



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 30th JUNE 2025 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor M Lewis (Chair)

Councillors:

D Davies
W Davies
H Griffiths
C Lloyd
G Lloyd
M Trowbridge
G Walters (via zoom)
D Williams

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, J Coles &
L Thomas

No Apologies: Councillor N Harwood Scorer

Also Present: A Harris (Clerk & RFO) and PSCO M
Rees (up to item 3)

41/25-26 Apologies (as above)

42/25-26 - 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 Richard Price Centre	Governor Volunteer
G Lloyd	Richard Price Centre	Volunteer

43/25-26 TO RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS 24/25

Both the community award winners and their families were present. The Chair welcomed all visitors to the meeting and presented an engraved shield, a card and gift, along with a small, engraved trophy to keep. The shield will be returned after a year. Flowers were presented to the winners' wife and mother. The winners were Don Sage for the general community award for his contribution to many aspects of Garw life and Dylan Sage in the community sports category for his amazing achievements in the world of competitive cycling.

44/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2025 ANNUAL AND ORDINARY MEETINGS AND THE JUNE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

The May 2025 Annual and Ordinary Meeting minutes and the June Extraordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the May 2025 Annual and Ordinary Meetings and June Extraordinary Meeting minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

45/25-26 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MAY 2025 ANNUAL AND ORDINARY MEETINGS and JUNE EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from the May Annual nor June Extraordinary Meetings.

Ordinary May Meeting:

Minute 23/25-26 To Consider Matters Arising from the April Minutes

Bridge Repair: the work to repair the bridge at Pont lake will start on Friday 4th July and will continue through the weekend. The bridge will not be open to pedestrians and signage to this effect will be displayed and the bridge will be taped off.

Bench/Planters: the Clerk is waiting for BCBC to cut the grass on Bridgend Road so that the new bench and planters can be installed.

VE Day 80th Anniversary 8th May 2025: the Clerk had tried to purchase a Lamp Light of Peace for the Bettws Ward, but unfortunately they stopped producing and selling them in May. A second hand one had been purchased online, at a fraction of the price and Councillor Coles will be asked to adapt it to use battery operated lights.

Clerk's Report: due to this meeting's long agenda the item on the future of the Community Awards will be included in July.

Minute 28/25-26 Steps Project Pontycymer

The CAT Officer has now informed the Clerk that BCBC may, after all, hold the title to the steps and they may have been referenced incorrectly on their system. They will now clarify this matter and if this is correct will re-visit the council's T&CC grant funding application. In the meantime for H&S reasons, as the top step has lifted, they will arrange for the steps to be taped off and they will be out of use.

Minute 33/25-26 Clerk's Report incl. Warden Report

Bettws Font: the Clerk had obtained quotes to clear the land behind the font in Bettws in order to move this project forward. An email had been sent to all councillors to clarify their agreement on the spend of £325 but responses had got confused in an email thread between the councillors. The Clerk asked for clarification on whether to go ahead from the Bettws councillors present at the meeting.

Flower Baskets: these are now installed throughout the valley with 10 baskets in each ward; Llangeinor have some additional ones which they pay for separately out of their ward funds. The rail planters in Pontyrhyl have also been filled and the area around cut back and one of the sign planters on the Blaengarw sign opposite Bryn Stores has been filled. The Clerk explained why the baskets are spread out in the wards, mainly due to not being able to use wooden columns, not being able to use columns which have road traffic signs on them and if the columns are on sections of roads that would be too dangerous for the contractor to be able to park next to them to water the plants.

Lakes: following last month's news on a meeting with BCBC regarding work to the lakes, the Clerk had chased this up and had been told a meeting would be held in June, though this has not materialised.

Christmas Concert Bettws Ward: the Clerk has provided the 4 Bettws councillors with a guidance list of what needs to be organised and when. An update on progress will be included on the July agenda.

Resolved: All information was noted. Future Community Awards and Update on Christmas Concert will be included on the July 2025 meeting agenda. The two Bettws councillors present agreed to accept the quote for clearing behind the font.

46/25-26 CRIME FIGURES MAY 2025

PCSO Rees took members through the figures which had been provided with their papers. PCSO Rees noted that the figures were the same for Llangeinor and Bettws and wondered if they had been duplicated in error by admin. He gave members some updated information.

PCSO Rees also updated members on some changes taking effect for the PCSOs.

Resolved: The information was noted.

47/25-26 COUCILLOR VACANCY GOVERNOR YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CALON Y CYMOEDD

Councillor C Lloyd wished to stand down as Councillor Governor for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd.

Resolved: None of the two Bettws councillors present were able to take up the role and it was agreed to include this item on the July agenda when more Bettws councillors may be present.

48/25-26 BUS SERVICE

At the T&CC Chairs & Clerks meeting in Maesteg at the end of May, Maesteg Town Council had given attendees some information on a bus route that they are now running. Councillor Maxine Lewis gave some background. The Clerk had been in touch with MTC and included in the meeting papers was the information given by MTC on how they went about setting this up. Members then discussed the needs and costs.

Resolved: It was agreed to include this on the July agenda. Members agreed in principle that they liked the idea of such a service in the valley but needed more information on the need. In the meantime the Clerk would find out from OVW if it is within the council's remit to run such a service and if it is, what legalities must be adhered to.

49/25-26 CHRISTMAS 2025

The Clerk asked members what they wished to have in their wards for Christmas 2025 and this was discussed

Resolved: The Pontycymer and Llangeinor wards requested the same trees and motifs as in Christmas 2024. The Blaengarw ward needed to streamline their offer as they spend all their ward funds on Christmas; the Clerk was asked to provide the Blaengarw councillors with a list of what motifs they have. The Bettws ward asked

for the same motifs as Christmas 2024 but asked the Clerk to find out some information on an alternative Christmas tree.

50/25-26 APPROVE THE RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE 2025/2026

The Risk Management Schedule for 2025/2026 was included in the meeting papers. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept the Risk Management Schedule for 2025/2025

51/25-26 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS including INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND AUDIT STATEMENT

Payments: Authority was requested for the payments presented totalling £25,956.95.

Income: Income of £52.00 refunded allowances from a councillor who'd resigned in the year had been received and the remainder of the VAT for 2024/25 had been received of £11,409.98. The Clerk asked for authority to place both income streams in the Contingency/General Reserve budget line.

HSBC: some time ago council had resolved to look for an alternative bank account as HSBC had started charging a monthly fee of £5. The council has now been notified that HSBC are removing the fee, so the Clerk asked for authority to keep the banking with HSBC.

Internal Auditor Report and Audit Statement: the meeting papers included the Audit Statement signed by the Internal Auditor and the Audit Report. There was one comment on the audit referring to a missing receipt for £18. The Clerk asked for authority from the council to accept and approve both documents so that the Chair and Clerk could sign the Audit Statement. The Clerk gave some feedback on the audit process with a new auditor.

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheets presented. The budget monitoring sheets were approved and the income noted and approval given to move the two income streams into the Contingency/General Reserve budget line. Authority was given to the Clerk to remain with the HSBC for the council's day-to-day banking. The Internal Auditor's Report and the Audit Statement were accepted and approved. The Clerk was asked to prepare and submit the council's External Audit.

52/25-26 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: gave feedback on the grass cutting in the valley and how the catch up is progressing slowly. She also informed members the lift in the Rhiw car park in Bridgend will be out of order next week.

Councillor G Lloyd: informed members of a drainage issue on Heol Dewi Sant and there had been cows loose on the hill from Shwt to Bettws which had caused issues.

Councillor D Davies: said grass cutting had been carried out in Llangeinor although it has not been without its issues. The new lawnmower being used has an automatic cut off depending on the incline it's being used on and therefore some grass remains uncut. The phone box on the main road which is being removed by BT has now been vandalized further. There have been issues with overgrown trees and litter issues are ongoing. Parking outside the school seems to have improved although some residents appear unhappy with Roly Patroly being present in the ward. Councillor Davies informed Members that there will be a Last Energy consultation meeting on 28th July at the Richard Price Centre and she will confirm the time with the Clerk to share the information.

Councillor M Trowbridge: gave updates on V2C grass cutting, hanging baskets, pesticide spraying, an overgrown gulley, the gateway feature, tree cutting, heras fencing with a tree growing through it and asked for the footpath from Tudor Drive to Bryngarw to be cut back. It was established that the litter bins at the football field are BCBCs. Councillor Trowbridge asked if the council would write to the Boys & Girls Club to give their condolences on the death of Dale Davies, lodge centre manager at Bettws.

Councillor D Williams: gave an update on grass cutting on David Street and an issue with cows wandering down the road leaving cow pat mess.

Councillor W Davies: informed Members that there had been disappointment at St Ceinwyn's that none of the councillors had attended their Mothers' Union anniversary held on 9th June.

Resolved: All information was noted and all matters discussed. The Clerk was asked to write to the Boys & Girls Club of Wales and to arrange for the Warden to carry out work on the footpath from Tudor Drive to Bryngarw. Councillor Davies will give the Clerk the time for the Last Energy consultation meeting at the RP Centre on 28th July.

53/25-26 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended a T&CC Chairs & Clerks meeting in Maesteg on 28th May 2025.

Resolved: The information was noted.

54/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Additional Flower Displays: there are still some outstanding floral displays, one on the Pontycymer sign opposite Bryn Stores and the hanging basket for the Pocket Park.

Pocket Park: the Clerk asked for authority to purchase and install a bin in the Pocket Park at Pantygog.

School Community Awards: all 5 primary schools wished to participate again this year. The Clerk gave out envelopes to each representative containing £50 of gift vouchers and a small trophy. It was agreed that the following will attend the end of year leavers' services:

- Councillor M Trowbridge - Bettws Primary School date tbc, the Head will email the Chair and the Chair will let Councillor Trowbridge know
- Councillor G Lloyd - Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd 15th July 2.00 pm
- Councillor D Davies - Tynyrheol Primary School 16th July 11.00 am
- Councillor H Griffiths - Ffaldau Primary School 16th July 2025 at 2.00 pm
- Councillor D Williams - Blaengarw Primary School 16th July 2025 at 11.00 am

VJ Day 80th Anniversary 15th August 2025: the Clerk asked if the council wished to commemorate this anniversary. It was discussed and agreed that the red, white and blue flowers in the planters, the Tommy silhouettes and the Lest we Forget benches as well as registering the council's Armed Forces Covenant this year were acceptable. Councillor W Davies said there would be a commemoration arranged by the Royal British Legion at the memorial in Pontycymer on the day.

Clerk's Annual Leave: the Clerk reminded Members of her annual leave dates in July. Anything urgent contact the Chair.

Resolved: The information was noted. Authority was given to the Clerk to purchase and install a bin at the Pocket Park and arrange its emptying. The arrangements for the school community awards were noted.

NOTE: Councillors D Davies and G Lloyd left the meeting for the discussion on the contribution towards the pantomime for the Richard Price Centre.

55/25-26 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:

- Maesteg Town Council - invite to the Chair to attend their Civic Service on 20th July 2025
- T&CC Chairs & Clerks Meeting - draft letter for approval
- BCBC - consultation on the draft outdoor recreation facilities supplementary planning guidance
- Bridgend Samaritans - invite to the Chair to attend their Annual Meeting
- Awen Cultural Trust - Time to Talk Cultural Services - a library consultation event being held in Halo Pontycymer on 9th July
- Hope Rescue - some information and generic financial request
- Garw Valley Railway - newsletter
- BCBC - modification to the implementation date of the replacement Ysgol Gynradd Bro Ogwr.
- Cwm Garw Fund Palace - request for funding
- Richard Price Centre - request for contribution towards the Pantomime for Christmas 2025
- Carn Rovers - request to use the green space at PC Lan for training sessions
- Draft Letter T&CC Chairs & Clerks Meeting

Resolved: All information was noted. The Chair accepted the invitation to the Bridgend Samaritans and declined the invitation to the Maesteg Town Council Civic Service. The Clerk was asked to defer the request from Hope Rescue to the March 2026 meeting. The Clerk had asked Cwm Garw Fund Palace to complete a grant funding form and return in time for consideration at the July 2025 council meeting. It was unanimously agreed to contribute £650 towards the pantomime and it was agreed to give the ok to Carn Rovers on the condition they provide a Risk Assessment and a copy of their public liability insurance and it is reviewed annually. The draft letter T&CC Chairs & Clerks Meeting will be added to the July 2025 agenda.

56/25-26 PLANNING MATTERS

All planning had been sent out to Members since the last meeting and with the Chair's consent an additional sheet had been distributed for decisions received after the papers were distributed.

In total of 5 planning requests had been received and there were 2 decision and 0 appeals. 3 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out via email.

Resolved: All information received was noted. There were no objections.

57/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE JULY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

- 1.Christmas 2025 Feedback from Bettws Ward and discussion on Christmas gifts for schools (note Garw Valley Railway having two Santa events on 6th and 13th December)
- 2.Staff Confidential: Update
- 3.Future Community Awards
- 4.Councillor Governor Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd
- 5.Draft Letter T&CCs Chairs & Clerks Meeting
- 6.Bus Service

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

The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 28th July 2025 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the William Trigg Centre, Blaengarw and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm