



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 MARCH 2025 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews
J Coles
D Davies
W Davies
H Griffiths
C Lloyd
G Lloyd
M Lewis
L Thomas
M Trowbridge
G Walters (until 7.30 pm)

Apologies: None

Also Present: 1 representative of SW Police and
A Harris (Clerk & RFO)

154/24-25 Apologies (as above)

155/24-25 - 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
G Lloyd	Richard Price Centre	Volunteer
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Calon y Cwm Charity	Member Director

156/24-25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

The February 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

157/24-25 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING

Minute 141 Matters Arising from the January 2025 Meeting

Bridge Repairs: the quote for the PC Lan bridge repairs is £5,950 though this could increase slightly as it is a quantified estimate as the final cost has not been received from supplier. The cost will be included in the ear marked reserves for 25/26.

Finance Request Bettws School: the Head Teacher has written to say thank you to the council for its generous support. The Head is clear that the contract is between the school and the contractor and that any costs over and above the quote received will need to be borne by the school. This funding from the Bettws ward funds will be ear marked in the reserves for 2025/26.

The Strand: it was noted that the two planters of daffodils are looking stunning.

Tommy Silhouette Bettws: the Clerk confirmed that she'd requested permission from BCBC to tidy up the land behind the font and to give permission for the Tommy to be installed there and is awaiting a reply.

Minute 142 Crime Figures January 2025

The SW Listens information had been sent out via email to all councillors to share on their social media pages and local hubs.

Minute 143 Future of Local Service Delivery

Councillor M Lewis confirmed that to date there is no update from her referral asking for cemetery grass cutting costs.

Minute 144 T&CC Forum Review

The council's views on the Forum had been fed back to BCBC. The Clerk had been informed that this would be raised at the next BCBC Clerks' meeting to encourage more feedback.

Minute 150 Clerk's Report incl. Warden Report

The Clerk reported that there had been no response to the council's request to have a licence to place two planters and a bench on Bridgend Road, Pontycymer.

Minute 152 Correspondence

SBM CC Hosted Chairs & Clerks Meeting: The Clerk had attended the SBM CC hosted Chairs & Clerks Meeting. 10 councils had attended and it was agreed that the meetings are a good idea and should continue. The meetings will rotate around the borough and Maesteg Town Council has agreed to arrange and host the next meeting to be held on 28th May 2025 at 6.00 pm. Discussions took place on CAT leases, double taxation, the electoral review and the provision of a T&CC officer. It was agreed that the successful applicant needed to have T&CC experience and create a bridge between BCBC and T&CCs. SLAs with BCBC were discussed and the Clerk of Newcastle Higher CC agreed to draft a letter for all councils, including those that were unable to attend, to approve before sending to BCBC. It was agreed that the SBM CC Clerk would pull together a database of what each council is responsible for and a list of successful grant funding bids and a list of contractors would be collated in future.

Last Energy Community Engagement: at the request of the council the Clerk had written to the company and it had replied saying they will hold at least 2 events in the Garw Valley.

Minute 152 Planning Matters

The objection for planning application P/24/807/FUL had been submitted with some difficulty to the planning department. It was not possible to submit it through the portal so the Clerk had submitted it via the general planning email address and to the planning officer and requested an acknowledgement though it had not been received.

Resolved: The quantified quote for the footbridge was accepted. The incoming Chair Councillor M Lewis was asked to put the 28th May 2025 at 6.00 pm in her diary for the next Chairs & Clerks meeting. The Clerk was asked to invite Last Energy to a council meeting. All other information was accepted and approved.

158/24-25 CRIME FIGURES FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING

PCSO M Rees read through the figures for February 2025 and explained some of the nature of the offences. Councillor J Coles raised a matter regarding damage to cars and Councillor M Trowbridge raised an issue with parking on the bend at Bettws FC.

Resolved: The information was noted.

159/24-25 ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENT REVIEW

The proposed boundary changes were discussed. A proposal was made and a vote taken, councillors unanimously agreed and voted for the following comments on the proposals to be made to BCBC:

Resolved:

- The council does not agree with the proposed decrease in the number of councillors for the Blaengarw ward as this ward contains a large amount of GVCC managed parkland, Parc Calon Lan and a decrease in councillors will increase the burden of effort on the remaining two.
- The council does not agree with the proposed decrease in the number of councillors for the Bettws ward as there is proposed expansion of the number of electorate in this ward over the next 5 years due the proposed housing developments.

160/24-25 CO-OPTION BLAENGARW WARD

One application had been received for the vacancy in the Blaengarw Ward

Resolved: David Williams was co-opted as a Blaengarw ward councillor for the Garw Valley Community Council.

NOTE: Councillor Maxine Lewis left the meeting for the next item as she'd declared an interest.

161/24-25 CALON Y CWM FINANCIAL REQUEST

An application had been made for a donation of £2,800 to purchase a storage container for the proposed CAT on Carn football field by Calon y Cwm CIC. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to agree in principle to this donation subject to the signing of a CAT lease. The funding would be earmarked in the 25/26 budget.

162/24-25 DRAFT EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - WORKING GROUP

The group had not yet met and had not prepared a draft for consideration.

Resolved: This item would be included on a future agenda once the group had prepared a draft and made the agenda request.

163/24-25 DEFERRED FINANCIAL REQUESTS 24/25

A list of ten deferred financial requests were considered from Cancer Information Support Services, SSAFA, Ronald McDonald House Charity, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Urdd Gobaith Cymru Margam Park 2025 Appeal, Llangollen International Eisteddfod, Wales Air Ambulance, Kidz Cancer Charity, Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal and Ray of Light Cancer Support. These were discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to give £25 to each organization and that the £50 budget line overspend would be met out of the contingency budget line.

164/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments: The payments and budget monitoring sheet up to 15th March 2025 is included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £10,896.12 the balance carried forward to 15th to 31st March 2025 is £60,851.61.

Income: Income of £307.12 had been received from BCBC's T&CC grant funding (phase 1 24/25). This was payment for the wildflower seed portion of the grant. The money was returned into the ear marked reserves budget line where it was debited from.

Budget Overspends: Heading towards the end of the financial year, there were 6 budget overspends and the Clerk explained these. All explanations were accepted and approved. The PCLan Visitor Centre overspend was questioned and explained. The Clerk asked for specific budgetary queries to be raised with her prior to meetings so that she could ensure she could give a detailed answer. The other two PC Lan budget lines of machinery and maintenance were underspent heading towards year end.

Ward Spends: The Clerk explained the Blaengarw ward spends and asked the Blaengarw councillors to look at their Christmas provision for next year; this was agreed.

HSBC Account: The Clerk explained that due to the reduced number of signatories on the Cambridge Building Society account due to Councillor M Thomas' resignation, it is not possible at present to move money between the accounts and the HSBC account is running low heading towards year end. The Clerk said that she had submitted the BCBC agency agreement claim for 24/25 to ensure there is enough money in the HSBC account to maintain the account until the precept 25/26 money is received in April whilst the new signatories are set up.

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 and approved.

165/24-25 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: said that Llangeinor Road had been cleared of litter but now needs doing again. Councillor Griffiths said that she'd taken advice on the defibrillator cabinet fitting and had been told that it may be something the Warden could do.

Councillor W Davies: highlighted issues with Pontycymer football field, the path at Carn football field and a possible sink hole on Tymeinwr Avenue.

Councillor M Lewis: said how pleased she was with the work to the two bus stops in Pontycymer which had received nothing but positive comments and had brightened up the place. Councillor Lewis informed members that she had reported the hole in the wall just up from the Co-op on the main road.

Councillor M Trowbridge: gave an update on the plans for the monolith area and asked the Clerk to obtain a CAT for the land. An email had been sent but not received by the Clerk to this effect. Councillor Trowbridge had spoken to the school Heads and a colleague at BCBC regarding future plans for the area and landscaping. Councillor Trowbridge also raised the issue with flies in the Bettws area, had completed a walkabout and reported litter problems and fly tipping problems are ongoing.

The Clerk reminded all about procedures for conducting certain aspects of her/the council's work and that a CAT option on the land in Bettws needs to be an agenda item and have full council approval as full council may not wish to commit to a CAT for this land. The Clerk advised that a license would be more appropriate, quicker and easier to obtain. Councillor H Griffiths agreed.

Councillor J Coles: said the street signs were missing at Bryn Bedw and David Street.

Councillor D Davies: informed members that Tynyrheol Primary School had arranged a pop up café to tie in with dementia week. Councillor Davies updated members on RPCentre warm hub funding, a planned Garw's Got Talent event, a defibrillator for the centre and that parking outside Tynyrheol Primary School continues to be an issue.

Councillor L Thomas: said that Tudor Drive had been resurfaced.

Councillor C Lloyd: said that replacement defibrillator pads were needed for Bettws.

Resolved: All information was noted and all matters discussed. Councillor M Lewis agreed to make a referral about the missing signs. The Clerk was asked to order three replacement defibrillator pads. The Clerk would talk to the Warden about fitting the defibrillator cabinet for Pantygog.

166/24-25 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had not represented the council at any meetings or events during the month.

Resolved: The information was noted.

167/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

REACH Project: the Clerk had emailed a copy of the completed feasibility study to all. She updated members on the next steps. Yiota will provide the Clerk with an update on a meeting held on 14th March and has asked to attend the June council meeting to talk through the consultation exercise.

T&CC Fund Application: the Clerk updated Members on the submitted application and the size of the tread of the steps.

Grass Cutting: the Clerk informed members of a last minute problem with the grass cutting contract for the remainder of the year.

Standards Committee: this had been mentioned at the SBM Chairs & Clerks meeting as an exercise in good practice. The Clerk requested that it be included as an agenda item in April.

Community Fruit Orchard Pontycymer: The Clerk asked for authority to obtain some free fruit trees to be planted in Pontycymer in a location that Calon y Cwm had already obtained permission for.

Tree Maintenance: the Clerk informed members that the Pontycymer ward had used ward funds to remove a large buddleia and some overhanging branches to the steps at Meadow Street and the large trees in the Pocket Park, Pontycymer had been cut back using the remainder of the ear marked reserves for the Pocket Park.

Reminders: The Clerk reminded councillors to be careful about how they word social media posts that relate to the council and to have the courtesy to inform the Warden

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and/or Clerk if meetings are being held with BCBC officers in PC Lan. In addition, 3 of the Federation schools had been on site at PC Lan in the week and the Clerk asked school governors to ensure that either the Clerk or the Warden are aware of large groups being on site so that the Warden's work could be scheduled near to the Visitor Centre in order to give visiting children access to the toilet.

April 2025 Meeting: the Clerk informed members that due to the 21st April being Easter Monday, the April meeting would move to 28th April 2025.

Resolved: It was agreed to invite Yiota to the June meeting. The information on the tread of the steps was accepted. The Clerk was asked to find an alternative contractor for the year at the same or lower cost than the current contractor charges. The best practice document from the Standards Committee will be included for consideration on the April 2025 agenda. The Clerk was given authority to apply for the fruit trees and get them planted as long as they are free of charge.

168/24-25 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:

- IRPW - Annual Report 2025
- OVW - Annual Membership Renewal 25/26 £1,505
- Maesteg Town Council - save the date for the Mayor of Maesteg's Fund Annual Spring Dinner Dance
- Financial Requests - Marie Curie Cymru Great Daffodil Appeal, Kids Cancer Chairty, SSAFA Wales, Wales Air Ambulance and Ronald McDonald House
- Blaengarw RFC - request for the council to provide a skip
- Tanio - unable to arrange an Easter event in PC Lan this year due to anniversary commitments.
- Church of the Latter-Day Saints - a request to purchase and place a library of children's books in PC Lan

Resolved: All information was noted. The IRPW Annual Report 2025 would be included on the April agenda, the OVW Membership Renewal would be paid by its due date of 1st April. The save the date from Maesteg TC had been given to outgoing Chair, Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer and incoming Chair, Councillor Maxine Lewis. It was agreed that both would attend. The financial requests had been considered (see minute 163/24-25). The financial request from Blaengarw RFC could not be

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considered as they had not returned the completed financial request application in time for the council papers to be sent out. It was disappointing that Tanio would not be holding an Easter event in PC Lan this year. The request to place a library in PC Lan was considered and a vote was taken. Councillor J Coles abstained; all other councillors voted in favour to give the go ahead for an initial 3 month trial to be reviewed after that period of time.

169/24-25 PLANNING MATTERS

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

Resolved: All information received was noted. Councillor Coles said that plans for application P/24/30/FUL were very traditional.

170/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

- Spring Bulbs
- Community Award 2024/25
- IRPW Report 2025
- Invite Last Energy to attend the meeting

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

The date for the next Meeting is Monday 28th April 2025 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Halo Leisure, Pontycymer and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.31 pm