



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 28th JULY 2025 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor M Lewis (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles
W Davies
H Griffiths
N Harwood Scorer
C Lloyd
M Trowbridge
D Williams

Apologies: Councillors D Davies, G Lloyd,
L Thomas and G Walters

No Apologies: Councillor G Andrews

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

58/25-26 Apologies (as above)

59/25-26 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
J Coles	Financial Request - Cwm Garw Fun Palace 2025	Known to one of the applicants
W Davies	Financial Request - Cwm Garw Fun Palace 2025	Known to one of the applicants
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 Financial Request - Cwm Garw Fun Palace 2025	Governor Volunteer Related to one of the applicants

60/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE ORDINARY MEETING

The June 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

61/25-26 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JUNE 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 45/25-26 Matters Arising from the May 2025 Annual and Ordinary Meetings and the June Extraordinary Meeting

Bridge Repair: the bridge repair at Pont Lake has now been completed. The footbridge treads have been replaced and the sides power washed.

Bench/Planters: the bench and planters have been installed however they need adjustment. The bench is too low to the ground and have been placed central to the green space and not where the installation was requested to enable the best view over the valley. The planters are too far away from the bench. The bench contractor has been contacted to make the adjustments, the planter request will follow.

Steps Project Pontycymer: following a request to BCBC to tape off the steps as the top and bottom steps are lifted and disintegrating, BCBC has informed the Clerk that the inspectors have confirmed the steps are safe and do not need taping off.

Bettws Font: the brambles have been cleared and the roots that are sticking up will be treated as soon as they start to grow leaves. The Tommy silhouette will be put in place in the next few weeks and quotes will be obtained by the Clerk for the proposed monolith. Some electric cables had been exposed following the removal of the brambles and this had been referred to BCBC for advice.

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Lakes: BCBC will hold a meeting with representatives of GVCC on 14th August to discuss the proposed works.

Minute 49/25-26 Christmas 2025

The Clerk had made enquiries about an alternative tree for the Bettws Ward and gave the details. It is only 9ft 10” high and the pre-used cost is £1,559.40.

Minute 55/25-26 Correspondence

All resolutions had been carried out. The Clerk is waiting on Carn Rovers to obtain their new insurance documents.

Resolved: All information was noted. Councillor H Griffiths agreed to make a further referral about the Pontycymer steps. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Bettws ward would stick to a real tree for Christmas 2025 and look into the possibility of planting a living tree next to it in 2026.

62/25-26 CRIME FIGURES JUNE 2025

PCSO Rees took members through the figures which had been provided with the papers.

It was noted that the total figures for Pontycymer should read 10 not 19. Questions were asked about the current legislation on cannabis smells and its anti-social implications.

PCSO Dulson updated members on some changes.

Resolved: The information was noted.

63/25-26 COUCILLOR VACANCY GOVERNOR YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CALON Y CYMOEDD

Councillor Neal Harwood Scorer agreed to take on the role of Councillor Governor for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd.

Resolved: Councillor Harwood Scorer’s agreement was unanimously accepted. The Clerk will let the Clerk to the Governors know and make the arrangements.

64/25-26 FUTURE COMMUNITY AWARDS

Councillor H Griffiths had asked for this item on the agenda and it was discussed.

Resolved: It was agreed to continue with the awards scheme in its current format and that councillors would also make recommendations in the future.

65/25-26 DRAFT LETTER T&CCs FOR APPROVAL

A draft letter from the T&CCs Chairs & Clerks meeting group had been included in the meeting papers. The letter was about establishing a service level agreement for communication between BCBC and Community and Town Councils.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept the draft letter and approve its signature.

66/25-26 CHRISTMAS 2025 (UPDATE ON BETTWS CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SCHOOLS)

Councillor Trowbridge gave an update on progress made. She had spoken to Bettws Primary School who had agreed to provide the hall and a school choir. A date had been set for 5th December 2025. Councillor Trowbridge had not spoken to the Head of Ysgol Calon y Cymoedd about their participation yet. Ogmores Vale Male Choir will be asked to take part.

Councillor C Lloyd agreed to visit the warehouse to look for suitable gifts for the schoolchildren some suggestions included a lantern that lights up, slipper socks, mugs etc.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk will send the contact for the Ogmores Vale Male Choir to the Bettws councillors. It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Lloyd and the Clerk could make the necessary purchases but that each ward would be responsible for packing their ward gifts.

67/25-26 UPDATE FROM WORKING GROUP ON REACH PROJECT MEETING

Councillors J Coles and D Williams had attended this meeting along with the Warden. Councillor Coles gave an update on the discussions of the working group including planning, the next phase and funding.

Resolved: The information was noted.

68/25-26 BUS SERVICE

It had been resolved at the last meeting to include this item on the agenda for further discussion and that the Clerk would find out if it is within the council's remit to run such a service. An update on the information received was included in the papers and a discussion followed including Councillor W Davies asking how the proposed TFW changes will affect such a scheme and an explanation on how the current community bus service works. An invitation had been received from St Brides Minor CC who are considering a similar scheme to join them and other adjacent councils in forming a working group to look at the possibility of working together on a bus route that includes all ccs.

Resolved: It was agreed to accept the invitation from St Brides Minor CC to take part in a working group to look at the possibility of working together on a bus route.

NOTE: Councillor C Lloyd left the meeting for the financial request item and declared an interest.

69/25-26 FINANCIAL REQUEST - CWM GARW FUN PALACE 2025

An application for funding had been received from Common Orbit CIC to run a Cwm Garw Fun Palace at Halo Leisure, Pontycymer on 4th October 2025. They are looking for £622.50. The application was discussed. They'd provided a breakdown of the items included in the £622.50, some of which the council couldn't contribute too.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to donate £460.00 to the Cwm Garw Fun Palace 2025.

70/25-26 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments: Authority was requested for the payments presented totalling £6,848.31.

Income: There was no income in the month.

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheets presented. The budget monitoring sheets were approved.

71/25-26 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: reported on referrals made ref. brambles, foliage, grass etc. Councillor Griffiths requested agreement to purchase and install a bench on Meadow Street and a bin near the rugby field and that the sides of the foliage from exit from Parc Calon Lan to Prospect Place be cut back.

Councillor C Lloyd: said that the two Llangeinor Councillors had served tea and cakes to a group of visually impaired walkers at the Visitor Centre. She also asked if the Clerk could obtain a quote for painting the bus stop opposite the Fruit Bowl on Heol Llangeinor and asked the borough councillors where the money the Leader referred to at a recent full council meeting was being spent in the Garw. In addition, Councillor Lloyd raised her concerns about the weeds to the front of the Welsh nursery in Bettws.

Councillor John Coles: gave an update on the work of the Bridgend Nature Partnership where he'd given a speech on the history of the valley. He'd also staffed a stand at their event in Newbridge Fields and will be keeping a check on the bins in Parc Calon Lan in the Warden's absence and will report any vandalism to the Clerk.

Councillor Neal Harwood Scorer: said he'd received complaints that the plan erected to the side of the new flats in Bettws look nothing like the actual building and they are closer to the road than on the plan. He also said the facing colour is not what was proposed either. He said flooding on the road outside was getting worse as the drain can't cope with the amount of water. He said there'd been an incident of sewage on land at the bottom of Shwt.

Councillor M Trowbridge: reported issues regarding litter on the embankment from the Oddfellows pub to the top site, foliage overgrowth to the sides of the road in Shwt which BCBC says is not a safety issue, overgrowth near a sub-station growing into people's gardens, the school fete, Bettws FC raising money, the bench outside the Life Centre affecting access, drainage issues, a thank you from a resident for the footpath maintenance carried out by the Warden and issues facing an elderly resident in Pen Parcau with foliage overgrowth on what appears to be private land. Councillor Trowbridge informed Councillor Lloyd that the nursery is opening in September.

Councillor D Williams: raised issues regarding missing spindles on the bridge behind Greenfield Terrace and questions ref. rights of way.

Councillor W Davies: asked if anything could be done about the appearance of the Spar in Oxford Street.

Councillor M Lewis: had reported the leak on Victoria Street.

Resolved: All information was noted and all matters discussed. The Pontcymer Ward agreed to the installation of a bench and bin as requested by Councillor Griffiths. The Clerk would arrange for the foliage cut back exiting Parc Calon Lan to Prospect Place. Councillor Griffiths confirmed that she'd already reported the appearance of the Spar shop in Oxford Street. The Clerk would obtain a quote for the painting. Councillor M Lewis explained that the money the Leader referred to is for the coal tip by the cricket pitch and the work to the lakes referred to in Matters Arising. Councillor Williams will send photos of the missing spindles and the questions ref. rights of way to the Clerk.

72/25-26 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that she'd been invited to judge Blaengarw's Got Talent. There had been 10 entries which were brilliant.

Resolved: The information was noted.

73/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's report had been included in the meeting papers. The Clerk informed members of the Warden's leave dates.

Pocket Park: the Clerk informed members that the hanging basket has been installed in the park. The new bin has been received and will be installed when the Warden returns to work. The planning department has raised some enquiries regarding the council's advert consent application and these were discussed. A local resident has requested a three tier planter be installed in the park and this was discussed and considered.

School Community Awards: councillors gave updates on the 5 primary school leavers' services and the presentation of £50 of vouchers and a trophy to each school.

VJ Day 80th Anniversary: the Clerk reminded members that the anniversary takes place on 15th August; some wards will light their Lamp of Peace to mark the anniversary.

Bin Federation Lane: this has been purchased and will be installed when the Warden returns from leave.

Tanio: the Clerk reminded everyone of the Forest Art event taking place in PC Lan on 6th August.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was unanimously agreed that due to financial constraints the request for a 3 tier planter in the Pocket Park could not be agreed. Councillors lighting their Lamps of Peace will send the Clerk photos. The Clerk was asked to make arrangements for the two new bins to be included on the contractor's bin emptying schedule once they've been installed.

74/25-26 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:

- Resident's Family: complaint regarding unsafe and neglected grounds maintenance at Darren Bungalows x 3.
- Woodlands Trust: free trees for Schools and Communities
- Last : public meeting at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor 28/7/25

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- One Voice Wales: the local government pay award 2025/26 (effective 1st April 2025) details had been received and sent out to all councillors.

Resolved: All information was noted. It was noted that the complaints regarding grounds maintenance at Darren Bungalows had been copied to V2C and other organisations. The one area managed by GVCC had been resolved. The free trees on offer were not the variety the GVCC wishes to plant. Unfortunately the Last Energy consultation meeting held in the Garw Valley and requested by GVCC had been arranged and clashed with the council meeting date so no councillors could attend. It was accepted and approved that the national government pay award 2025/26, effective 1st April 2025, would apply to the Clerk's salary in line with the Clerk's contract of employment and be backdated to 1st April 2025 in the next salary.

75/25-26 PLANNING MATTERS

All planning information had been sent out to Members since the last meeting.

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

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

76/25-26 STAFF CONFIDENTIAL

Resolved: The Clerk updated members on the progress made on the on-going Staff Confidential matter.

77/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

- Christmas 2025 Feedback
- Staff Confidential: Update
- Draft Annual Report 24/25
- Blaengarw Workmen's Hall/Awen (JC)
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Resolved: The agenda would be kept open for items to be added in the month.

The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 15th September 2025 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm