



**GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE RICHARD PRICE CENTRE  
AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor M Lewis (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles

W Davies

L Thomas

G Walters (via zoom)

D Williams

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, H Griffiths,  
C Lloyd, G Lloyd, N Harwood Scorer and M  
Trowbridge

Also Present: A Harris (Clerk & RFO), Mathew  
Cook and Marina Newth (Awen Cultural Trust (up  
to item 3))

**78/25-26**    Apologies (as above)

**79/25-26 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

| Councillor | Item                                                   | Interest                                                         |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| J Coles    | Planning Application no P/24/422/FUL                   | Known to the applicant                                           |
| D Davies   | Christmas Gifts for Schools<br>Director                | Vice-Chair Tynyrheol<br>School Governors<br>Richard Price Centre |
| M Lewis    | All Bridgend County Borough Matters<br>Calon y Cwm CIC | Member<br>Director                                               |
| L Thomas   | Planning Application no P/24/422/FUL                   | Known to the applicant                                           |
| D Williams | Awen Cultural Trust                                    | Volunteer at Blaengarw<br>Workmen's Hall                         |

**80/25-26 TO RECEIVE MATHEW COOK, MANAGER BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S HALL**

The Chair welcomed Mathew Cook and Marina Newth of Awen Cultural Trust to the meeting. Mathew gave some background information to his experience in events, the area he lives, projects he's worked on and who he's been working in partnership with.

Councillors asked some questions which Mathew answered. At the moment he is learning how Awen works and a lot of the ideas are dependent on funding. Having a one stop newsletter for valleys news, events etc. was discussed.

**Resolved:** Councillor Maxine Lewis said she was happy to discuss youth clubs and youth provision for the valley.

**81/25-26 BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S HALL**

Councillor John Coles had requested this item as he had concerns about the future of the Hall, but these had been addressed in item 3 above. The Clerk informed Members that CEO of Awen, Richard Hughes and Ceri Evans, Director of Partnerships and Development had requested a meeting with a small group of councillors to touch base and introduce themselves.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to invite Richard Hughes and Ceri Evans to a future full council meeting as they would like them to meet everyone.

**82/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ORDINARY MEETING**

The September 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

**83/25-26    TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2025 ORDINARY MEETING**

**Minute 61/25-26 Matters Arising from the July 2025 Meeting**

**Bench/Planters:** the bench on Bridgend Road has been reinstalled at the right height. The planters are too heavy to move so have been left in position. They are evenly spaced so do not look out of place.

**Steps Project Pontycmer:** Councillor H Griffiths had made a referral, but was not present to give an update.

**Bettws Font:** The Tommy hasn't been installed nor quotes obtained as a licence hasn't been received and the council is having a battle with the quick growing brambles despite them being treated.

**Correspondence:** the Clerk has not yet received the insurance document from Carn Rovers.

**Minute 68/25-26 Bus Service**

Coity Higher Community Council have agreed to join the working party being arranged by St Brides Minor Community Council. The other councils invited to collaborate are raising this as an agenda item in September.

**Minute 72/25-26 Borough and Ward Reports**

A quote of £1,000 has been received for a bus stop mural in Llangeinor and the quote has been accepted by the Llangeinor councillors. Councillor Lloyd will ask at the next school governors meeting if the children can draw designs they'd like to see on it and these will be passed to the artist to work from.

**Minute 74/25-26 Correspondence**

The Clerk has applied for an orchard fruit tree pack from Keep Wales Tidy to fulfil the previously discussed partnership between GVCC and Calon y Cwm CIC in planting a community orchard on Victoria Street.

**Resolved:** All information was noted and action of the Clerk approved. The Clerk was asked to include the Bus Service working party as an October agenda item.

**84/25-26    CRIME FIGURES JULY AND AUGUST 2025**

PCSO J Elliott was due to attend the meeting, but had to cancel.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**85/25-26    Christmas 2025 (BETTWS CONCERT AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SCHOOLS)**

Neither Councillors M Trowbridge nor C Lloyd were present at the meeting. Councillor Trowbridge had informed the Clerk that she had spoken and emailed Ogmore Male Voice Choir and is awaiting confirmation that they can attend the Bettws ward Christmas

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

Concert on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Councillor C Lloyd had also suggested to the Clerk that a warm hat would be a good gift for the children this year, the Clerk had sourced some at £1.79 each. The Clerk and Councillor Lloyd have arranged to meet in early October to visit a local warehouse to see what's available.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. It was agreed that the cost of buying hats for all the primary school children at £1,342.50 was acceptable.

### **86/25-26 UPDATE ON THE LAKES**

Councillors M Lewis, H Griffiths, J Coles, C Lloyd and the Clerk and Warden had met with a BCBC Highways Officer to discuss the proposed work on the lakes. They'd been informed that the work would start mid-September and the Clerk would be kept up to date on progress. The Officer had also confirmed that the grant funding covered all costs and there is no expected contribution from the community council. Councillor J Coles expressed his concern about the bird life, but had spoken to the Warden who had no concerns.

**Resolved:** To date there has been no update and there is an automatic out-of-office reply on the Highways Officer's email until later in the month.

### **87/25-26 COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL 25/26**

The Clerk informed Members that the annual insurance is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> October. The renewal cost is £3,764.11 and the Clerk had completed a pre-renewal questionnaire and held a meeting with a representative of the company. Some amendments had been made to the following effect:

- Key person cover increased to £400
- General Contents reduced to £5,000
- Outside equipment increased to £20,000
- Gates and fences added £50,000
- Street Furniture reduced to £103,693
- MUGA added to other surfaces increasing it to £245,530
- Civic regalia added £4,500
- Confirmed responsibility for the bike trails and two lakes

**Resolved:** The renewal price and amendments were accepted and the Clerk was given authority to pay the annual renewal.

**88/25-26 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 24/25**

The Clerk had drafted an annual report for 2024/2025 and this was discussed.

**Resolved:** The Draft Annual Report for 2024/25 was approved and accepted and the Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's website. There was one amendment to change Councillor D Davies from Independent to Reform.

**89/25-26 DRAFT TRAINING PLAN 25/26**

The Clerk had drafted a Training Plan for 2025/26 though there had been no requests for training to date.

**Resolved:** The draft Training Plan for 2025/26 was approved and accepted and the Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's website.

**90/25-26 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**Payments:** Authority was requested for the payments for August and September presented totalling £13,526.05 and £7,439.99.

**Income:** There was no income in the month.

**External Audit:** No conclusion of audit had been received and no questions asked to date.

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

**91/25-26 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS**

**Councillor Deb Davies:** the Clerk had submitted referrals to BCBC regarding drainage issues at Pont yr Hyl and the Miner's lamp not lit on Llangeinor Square. Councillor Davies informed Members about a Stand up to Falls event being held by Care & Repair at the Richard Price Centre on 16<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00 am.

**Councillors J Coles/D Williams:** had attended a meeting with Yiota Haramblos of REACH. They informed Members that the next step in the Garw project is for REACH to engage the services of consultants and conduct community engagement to obtain a public response. Both councillors had offered to hand deliver papers to residents. Councillor Coles reported a dropped sewer hole in Pont yr Hyl.

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

**Councillor L Thomas:** said he'd been asked by children for a skatepark in Bettws. It was noted that when the new Bettws Primary School was built part of the agreement had been to replace the skatepark removed for the building.

**Councillor G Walters:** raised concerns about the clearing of the old Blaengarw Secondary Modern school and the possibility of houses being built there.

**Councillor M Lewis:** said she was giving updates on her ward and borough roles in one. Councillor Lewis gave updates on the drainage and resurfacing work being conducted on King Edward and Victoria Street.

Councillor Lewis said there has been a lot of comments on social media recently asking where all the BCBC money goes. Councillor Lewis informed members that £1m a month is spent on home-to-school transport in the borough.

**Resolved:** All information was noted and all matters discussed. The Clerk would report the dropped sewer hole. The Clerk was asked to write to Cabinet Member for Education and Bettws Councillor, Martyn Jones, to enquire about the replacement. Councillor D Davies will provide the Clerk with some documentation about the matter.

### **92/25-26 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair had hosted the T&CC Chairs & Clerks meeting at the Richard Price Centre on 9<sup>th</sup> September. It had been an interesting meeting with lots of promising ideas shared. One of the ideas had been for councils to write up a Skills Register, so that the Clerk has knowledge of what skills are within the council to call on them if needed. Councillor L Thomas said he is IOSH trained and is qualified in risk assessing.

Councillor Lewis gave Members some information on a meeting being organized by a local resident to discuss the bottom half of the community route at the Vets Pontycymer on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7.00 pm.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

### **93/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

**Remembrance Wreaths:** the Clerk asked Members how many they wanted to order this year.

**Reported this month:** two items ref. the Llangeinor ward mentioned above and the Clerk reported overhanging branches and foliage from land to the side of Bettws Primary School over Bradley House's driveway.

**Fly Posting:** Councillor D Williams has removed the remains of a banner fly posted on the side of the electrical sub station on The Strand.

**Fly Tipping Lluest:** a report had been received of a sofa fly tipped on the sitting out area in Lluest. A contractor was asked to inspect and remove the sofa, but on inspection a local resident came out and said he'd left it there as he'd paid BCBC to collect it as bulky waste.

**Spring Bulbs:** All were asked to collect their daffodil bulbs asap from the Warden due to a lack of storage space. The tulips for Bettws will arrive in the coming weeks. An error had been made by the Clerk in the order and there is a spare sack of daffodils.

**Llangeinor Square:** it was noted that it's covered in weeds.

**T&CC Liaison Officer at BCBC:** the Clerk has been informed that the person who has taken up this role will be introduced to members of the T&CC Forum on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Annual Leave:** the Clerk reminded Members of her annual leave dates in late September.

**Room/Cupboard Hire:** the Clerk is running out of home office space and had made enquiries about renting some space at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall to store archive files. This had been negotiated and the council were asked to contribute £10 a month towards the cost. The Clerk's other two employers had also agreed to contribute.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to order 5 wreaths - 1 each for Llangeinor, Blaengarw and Bettws and 2 for Pontycymer. Councillor Lewis will attend the service in Pontycymer. The Pontycymer ward said they would utilise the spare sack of daffodils. Councillor M Lewis will put in a referral about Llangeinor Square.

## **94/25-26 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.

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

The Clerk highlighted the following:

- T&CC Forum meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 at 4.00 pm
- Statement of Licensing Policy & Cumulative Impact Assessment Consultation
- Blue Badge Charging Traffic Regulation Order
- Awen Cultural Trust - proposal for Light Garden Event PC Lan. A financial request will follow.
- Bridleway User - request to cut back footpath
- Thank you from Cwm Garw Fun Palace for a donation
- Cerebral Palsy Wales - request for funding

**Resolved:** All information was noted. Awen's use of PC Lan for a Light Garden Event was approved subject to the receipt of a risk assessment and a copy of their public liability insurance. The footpath has been cut back by the Warden. The request from Cerebral Palsy Wales was deferred to March 2026.

### **95/25-26 PLANNING MATTERS**

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

In total of 6 planning requests had been received and there were 3 decision and 0 appeals. Planning Aid Wales had sent out two items of correspondence via email.

One other planning matter - a PAC Consultation on Land off Betws Road, Bettws invited comments by 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Councillor L Thomas said the number of proposed houses has increased and was concerned whether Bettws had the right infrastructure for additional residents.

**Resolved:** All information received was noted. There were no comments on the PAC Consultation.

### **96/25-26 STAFF CONFIDENTIAL**

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

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

### **97/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2025 ORDINARY MEETING**

- The Strand Project
- Christmas Update (Concert & Gifts)

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

- Staff Confidential
- Quotes and Tendering with a view to precept setting
- Conclusion of Audit 24/25
- Bus Service Working Party
- To Welcome Representatives of Awen Cultural Trust

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

**The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor and via zoom.**

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm