



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE WILLIAM TRIGG
CENTRE, BLAENGARW AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 19th MAY 2025 AT 6.20 pm**

Present: Councillor M Lewis (Chair)

Councillors: G Andrews

D Davies

W Davies

H Griffiths

N Harwood Scorer

C Lloyd

G Lloyd

M Trowbridge (from 6.37 pm)

Apologies: Councillors J Coles, L Thomas & G Walters

No Apologies: Councillor D Williams

Also Present: A Harris (Clerk & RFO)

19/25-26 Apologies (as above)

20/25-26 - 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
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Calon y Cwm Charity	Member Director
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor
G Lloyd	Richard Price Centre	Volunteer

21/25-26 TO RECEIVE YIOTA HARAMBLOS, REACH

The Chair welcomed Yiota Haramblos of REACH to the meeting. Yiota updated members on the sub-group, more links to bike tracks and tourism and explained the next phase of the project which is to consult, show plans and engage. The feasibility fund is open and REACH are funded to March 2026. REACH will not start the community consultation and pre-planning stages, they plan to attend local events throughout the summer, knock on doors of the residents closest to the working hub locations, put up posters on the council's noticeboards and website etc. The Clerk read out some feedback from Councillor J Coles. Councillor Trowbridge informed Yiota of an event in Bettws in July and the Llangeinor councillors said they'd inform her of events in the Richard Price Centre.

Resolved: The council unanimously agreed to continue with the next stage. It was agreed to include the Warden in the working group meetings to keep him up to date with progress and he could give feedback as he's best placed to understand the workings of the park.

22/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

The April 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

23/25-26 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APRIL 2025 MEETING

Minute 5/25-26 Consider Matters Arising from the February 2025 Meeting

Bridge Repair: the materials are being delivered on Friday so work will commence shortly.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 19th MAY 2025

Bench/Planters: A licence is being prepared so these should be installed as soon as that's received.

Future of Local Service Delivery: there was no update on the cost of grass cutting in the cemetery. The Clerk had looked into providing services within church grounds and read out a statement from NALC which prohibits work to church property or land.

Minute 7/25-26 Spring Bulbs for Autumn 2025

The suppliers are waiting on supply confirmation and costs for the bluebells and pink tulips.

Minute 11/25-26 VE Day 80th Anniversary 8th May 2025

The Clerk thanked Councillor W Davies for arranging for the church bells to ring throughout the valley. The Clerk was asked to purchase a Lamp Light of Peace for the Bettws ward.

Resolved: All information was noted.

24/25-26 CRIME FIGURES APRIL 2025

PCSO J Elliott has sent his apologies and said there was nothing of concern in the crime figures and he would give an update in June on both the April and May figures.

Resolved: The information was accepted.

25/25-26 COMMUNITY AWARD 2024/2025

Two nominees had been received, one in each category. Both were considered and were worthy winners.

Resolved: To invite the winners, Don Sage in the general category and Dylan Sage in the sports category, to the June meeting for a presentation. The Clerk was asked to include future community awards on the June agenda.

26/25-26 ONE VOICE WALES MOTIONS FOR 2025

The information on this opportunity had been sent out to members for consideration.

Resolved: There were no proposals for a motion for debate at the OVW AGM in October 2025.

27/25-26 REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The information on this consultation had been sent to members for consideration.

Resolved: It was agreed that councillors who wished to respond would respond individually.

28/25-26 STEPS PROJECT PONTYCYMER

The Clerk had met with the CAT Officer and Group Manager to discuss this project, which had been unsuccessful in securing T&CC funding to replace the steps at Meadow Street and install solar lighting columns.

Resolved: It was noted that funding could not be awarded as the project is not aligned to a CAT and the steps have a title register and number. The Clerk highlighted the danger of the steps, including the raised top step, which is a trip hazard, and the CAT Officer said she would raise it with BCBC's legal department to write to the landowner asking them to conduct the work. The Clerk was asked to ask BCBC to block off the steps as they are unsafe.

29/25-26 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AMENDMENT

Amendments to two of the pages within the Financial Regulations have been received and these were read out at the meeting.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to amend the council's Financial Regulations to reflect the changes.

30/25-26 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments: The payments and budget monitoring sheet for May 2025 had been included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payment of £9,118.32

Income: the £130,748 precept for 25/26 had been received and a partial VAT refund claim for April to September 2024 of £6,458.33 had been received.

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheets presented. The budget monitoring sheets were approved and the income noted and approved. The Clerk had sourced the services of KLG Services as minuted in the annual meeting minute no 10/25

31/25-26 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: gave updates on the cemetery gates, fire on the mountain, police in Llangeinor and the diversion of Heol Tyn Ton.

Councillor G Lloyd: raised concerns about a huge pot hole outside the garage in Bettws and the condition of the road from Bettws to Shwt.

Councillor D Davies: raised an issue with a litter bin which had been moved, an overgrown hedgerow and debris on a footpath narrowing it, a pot hole which has reappeared in Lluest, big pot holes on Station Row and asked when the grass cutting would be conducted.

Councillor M Trowbridge: gave updates on grass cutting a junction where one side has been cut by V2C and the other side had not been cut by Wales & West. Councillor Trowbridge also gave updates on the sculpture which can't be seen due to the length of grass, fly tipping on the hill down to the Oddfellows, fly tipping on the bottom site and football field litter problems.

Councillor N Harwood-Scorer: gave an update on his attendance at the Mayor of Maesteg's Charity Dinner & Dance. He also took the opportunity to thank all councillors for their support during his year as Chair and thanked the Clerk for her guidance and support too.

Resolved: All information was noted and all matters discussed. The Clerk would forward the contact details of her Wales & West contact to Councillor Trowbridge to chase up the grass cutting. Councillor Griffiths would report the pot hole and road condition in Bettws. Councillor M Lewis would report the overhanging hedge and debris on path in Llangeinor and enquire about grass cutting.

32/25-26 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had not represented the council at any meetings in May, however, as Vice-Chair she had represented the council at the Mayor of Maesteg's Dinner & Dance. Councillor Lewis thanked Councillor Neal Harwood Scorer for his year as Chair.

Resolved: The information was noted.

33/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's report had been included in the meeting papers. It was noted that the Warden is still without his quad bike so is unable to carry out a lot of the heavier work in the park.

Pocket Park, Pantygog: The Clerk had met with the CAT Officer and Group Manager who confirmed that BCBC are unable to give the council a licence for this land to continue to maintain it; this is due to the large retaining wall at the rear, which BCBC need access for to freely monitor it. The Clerk explained that the council had spent

almost £2,000 in the last 6 months maintaining it, had management signage made and were due to install a hanging basket and defibrillator.

Land at Bettws: BCBC have agreed to give the council a licence for the land behind the font in Bettws. The Clerk has arranged to obtain contractor quotes in the week to clear the land and will then arrange for the Warden to install the new Tommy silhouette on the fence at the back. Once the land is cleared the Clerk will then obtain quotes from contractors for the monolith and talk to the person who's agreed to build the wall to support it.

Bio-diversity Pilot Group: OVW is looking for 10 T&CCs to take part in a pilot to look at a biodiversity toolkit that is being launched, this is part of the council's Section 6 Duty in completing a biodiversity report every 3 years; the council's is due again in 2025. Councillors J Coles and M Trowbridge suggested the council should register their interest.

Flower Baskets 25/26: concerns regarding the installation of the council's flower baskets in time for installation in June 2025 were raised and discussed. Despite weeks of fine weather, promises of the installation of the brackets there appeared to be no progress.

Lakes: BCBC's Highways Department has been in touch to let the council know that a recent bid has been successful in gaining funding from the Welsh Government to undertake works to remove the excess material/silt that has been deposited in the two lakes. They are asking to set up a meeting with a group to represent the council to explain what the scheme involves and discuss any issues that we may need to consider as part of the contract process.

Christmas Concert, Bettws Ward: The Clerk reminded the Bettws Ward members that they are responsible for putting on this year's Christmas Concert and they now need to get together to start preparing and decide on a date, book the venue, choir/entertainment and ask the local schools if they will perform and sell tickets for them.

Armed Forces Covenant: The council has been notified that their covenant pledges have been accepted and the council can now publish it on their website.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for a new quad bike. The Clerk would ascertain whether the council's insurance covers the Warden for maintaining the pocket park going forward. The Clerk had registered the council's interest in being part of the bio-diversity pilot group. The Chair was asked to write to the gardener about the council's concerns prior to the beginning of June. The group to meet with BCBC about the lakes will consist of: Councillors H Griffiths, Neal

Harwood Scorer, William Davies, Chris Lloyd and Maxine Lewis plus the Clerk and Warden.

34/25-26 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:

- BCBC - T&CC Forum meeting cancelled
- National Grid - letter ref. meeting request Upper Ogmere Grid Connection
- Resident - permission to film drone footage over the park for house sale
- Wales Air Ambulance - thank you for recent donation
- Last Energy - thank you from Robert Sedgman for the invitation to the council meeting in April 2025.
- One Voice Wales - consultation on improving the administration and enforcement of council tax in Wales
- Soil Association - Forestry Consultation (comments by 12th June 2025)

Resolved: All information was noted. There was no request to arrange a meeting to discuss the National Grid proposals and approach to the consultation, permission was given for the drone filming, the correspondence of thanks were noted, the consultations were noted and individual responses would be made.

35/25-26 PLANNING MATTERS

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

A pre-application consultation on the proposed Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park had been received which closes on 8th June 2025. This was discussed.

Councillor M Lewis said she'd been informed that the HMO application for Heol Bradford had been withdrawn and that the 3 people residing there were related.

Resolved: All information received was noted. There were no objections to the pre-application consultation.

36/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE JUNE 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

- Councillor vacancy governor Ysgol Calon y Cymoedd
- To receive the Community Award winners for a presentation
- Future of Community Awards 25/26
- Internal Audit and Audit Statement
- Christmas 2025
- Feedback from Bettws Ward on progress on Christmas Concert 2025

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

The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 30th June 2025 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the William Trigg Centre, Blaengarw and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm