



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT HALO LEISURE, PONTYCYMER
AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles (left at 8.27 pm)
D Davies (left at 8.21 pm)
W Davies
H Griffiths
C Lloyd (left at 8.21 pm)
M Lewis
L Thomas
M Trowbridge

Apologies: Councillor G Walters

No Apologies: Councillor G Andrews

Also Present: 3 representatives of SW Police and
A Harris (Clerk & RFO)

137/24-25 Apologies (as above)

138/24-25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
J Coles	Co-option Blaengarw Ward	Friend of Applicant
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 Co-option Bettws Ward	Governor Spouse of Applicant
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Calon y Cwm Charity	Member Director

139/24-25 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF GARW SBGC

A request to attend the meeting had been withdrawn after the papers had been sent out.

Resolved: This item was not discussed.

140/24-25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

The January 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the January 2025 Ordinary Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

141/24-25 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY 2025 MEETING

Minute 126/24-25 Consider Matters Arising from the December 2024 Meeting

Bridge Repair: the Clerk is still waiting for quotes

Finance Request Bettws School: the Bettws ward councillors had agreed to donate the money for the lights from their ward funds of £4,804.97.

The Strand: the Clerk highlighted a recent problem with fly tipping next to one of the bins with cat litter found amongst the dumped items.

Minute 113/24-25 Christmas Concert 2024 Feedback

The Clerk is still chasing up feedback on the lighting stock at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.

Minute 127/24-25 CAT Transfer

The Clerk had met with Councillor Lewis and a contractor to look at the work needed to the site and a quote. This was discussed.

The Clerk had also met with a contractor to look at the steps at Meadow Street and is waiting for the quote for solar lighting at this site.

Minute 133/24-25 Clerk's Report incl. Warden Report

The Clerk had purchased a replacement Tommy Silhouette for Bettws following vandalism of the previous one. A new location would be found. The replacement cost was £200.

Resolved: Full council approved the Bettws ward spend on the floodlights. It was agreed to delay an application for the work on the footpath at Carn until the Heads of Terms for the CAT had been agreed. All other information was accepted.

142/24-25 CRIME FIGURES JANUARY 2025 MEETING

There were 3 Members of SW Police present. PCSO M Rees took Members through the crime figures and gave as much detail as he could. PCSO Rees informed Members about the South Wales Listens initiative.

Resolved: The information was noted. PCSO Rees was asked to send the information on SW Listens to the Clerk to share.

143/24-25 FUTURE OF LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY UPDATE/SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Chair gave feedback on the second Future of Local Service Delivery meeting he'd attended with the Clerk at BCBC. Double taxation was a concern amongst the T&CCs. The advertising for a liaison officer between the borough and T&CCs was confirmed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to consider taking over the grass cutting in both cemeteries and discuss further. Councillor M Lewis will make a referral to BCBC asking what the current costs are.

144/24-25 TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM REVIEW

All Members had received a copy of a letter received from the Leader of BCBC following the recent Future of Local Service Delivery meeting asking for views on the future of the Town and Community Council Forum, specifically the timing, format and frequency of the meetings moving forward. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to feedback the following:

- The meetings should be later in the day as 4.00 pm is too early as it is impossible for any full-time working attendee to attend.
- That the agenda should be more T&CC focussed as at the moment it leans heavily towards the borough's agenda.
- That the meetings should be more T&CC led.

145/24-25 ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENT REVIEW

The relevant pages of the review had been copied for councillors and these were discussed.

Resolved: It was resolved to include this on the March 2025 agenda for further discussion.

NOTE: Councillor C Lloyd left the meeting for the Co-option item and returned for Finance & Accounts

146/24-25 CO-OPTION BETTWS & BLAENGARW WARDS

One application had been received for the vacancy in the Bettws Ward. An application for the Blaengarw Ward had been sent to the Clerk but had not been received and the replacement received after the closing date.

Resolved: Graham Lloyd was successfully co-opted as a councillor for the Bettws Ward. The vacancy for the Blaengarw Ward will be readvertised and the co-option will be included on the March 2025 agenda.

147/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments: The payments and budget monitoring sheet for February 2025 is included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £15,590.69 the balance carried forward to March 2025 is £71,440.61

Income: Income of £15,257.50 and £219.00 had been received in the month. The first as a match funding grant payment for the refurbishment of the Strand and the second for the sale of Christmas Concert 2024 tickets. Both amounts have been added back into the budget lines for Earmarked Projects and Events.

Bank Signatories: Following Councillor M Thomas' resignation her name has been removed as a signatory on the HSBC account. The paperwork to add Councillors H Griffiths and D Davies to the Cambridge Building Society account have been received and the process to add Councillor D Davies to the HSBC account as a signatory will be carried out in the month.

Re-charges: The Clerk explained the ward re-charges for Christmas trees and motifs to Members.

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet was approved and the income noted and approved. All other actions were accepted.

148/24-25 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: reported on the repaired leak on Oxford Street, issues with recycling particularly for one elderly resident and parking on Oxford Street. Councillor Griffiths asked for the post mounted bin that was on Federation Lane in Pontycymer to be replaced.

Councillor W Davies: raised concerns about surface water on King Edward Street.

Councillor M Lewis: reported further on the fly tipping on the Strand and the disappointment on why people do this, especially in an area that's recently been improved and is a community asset. Councillor Lewis also reported on hedges in Llangeinor and grass cutting at the top of Blaengarw Road.

Councillor M Trowbridge: had attended the Tanio event and said how proud she was of the young people in Bettws. She also reported on anti-social behaviour to herself and Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer outside Calon y Cymoedd School, that fly tipping continues and that construction lorries are driving over the village green and making a mess.

Councillor J Coles: had attended the start of the evening's Last Energy consultation in Coytrahen. He had met the Development Director and would pass his contact details on to the Clerk. He had agreed to add a consultation within the Garw Valley to the consultation list.

Councillor D Davies: also raised concerns about fly tipping on the New Road with people throwing litter out of cars. A litter pick had taken place in the grounds of the Richard Price Centre, there were concerns about water on the road at Moelgilau (which Councillor M Lewis has reported), bikes on the common, the old telephone box on the main road being used as a urinal, school parking. Councillor Davies asked about the possibility of a school monolith depicting a Richard Price poem. In addition Councillor Davies had accepted the invitation to attend the Ground Cutting in Bettws, but her acceptance had not been registered so no PPE was available on the day for her to attend.

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Councillor C Lloyd: had also accepted the invitation to the Ground Cutting and was not given access due to her acceptance not being registered and no PPE available to her.

Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer: raised his concerns about the muck on the road outside the old Bettws Club at the old Coach Inn cottages and the lack of road cleansing during the building. In addition a resident had reported that other residents are leaving their refuse bags with her bags and she has been told by the council that if she continues to leave so many bags for collection, she will receive a fine.

Resolved: All information was noted and all matters discussed.

149/24-25 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended the recent Future of Local Service Delivery meeting at BCBC and had accepted the invitation from St Brides Minor CC to attend the Chairs and Clerks meeting being held on 26th February in Sarn.

Resolved: The information was noted.

150/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Lamp Lights of Peace for VE Day 80th Anniversary in May: the Clerk suggested that all members who have the lamps bring them to the next meeting for Councillor Coles to check the batteries and replace if necessary.

Grass Cutting and Flower Planting 25/26: the new legislation for the Procurement Act 2023 is due to come into force in February 2025. One Voice Wales' legal team have not yet issued advice notes regarding this new legislation and therefore it was felt that the council cannot test the market at this time and agreed to continue with their existing long term contractor.

Monolith Bettws: The Bettws ward councillors had met to discuss this. It was agreed that the remainder of their ward funds, after the floodlights and Tommy silhouette had been paid would be used for this purpose

Bench/Planters Pontycymer: the Pontycymer ward councillors have asked the Clerk to obtain a licence and quotes to install a bench and two single tier planters on Bridgend Road. Permission had been sought for one location but had not been given by the private landowner.

Branding Signs: the council's supply of branding signs had depleted and a further small supply had been ordered.

Resolved: All information was noted and the Clerk's purchase of branding signs was authorised and approved. Councillors Trowbridge and Lloyd would visit the proposed monolith site and M Trowbridge would send the Clerk the information to obtain permissions and quotes. The Clerk would seek permission for an alternative location for the bench and planters via BCBC.

151/24-25 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:

- BCBC - the Local Places for Nature Project Officer is going to give assistance to obtain support for the raised beds and the gardening packs
- BCBC - proposed change to speed limit Bettws to Brynmenyn and lane to Coytrahen
- Calon y Cwm - financial request
- St Brides Minor - hosting Chairs and Clerks meeting 26/2/25
- Last Energy - Community Engagement 17th February at Coytrahen
- CISS - financial request
- V2C - invitation to attend Spade in the Ground event in Bettws 12/2/25
- One Voice Wales - Electoral Review Programme 2025 consultation ends 24/3/25
- BCBC - Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance consultation closes 27/3/25
- Resident - application for co-option Blaengarw Ward not received and re-sent after the closing date.

Resolved: All information was noted. The CISS financial request would be deferred to the March 2025 meeting. The Calon y Cwm request will be included on the March 2025 agenda. The Chair and Clerk will accept the invitation to the Chairs & Clerks meeting on 26/2/25, the Clerk would send the link to the Last Energy community engagement dates to all, the co-option for the Blaengarw ward will be re-advertised and included on the March 2025 agenda.

152/24-25 PLANNING MATTERS

In total 2 planning requests had been received and there were 2 decision and 0 appeals. Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out via email. Concerns were raised regarding planning application P/24/807/FUL and these were discussed.

Resolved: All information received was noted. The Clerk was asked to object to planning application P/24/807/FUL on the following grounds:

- There has been no consultation.
- The type of accommodation is not suitable for this location.
- Single person accommodation does not meet the needs of the community of Bettws as the community needs more family accommodation not single person accommodation.
- There are 20 single person flats being built not far from this site and V2C are not able to give any guarantees of occupancy; this HMO application is privately owned and also does not give any guarantees
- The application is situated next to two primary schools. Traffic levels are already high outside the school and a multi occupancy building will worsen the situation with additional cars parking at this proper
- The plans show a 4 bedroom house with accommodation for 6 people meaning two bedrooms will be shared. There is only 1 bathroom and 1 downstairs toilet is this adequate for 6 people?

153/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

Electoral Arrangement Review

Co-option Blaengarw Ward

Calon y Cwm - financial request

Draft Emergency Procedure - Working Group

Deferred Financial Requests 24/25

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

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

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm