



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT TANIO, BETTWS AND VIA
ZOOM ON MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2025 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews (via zoom)

J Coles

D Davies

W Davies

H Griffiths

C Lloyd

M Lewis

L Thomas (from 6.40 pm)

M Trowbridge

Apologies: Councillor G Walters

Also Present: 2 member of the public (Left after REACH Project item), Claudia Frost (Land Studio), BCBC Officer REACH Project, PCSO M Rees and A Harris (Clerk & RFO)

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 20th JANUARY 2025

121/24-25 Apologies (as above)

122/24-25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre Tynyrheol Primary School	Director Vice-Chair of Governors
H Griffiths	Ffaldau School & Federation of Schools All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Governor Member
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Calon y Cwm Charity	Member Director

A one minute silence was held at the start of the meeting for a past councillor Wayne Sherlock who had recently passed away.

The Chair requested authority from full council to move item 6 Crime Figures to item 3 and the rest of the agenda to remain in its order following item 3. This was unanimously approved.

123/24-25 CRIME FIGURES NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024

PCSO M Rees took members through the figures for November and December 2024. Concerns were raised about inconsiderate parking on pavements in the evening and of particular concern was the parent parking outside Tynyrheol Primary School at drop off and pick up times. The area is on a bend and it has double yellow lines.

Resolved: Councillor M Lewis agreed to make a referral and to request the Roly Patroly vehicle to attend. PCSO M Rees suggested the Llangeinor councillors ask the Head to put out a message to all parents through the school.

124/24-25 YIOTA HARAMBLOS AND COUNCILLOR J COLES REF. REACH PROJECT

BCBC Officer, Yiota Harmablos had distributed a project proposal document to all members. Yiota took members through the document and Councillor J Coles added some narrative at the end. Yiota asked members if they wanted to take the project forward to a feasibility study and a funding application? Questions were asked about running costs, electric hook ups were requested as an add in. Concerns were expressed about running costs and if the work hubs will be well used.

Resolved: Following Yiota's departure this was discussed further. It was unanimously agreed to take the project forward to a feasibility study and a funding application.

125/24-25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2024 PRECEPT MEETING

The December 2024 Precept Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the December 2024 Precept Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

126/24-25 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER 2024 MEETING

Minute 110/23-25 Consider Matters Arising from the November 2024 Meeting

Owl Equipment: this has not been trialled yet so will be tried at the February meeting.

Bridge Repair: the Clerk is still in the process of trying to obtain quotes.

Bettws Primary School Financial Request: the quote of £4,804.97 had been passed on to the Head. The Head has confirmed that she wishes to go ahead with the quote and is requesting a donation of the full amount from GVCC. This was discussed.

The Strand: The Clerk had provided a draft sign for installation at the Strand and the Pocket Park, and provided the costs.

Minute 113/24-25 Christmas Concert 2024 Feedback

The Clerk gave a response regarding the lighting stock at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall and the lack of stock in the bar.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the agreement for the school lighting would be between the school and the contractor, that the Head needs to consider the assumptions made on the quote as it may affect the cost and that the 3 Bettws councillors would discuss whether they would contribute the funding from their ward funds. It was unanimously agreed to order two signs, to make some small changes to the dog section of the sign. The Clerk was asked to chase up confirmation about the lights being in storage and it was noted that the response regarding the lack of stock was disappointing.

127/24-25 CAT TRANSFER

Councillor Maxine Lewis discussed plans for the CAT of Carn football field and the conditions imposed on the charity Calon y Cwm regarding improvements to the access route via a footway from the shower block to the field and the installation of drainage. Calon y Cwm asked the council to work in partnership with them to investigate the cost of a footway and to work in partnership with Calon y Cwm and BCBC to apply for match funding from the T&CC Fund.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would investigate the cost of a footway and work in partnership with Calon y Cwm and BCBC to apply for match funding from the T&CC Fund (see next item).

128/24-25 SUGGESTED PROJETS FOR T&CC FUNDING 2025/26

Details of the fund had been circulated to Members with their meeting papers and ideas were discussed

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to investigate the possibility and if appropriate apply to install a footway past the shower block at Carn football area to the football field working in partnership with Calon y Cwm. It was also agreed to investigate the possibility and if appropriate apply to renew the steps at Meadow Lane and install solar lighting.

129/24-25 FUTURE OF LOCAL DELIVERY SERVICE - SUGGESTIONS OF WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

This item was not discussed.

Resolved: This item was deferred to the February 2025 agenda as a second meeting of this group had been called for the night following the council meeting.

130/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS including BANK SIGNATORIES

Payments: The payments and budget monitoring sheet for January 2025 is included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £46,920.78 the balance carried forward to February 2025 is £71,554.80.

Income: Income of £13,370.98 was received as a partial refund for 50% match funding from BCBC for the footpath and planting work in PC Lan. The Clerk explained why it was a partial refund. It was noted that the refund had been added back in to the reserves budget line.

Funds left over from a £6,000 community grant were used to pay for tree maintenance and bench installations on the Strand.

Bank Signatories: Following Councillor M Thomas' resignation a replacement signatory for the HSBC and Cambridge Building Society accounts were needed.

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet was approved and the income noted and approved. It was unanimously agreed to add two members of the Finance Committee as signatories - Councillor H Griffiths on the Cambridge Building Society account and Councillor Deb Davies on both the HSBC and Cambridge BS accounts.

131/24-25 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor M Lewis: gave an update on plans for the stone bus shelters in Pontycymer and the cutting back of the trees on Pontycymer Square.

Councillor H Griffiths: said she'd dealt with many complaints about pot holes in the valley, she had concerns about the proposed Electoral Arrangement Review and had attended 24 mayoral events in the month.

Councillor M Trowbridge: gave an update on anti-social behaviors in Bettws and unsafe garages. V2C has acted and made the area safe and the garages will be demolished. Other matters reported were bushes overhanging the pathway next to Bettws Life Centre, a broken handrail which the Clerk has reported to Awen Cultural Trust, bulb planting, future litter picking with a request for the other Bettws councillors to help and fly tipping reported, removed, then replaced and removed.

Councillor D Davies: reported that the recently filled pot holes on the road in front of Washbourne's Farm had returned due to the lack of drainage and constant surface water in that area. BCBC has confirmed that refurbishment to the Richard Price Centre will start shortly including the outside of the building. A Hindu festival had recently taken place at the centre and an invite to the schoolchildren at Tynyrheol had been made to visit their place of worship in Aberkenfig.

Councillor J Coles: said the wildflower seeds planted in Parc Calon Lan had started to flourish but that recent ice may have affected them.

Councillor L Thomas: expressed concern that there did not appear to be any emergency procedure in place to deal with power cuts during storms.

Resolved: The Electoral Arrangement Review will be included on the agenda for discussion at the February meeting. The Bettws councillors would plan regarding help with litter picking. It was agreed that Councillors L Thomas, M Trowbridge, M Lewis and N Harwood-Scorer would form a working group and draft a plan for future emergencies and present at the March 2025 meeting.

132/24-25 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had received several complaints about the length of time planning applications are processed at BCBC.

Resolved: The observation was noted.

133/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Bench Wood Street: BCBC has confirmed that the licence has been removed from the file and destroyed. The bench continues to be BCBC's responsibility.

Pontyrhyl: A new litter bin has been installed on the post next to the bus stop.

Ward Fund Reminder: only two months to go for ward expenditure following the resolution at the Precept meeting in December not to carry any ward funds forward into the next financial year.

Bus Shelters Llangeinor Ward: the Clerk had made a request for the 4 concrete/brick bus shelters in the Llangeinor ward to be cleaned and painted. The Llangeinor ward funds will cover the cost.

Tommy Silhouette Bettws: following vandalization of the Tommy Remembrance Silhouette in Bettws and its removal from the wall. The Bettws councillors will fund another and the Clerk will arrange its purchase and installation.

Bettws and Blaengarw Ward Vacancies: following the publication of Notice of Vacancies in both wards no call for an election was made. Co-option notices have now been published. Consideration for co-option will be made at the February 2025 meeting.

Litter Bin outside the William Trigg Centre: a bin has been purchased and permission for installation granted from Wales & West. It will be installed in the coming week.

British Legion Special Meeting: a reminder that this takes place at 6.00 pm on 24/1/25 at Blaengarw Rugby Club.

Resolved: All information was noted. It was agreed to investigate installing a Tommy Silhouette on the fencing behind the font in Bettws. The co-options will be added to the February 2025 agenda

134/24-25 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:

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 20th JANUARY 2025

- BCBC - confirmation of receipt of request for £130,748 precept for 25/26
- BCBC - invite to Chair & Clerk to Future of Local Service Delivery meeting on 21/1/25
- BAVO - request for information on Community Venues
- Chris Ellmore MP - information on a funding advice day being held 7th March 10 to 12 at Brackla Community Centre
- Tanio - invitation to all councillors to attend a musical performance by the young people of Bettws on 25/1/25
- GVBGCW - request to attend the February meeting as they couldn't attend the January date.
- British Legion - special meeting 24/1/25 6.00 pm Blaengarw Rugby Club

Resolved: All information was noted. The Chair and Clerk had accepted the invitation to the meeting on 21/1/25. The Clerk had provided BAVO with the requested information. Councillor L Thomas had accepted the invitation to attend the Tanio performance. It was agreed to invite the GVBGCW to the February meeting. The British Legion meeting was noted, Councillor H Griffiths would attend.

135/24-25 PLANNING MATTERS

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

Resolved: All information received was noted.

136/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

- Future of Local Service Delivery
- GVBGC - Presentation
- Electoral Arrangement Review
- Co-option Bettws and Blaengarw Wards

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

The date for the next Meeting is Monday 17th February 2025 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Halo Leisure, Pontycymer and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm