the drive down to Halo leisure centre. Councillor Griffiths said she'd made a referral about it, but it is the landowner's responsibility to cut it back.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk had referred all issues passed on to her to BCBC. Councillor M Lewis will make a referral about the school transport concerns.

### **83/24-25     CHAIR'S REPORT**

Gave an update on the flooding in Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

### **84/24-25     CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

**Remote Equipment:** Coity Higher CC is in the process of purchasing an Owl for use during remote meetings and had asked the Clerk to invite GVCC to work in partnership with them to purchase the equipment and use it for their meetings. They had also invited St Brides Minor CC who had accepted. This would enable improved participation for those joining the meeting online at a third of the price.

**New Website Accessibility Rules:** the Clerk informed Members of changes coming into effect in October, the new rules focus on technical aspects. The council's website host had agreed to make the changes free of charge and provide an Accessibility Statement for the website.

**Pontycymer Lake:** the Clerk has been unable to find another company to quote for this work, it is a specialised service. This was noted. On advice from the Warden Blaengarw lake does not need work this year.

**Remembrance Wreaths:** these had been purchased and were distributed amongst the wards.

**Office Storage:** the Clerk informed Members that she is running out of space to store office equipment and archive files at home. Permission was sought to share the locked storage cupboard St Brides Minor CC has at Sarn Centre with them and Coity Higher CC at a cost of £3.50 a month.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. A vote was taken on working in partnership with CHCC all voted yes apart from Councillor M Trowbridge who voted against. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote to remove the pond weed and cut back the reeds at Pontycymer lake. It was agreed to share the cost of the storage cupboard with the two other councils.

**85/24-25    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:

- Welsh Government invitation to Councillors and Clerks to a Stakeholder Event: Role, governance and accountability of the community and town council sector (23<sup>rd</sup> October).
- BCBC letter from the Deputy Leader ref. donations
- Invitation to Chairs and Clerks to a meeting on the future of local service delivery on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Bridgend Town Council - invitation to the Chair to their Civic Service on 13/10/24
- IRPW - draft annual report 2025/26
- T&CC Funding 2025/25 Allocation.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. The Chair would accept the BTC invitation to their Civic Service, the Chair and Clerk had accepted the invitation to the meeting at BCBC on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024. If relevant the Clerk would include the IRPW draft annual report 25/26 on the November agenda.

**86/24-25    PLANNING MATTERS**

In total 1 planning request had been received and there were 2 decision and 0 appeals. 4 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out via email.

**Resolved:** All information received was noted. There were no objections or matters raised.

**87/24-25    STAFF CONFIDENTIAL**

The Chair raised a staff confidential matter with Members which was discussed.



## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024

**Resolved:** The information was noted and the Clerk was asked to action the outcome with immediate effect. The Warden's Salary will be reviewed in November 2024 in line with his contract of employment and an appraisal will take place annually.

### **88/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING**

- Halo Leisure - Feedback on the Summer Activity Scheme
- Defibrillators
- Bettws Primary School Financial Request

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

The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the Richard Price Centre and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm