



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT HALO LEISURE, PONTYCYMER
AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 28th APRIL 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
L Thomas
M Trowbridge
G Walters (via zoom)
D Williams

Apologies: Councillor M Lewis

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

1/25-26 Apologies (as above)

The Chair welcomed Councillor David Williams to his first meeting.

2/25-26 - 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
G Lloyd	Richard Price Centre	Volunteer

2/25-26 TO RECEIVE MR R SEDGMAN, UK DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT, LAST ENERGY

The Chair welcomed Mr Robert Sedgman of Last Energy to the meeting to discuss the proposed Llynfi nuclear plant. Mr Sedgman gave some background on the process, when the start of the build will be and when energisation will take place, how it will be constructed and the energy it will produce. He also said where the materials for the build will be sources and how many jobs it will create. It will be in operation for 42 years when everything will be removed off site.

Questions were asked about safety, how such a build will affect local house prices, who produces the nuclear reactors, security fears, theft and terrorism fears, transportation issues, where the electricity would be used etc.

Resolved: Mr Sedgman was thanked for attending the meeting.

4/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

The March 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

5/25-26 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH 2025 MEETING

Minute 157/24-25 Consider Matters Arising from the February 2025 Meeting

Bridge Repair: since receiving the quote and bringing it to the council for approval the price has increased. The new quote was discussed.

Tommy Bettws Ward: the Clerk had emailed Councillor M Jones to ask for his assistance in this matter.

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Clerk's Report: I'm continuing to chase permission for the planters and bench on Bridgend Road. The planters are arriving within a week.

Minute 159/24-25 Electoral Arrangement Review

The Clerk confirmed receipt of an acknowledgement for the council's response.

Minute 165/24-25 Defibrillator Pads

These have been purchased and passed on to Councillor Lloyd who has replaced some and has some spare for future use.

Minute 168/24-25 Correspondence

Update on the miniature library for PC Lan. The children are building the library container and it will be installed shortly.

Resolved: All information was noted.

6/25-26 CRIME FIGURES MARCH 2025 MEETING

PCSO J Elliott read through the figures for March 2025 and explained some of the nature of the offences

Resolved: The information was accepted and it was noted that there's an issue in the valley with a resident on a quad driving in a dangerous manner.

7/25-26 SPRING BULBS AUTUMN 2025

The purchase of spring bulbs was discussed and all wards agreed to plant bulbs.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to purchase the following:

Bettws - 3 sacks of daffodils and 1 sack of pink tulips

Blaengarw - 1 sack of daffodils

Llangeinor - 2 sacks of bluebells

Pontycymer - 3 sacks of daffodils and 1 sack of bluebells

8/25-26 STANDARDS COMMITTEE BEST PRACTICE

Included in the meeting papers was a list of what the Standards Committee look for as best practice when they sit in on T&CC meetings. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Standing Orders would be updated to include that councillors announce themselves at the start of each meeting so that they can be identified by any members of the public in attendance.

9/25-26 COMMUNITY AWARD 2024/2025

The Clerk had drafted the notice for this year's Community Award with a closing date of 9th May 2025.

Members were reminded that it had previously been resolved that each ward would put forward a minimum of one nominee for each category.

Resolved: The notice was approved for publication.

10/25-26 IRPW ANNUAL REPORT 2025

A copy of the report had been sent out to councillors via email and a copy of the T&CC section had been included in the papers.

Resolved: There were no changes to the determinations and it was agreed that the council's Allowances Policy covers the requirements stated including how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves mid-year. It was noted that there is no longer a requirement to publish the names of councillors who take the allowances, only the total amount of each allowance paid.

11/25-26 VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY 8th MAY 2025

The council has previously agreed to light the lamp lights of peace in the Blaengarw, Llangeinor and Pontycymer wards, in addition the gardener will plant red, white and blue flowers in the planters.

The Clerk reminded members that there is a UK wide request to sing I Vow To The My Country as the lamps and beacons are lit and to encourage residents to eat Fish and Chips as a collective 'tribute' to the amazing and brave fishermen and farmers who kept the nation fed during this time.

Councillor D Davies asked if it would be possible to fund a fish and chip supper at the RP Centre.

Councillor W Davies said there would be a service at the monument in Pontycymer at 11.00 am on 8th May 2025.

Resolved: It was agreed that Councillor W Davies would ask the local churches to ring their bells at 6.30 on 8th May 2025, as part of a UK wide plan. Councillors would notify the local fast food outlets of the fish and chip collective tribute. The Clerk was asked to check on the possible funding for a fish and chip supper and let the Llangeinor councillors know the outcome.

12/25-26 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments: The payments and budget monitoring sheet for 15th to 31st March and April had been included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £4,816.85 and £5,049.83.

Income: Income of £3,400 had been received in March 2025 in payment for the council's Rights of Way work in 24/25. There was no income in April.

Reserves: these were discussed and agreed.

Internal Auditor: the Clerk had been unable to obtain contact with the council's agreed Internal Auditor and gave an update on this.

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheets presented. The budget monitoring sheets were approved and the income noted and approved. All other actions were accepted and approved. The Clerk was asked to source an alternative Internal Auditor.

13/25-26 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: gave updates on pot holes, drainage issues, recycling problems and street resurfacing.

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

Councillor G Lloyd: raised concerns regarding the huge pot holes outside the petrol station in Bettws.

Councillor J Coles: gave an updated on the success rate of the tree planting carried out last November in PC Lan around the school sports field. He also gave an update on the seed sowing in PC Lan last December and the plans to sow more at various sites this year.

Councillor Coles also updated on his meeting with Sammy Fraser, the Wild Spaces officer for the Butterfly Conservation Trust and Sam Bowler, BCBC Local Nature Partnership Officer with a view to the possibility of co-working projects at PC Lan. Councillor Coles asked that the council send a letter of support to agree in principle to work in partnership with the Butterfly Conservation for development of a satellite site at PC Lan.

Councillor D Davies: updated on littering problems and pot holes in Llangeinor. An invite was extended to all to attend a service on 9th June at 7.00 pm at St Ceinwyn's Church to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Mother's Union.

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Councillor L Thomas: raised his concerns about parents queuing outside the Bettws schools and a parent had expressed their concern about the safety of young children queuing with their parents.

Councillor M Trowbridge: gave an update on the demolition of garages on the bottom site in Bettws, concerns re drainage and the amount of flies in Bettws.

Councillor G Walters: said there is a big rut in the middle of St David Street, Pontycymer.

Councillor N Harwood-Scorer: raised a matter regarding the residents of Bryn Mawr and green repairs by V2C.

Resolved: All information was noted and all matters discussed. Councillor H Griffiths would raise Councillor Thomas' concerns with the two Heads of Bettws schools and the pot hole issues. Councillor Coles proposal was unanimously agreed and the Clerk would send a letter to the Butterfly Conservation.

14/25-26 CHAIR'S REPORT

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

Resolved: The information was noted.

15/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's Report had been included in the meeting papers. It was noted that the Warden has been without his quad bike which is being repaired for some weeks. The Clerk reported that there had been people camping in PC Lan over Easter and had strewn litter in the lake and in the picnic area; they'd left and had not taken their tent or blankets with them.

REACH Project: Yiota Haramblos of REACH will be attending the May meeting but had given an update which the Clerk read out. Volunteers were requested to form a project steering group.

T&CC Fund Application: A letter from BCBC had been circulated to all informing the council that their application had been unsuccessful as it was not linked to a CAT. This was discussed.

Pocket Park, Pantygog: The CAT Officer has informed the Clerk that there is a query over the land status and the required access for a retaining wall on the site.

Grass Cutting: Evans Garden Services will cut the strip of land at Pen Parcau and at Blaengarw up to October.

Dog Waste Bag Dispensers: As the council is not going to continue providing dog waste bags the Clerk asked if the council want them removed?

Floral Displays 25/26: the contractor has installed the rail planters in Pontyrhyl and will start putting up the hanging basket brackets this week. The Clerk updated Members on the cost for installing the rail planters.

Advert Consent Application: Planning have requested further information on the council's application.

Street Furniture Bettws Green: Cwm Tawel are not responding to phone calls and their website says they are closed. Councillor M Trowbridge said she'd obtain an alternative contact to carry out the work.

Resolved: Councillors J Coles and D Williams agreed to be part of the REACH project steering group. The Clerk was asked to include the project for the steps in Pontycymer on the May agenda and to arrange for the dog waste bag dispensers to be removed. It was agreed that the street furniture should not be replaced until the work to Bettws Club had been completed.

16/25-26 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:

- One Voice Wales - Motions for OVW AGM (responses by 20th June)
- Independent Audit Committee Member vacancy (nominations by 30th May)
- BCBC - letter from Leader including future of T&CC Forum (April meeting cancelled)
- Dogs Trust - request to put poster in the council's noticeboards
- Maesteg Town Council - additional information for Mayor's Dinner & Dance
- Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park - pre application consultation
- Ysgol Calon y Cymoedd - request to publish notice for help in transforming their outdoor area

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- BT Public Payphones - consultation on proposal to remove public payphones (one on list in Llangeinor)
- Teenage Cancer Trust - financial request

Resolved: All information was noted. Motions for OVW AGM would be included on the May agenda and Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park would be discussed at the May meeting in the Development Control and Planning item. The requests to publish two posters were agreed. Councillors Harwood-Scorer and Lewis noted the Maesteg Town Council information. There were no objections to the removal of the public payphone in Llangeinor and the financial request would be deferred to March 2026.

17/25-26 PLANNING MATTERS

In total 2 planning requests had been received and there were 5 decision and 0 appeals. 2 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out via email.

Resolved: All information received was noted. There were no objections to the planning applications. Councillor N Harwood-Scorer gave an update on the occupation of a house in Heol Bradford which has applied for HMO permission.

18/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

- Consideration to be giving on funding the work to the steps in Pontycymer
- Motions for OVW AGM

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

The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 19th May 2025 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the William Trigg Centre, Blaengarw and via zoom. Prior to that at 6.00 pm the Annual Meeting will take place in the same venue and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm