



## **GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF THE PRECEPT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT TANIO, BETTWS AND VIA  
ZOOM ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews (via zoom)

J Coles

D Davies

W Davies

M Lewis

G Walters (via zoom)

Apologies: Councillors M Thomas, L Thomas,  
H Griffiths and C Lloyd

No Apologies: Councillor M Trowbridge

Also Present: 1 member of the public and A  
Harris (Clerk & RFO)

**107/24-25** Apologies (as above)

The Clerk read out a resignation letter from Councillor M Thomas and informed the council that due to Councillor R Jones' non-attendance since May 2024 which broke the six-month rule, she had written to him to inform him of his disqualification. The Clerk would contact BCBC and arrange two notices of vacancy to be advertised. The action of the Clerk and the information was accepted.

**108/24-25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre Tynyrheol Primary School	Director Vice-Chair of Governors
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Calon y Cwm	Member Director

**109/24-25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING**

The November 2024 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

**110/24-25 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING**

**Minute 91/24-25 Presentation by Claudia Frost, Land Studio**

Following the presentation and distributing the presentation to members, feedback had been received from Councillor J Coles. In addition, the Clerk had met with Yiota Haramblos. A member of the public who was present at the meeting had contacted the Clerk and had spoken to Councillor Coles, who in turn had discussed some ideas with Yiota.

Yiota Haramblos had requested a slot at the January 2025 meeting where both her and Claudia Frost would attend in person to discuss the project further.

Councillor M Lewis expressed her concern that some of the proposals will affect bookings at the William Trigg Centre.

**Minute 92/24-25 To Consider Matters Arising from the October 2024 Meeting**

**Summer Activity Scheme:** the Clerk had spoken to PCSO M Rees about the problems in Bettws and was informed that this was not the case for the 2024 scheme.

**Bottom Half of the Community Route:** I've been informed that BCBC's Cabinet have agreed to take over the lease for the bottom half of the route and that Active Travel funding will be used to repair the bridges to enable the route to be re-opened.

**Awen Christmas Event at Parc Calon Lan:** this had been well attended. The Warden had worked on a Sunday to facilitate the opening of the toilet at the Visitor Centre and be on site. The weather had not been kind so the Drumming element of the event had been moved into Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.

**Remote Equipment:** this has now been delivered and the council will start using it from January 2025 onwards.

**Bridge Repair Pont Lake:** the Clerk is waiting to receive quotes from contractors

### Minute 95/24-25 Events Committee Recommendations

The Clerk gave an update on the gifts for schools following the supplier being unable to supply 720 mugs. Councillor Chris Lloyd and the Clerk had purchased multi-coloured gloves, boxes of 12 colouring pencils and Christmas loot bags. The stickers produced for the mug boxes were used on the colouring pencils. A team of helpers from the Richard Price Centre had helped Councillor Chris Lloyd pack the gifts and Councillor Lloyd and the Clerk had delivered them to the schools.

Councillor Deb Davies suggested that in future years all councillors should help prepare the gifts and deliver them.

Councillor Chris Lloyd and the Clerk were thanked for their work.

### Minute 98/24-25 Finance Request Bettws School

Councillor L Thomas' contact had been in touch with the school and it is possible to adapt the columns to take LED bulbs. The quote given is £4,804.97, with some assumptions. The Clerk has passed the quote on to the Head to see if she's happy to accept it and awaits a reply. If agreed, a contribution towards the cost will be considered at the January 2025 meeting.

### Minute 100/24-25 Borough Council Updates/Ward Reports

**William Trigg Centre:** a bin has been ordered and permission sought from Wales & West to install asap.

### Minute 102/24-25 Clerk's Report incl. Warden Report

**The Strand:** the work to build a wall, install new steps and handrail has been completed. The 3 new benches and 3 new bins purchased by GVCC have been installed and a company will take over emptying the bins from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The tree surgeons have been on site on 16/12/24 and are carrying out necessary maintenance. Grass seed has been sown and the ground now needs time to grow and renew. The only outstanding matters are the installation of the blue plaque and moving the Tommy Silhouette.

The improvements were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain advert consent to place a management sign at the site and arrange its design and installation.

The Clerk will now provide the evidence to BCBC to reclaim 50% match funding for the wall, steps and handrail.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the REACH Project will be given a slot at the January 2025 meeting. There was confusion over the information on the summer activity scheme as it was the PCSOs who had provided the information in the first instance. It was agreed that in future councillors will pack the Christmas gifts for schools and deliver them. All other information was noted and the progress on the Strand was well received.

#### **111/24-25 TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The following recommendations were made by the Finance Committee:

- That there are no threats to the budget for 24/25
- To recommend the draft budget that are in the meeting packs for discussion in the next item
- To accept the draft financial regulations
- Next meeting to be held late March 2025/early April 2025

**Resolved:** The recommendations by the Finance Committee were unanimously accepted.

#### **112/24-25 DRAFT PRECEPT BUDGET 2025/26**

The Finance Committee had met and a precept budget for 25/26 had been drafted. This was discussed line by line. To aid discussion the Clerk had provided the letter regarding Band D Equivalent from BCBC, the forecast for the end of 24/25 and information on some quotes for project ideas.

**Resolved:** A vote was taken on whether to agree the draft precept - 6 votes for and Councillor Glyn Walters against. It was agreed to accept the draft precept budget for 25/26 and the Clerk would request a precept of £130,748 from BCBC, an increase of 34p per month, 8p per week. It was noted that the precept had not been raised since the financial year 2020/21 (5 years). It was agreed that any left over money in ward funds at the end of each financial year will be put into the general reserve and not carried over.

#### **113/24-25 CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2024 FEEDBACK**

The concert had been a great success, and whilst its purpose was to provide entertainment for the community, ticket sales had covered a donation to the Ogmores Vale Male Voice Choir.

Feedback included:

- Excellent night, downstairs was full and there were 4 full rows in the balcony.
- Due to the weather some of the dignitaries could not attend, but the Mayor of Bridgend, Councillor Heather Griffiths attended as well as Rev Glenda Oglesbee. Councillors in attendance were Councillors H Griffiths, M Lewis, C Lloyd, W Davies and J Coles.
- Unfortunately the Chair could not attend, but Vice-Chair Maxine Lewis attended and gave the welcome and closing thanks. Note for next time a microphone needs to be used as she could not be heard from the back of the room.
- A last minute decision was made to put the choirs to sit in the audience as up until that point ticket sales had been very low, this was to make the downstairs venue look fuller. However a last minute flurry of sales by the school meant the upstairs had to be used.
- The children's choir used the stage. The male voice choir stood in front of the stage, however Councillor Coles was upstairs and he said that the male voice choir couldn't be seen from upstairs as they weren't on the stage.
- The night was shorter than anticipated, but the length had been perfect.
- The staff at the venue were helpful; one complaint was that the bar was not well stocked; they had only two pints of beer.
- The Clerk was thanked for organising the concert and Councillor Deb Davies was thanked for producing the tickets, posters and programmes.

Councillor D Davies said that the Clerk should not have been the one to organise all of this event.

It was noted that some of the spotlights in the Hall were missing .

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed that going forward the event would be organised by the Events Committee and the host ward councillors would take ownership of the event; in 2025 the event will be held in Bettws, followed by Pontycymer in 2026. The Clerk was asked to write to Awen to enquire why there were so few spotlights remaining in the Hall.

## **114/24-25 CLEAN ENERGY PLANT**

Councillor John Coles raised his concerns regarding nuclear materials being handled less than 1 mile from the Bettws ward and that the first drop-in public engagement meeting with Last Energy had been held in Bettws on 27<sup>th</sup> November before the leaflets had been distributed and residents notified that a project presentation with Q&As will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December at the Steam Academy Centre in Pencoed, which is completely out of the affected areas of Maesteg and Garw Valley which is inaccessible for many of the local residents.

It was noted that this was pre-consultation information.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would write to the company asking that any future correspondence with residents on this matter is copied to GVCC in order for the Clerk to circulate it amongst the council members and to raise the two points above.

**115/24-25 MAYOR'S CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2025**

An email containing the details of the awards and the criteria for nominations had been sent out to all members, the Clerk reminded them of the criteria and the closing date for nominations of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**Resolved:** There were no suggestions for nominations; members were asked to let the Clerk know if they wished to make a nomination by 3<sup>rd</sup> January and to provide the Clerk with all the information required on that nominee.

**116/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**Payments:** The payments and budget monitoring sheet for December 2024 is included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £19,556.57 the balance carried forward to January 2025 is £105,104.60

**Income:** Some income was received in the month: £79.33 pro rata refund of allowances and a tourism grant payment for the Drummers at the Christmas Light Festival in Parc Calon Lan of £3,840.00.

**Resolved:** Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet was approved and the income noted and approved.

**117/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Warden's Report had been included in the meeting papers.

**T&CC Fund Parc Calon Lan:** the Clerk confirmed that she'd submitted the evidence to reclaim 50% match funding from BCBC.

**Bench Wood Street:** the Clerk has written to BCBC to ask why a new bench has been installed when she had signed a licence with them to install and maintain a new bench. The bench has already been purchased and is in transit. No reply has been received.

**Pontyrhyl:** two Christmas trees with solar lights have been installed in the usual place. In addition a new bin has been installed on the post next to the bus shelter.

**Bin Lluest:** it was noted that BCBC has installed an old, rusty, bright yellow litter bin on a post in the area which GVCC has enhanced with the installation of a new bench, noticeboard and 3 tier planter. The bin is not in-keeping with its surroundings.

**Pocket Park:** a Christmas tree with solar lights has been installed in the park. The Clerk is still in discussions with BCBC and they are looking into granting GVCC a licence for the management of the land.

**Clerks' Meeting at BCBC:** the Clerk had attended a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November and reported on the topics raised.

**Hanging Baskets:** the Clerk had been on a site visit to all locations to check on the suitability of the lighting columns for installation by the beginning of June. The Clerk has requested a Risk Assessment and a copy of the contractor's public liability insurance in advance of the installation.

**Christmas Lights:** the Clerk asked all councillors who report motifs not working to provide the lighting column number and street name. Following recent storms there have been issues with many motifs not working, trees leaning over and problems with the analogue timers.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. It was agreed that column numbers need to be provided to the Clerk if reporting Christmas lights that are not working.

#### **118/24-25 URGENT 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 - consultation on St Ceinwyr's Church Project
- BCBC - offer of a copy of the Electoral Register 24/25
- The Meeting Place - letter informing the council about proposals by WEPA UK to upgrade its existing operation at the Bridgend Paper Mill.
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru - financial request
- Ronald McDonald Charity - financial request
- IRPW - request for information on councillor attendance.
- Neath Port Talbot Council LDP (23-38) notice of pre-deposit consultation which closes on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024

**Resolved:** All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the electoral register. The financial request from Urdd Gobaith Cymru and Ronald McDonald Charity will be deferred to March 2025. It was noted and approved that the Clerk had provided the councillor attendance information to the IRPW. The contact details for any questions or more information on the proposals by WEPA UK were on the email circulated to all members.

### **119/24-25 URGENT PLANNING MATTERS**

In total 2 planning request had been received and there were 0 decision and 0 appeals. 3 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out via email.

**Resolved:** All information received was noted.

### **120/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING**

- Yiota Haramblos/Claudia Frost ref. REACH Project
- GVBGC - presentation
- Project proposals for the T&CC grant funding 25/26

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

The date for the next Meeting is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Tanio, Bettws and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm