



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 20th OCTOBER 2025 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor M Lewis (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles

D Davies

H Griffiths

C Lloyd

G Lloyd

N Harwood Scorer (from 6.37 pm)

L Thomas (up to 8.35 pm)

M Trowbridge (up to 8.50 pm)

D Williams

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, W Davies and
G Walters

Also Present: PCSO M Rees (up to item 6), R
Thomas (up to item and A Harris (Clerk & RFO

98/25-26 Apologies (as above)

99/25-26 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Christmas Gifts for Schools Director	Vice-Chair Tynyrheol School Governors Richard Price Centre
H Griffiths	Ffaldau Primary School All BCBC Matters incl. planning	Chair of Governors Borough Councillor
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Calon y Cwm CIC	Member Director
C Lloyd	Richard Price Centre	Volunteer
G Lloyd	Richard Price Centre	Volunteer
D Williams	Awen Cultural Trust	Volunteer at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall

100/25-26 TO RECEIVE RHIAN THOMAS, HALO LEISURE

The Chair welcomed Rhian Thomas to the meeting. The summer Active for Life schedule and attendance record had been provided to councillors prior to the meeting and these were discussed. A request was made by Halo for the council to consider including £9,650 in the council's precept budget for 26/27 as a contribution towards running the scheme in 2026.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to consider including £9,650 in the precept budget for 26/27 as a contribution towards running the scheme in 2026. The Clerk will contact Halo once the precept has been set in December to inform them of the outcome.

101/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER ORDINARY MEETING

The October 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the October 2025 Ordinary Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair. With one correction that Councillor D Davies is added to the list of councillors in attendance at the meeting as this had been omitted in error.

102/25-26 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 81/25-26 Blaengarw Workmen's Hall

Richard Hughes and Ceri Evans of Awen Cultural Trust have accepted the council's invitation attend the November ordinary meeting to touch base and introduce themselves.

Minute 83/25-26 Matters Arising from the September 2025 Ordinary Meeting

Bettws Font: the licence for the land has been received so once the fight with the brambles is won the Clerk can obtain quotes for the monolith. In addition, the Warden can now install the Tommy Silhouette to the fence at the back.

Borough Ward Reports: the Head of Tynyrheol primary school has confirmed the children's drawings for the bus shelters will be received in the next week.

Correspondence: the council's application for an orchard fruit tree pack from Keep Wales Tidy had met the criteria, however the council had been unable to obtain confirmation of permission to use the land from BCBC in time and had missed the opportunity. This was discussed.

Minute 86/25-26 Update on the Lakes

Further to the meeting held with BCBC on 14th August 2025 no further information has been given. Council were told at that meeting that work was likely to start in mid September but despite chasing an update none had been given. The Clerk asked if council were mindful to go ahead with the proposed pond weed removal and reed cut back in late autumn?

Minute 91/25-26 Borough and Ward Reports

The Clerk had not yet written to Councillor Martyn Jones regarding a replacement MUGA/skatepark as she had not received the documentation on this matter from Councillor Deb Davies.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to purchase 8 fruit trees and work in partnership with Calon y Cwm to plant a community orchard. It was unanimously agreed not to go ahead with the proposed lake works and move that money into the project budget line as it would be a waste of money as the desilting works is planned to take place soon. Councillor Deb Davies was reminded to provide the Clerk with the documentation.

103/25-26 CRIME FIGURES SEPTEMBER 2025

The crime figures had been circulated with the meeting papers. PCSO Rees explained the damage and violence against a person figures. Halloween and Bonfire Night were also discussed.

Resolved: The information was noted.

104/25-26 CHRISTMAS 2025 (BETTWS CONCERT AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SCHOOLS)

Concert:

Councillor Michelle Trowbridge confirmed that the concert will take place on 4th December at Bettws Primary School and that both Bettws schools will take part along with the Ogmre Valley Male Voice Choir. The price of tickets were discussed and where they would be sold. Advertising materials were also discussed.

Gifts:

Councillor Chris Lloyd and the Clerk had purchased warm winter hats and a small toy from the Cash & Carry. The Clerk would purchase Christmas gift bags. The total cost is £1,210.58 including VAT.

A gift sorting event will be organised in November for councillors to meet and bag the gifts and deliver to the schools in their wards.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to charge £3 per adult ticket, children would be free. Councillor Deb Davies agreed to produce the poster, tickets and programme. The information and cost of the gifts for schools was unanimously agreed.

105/25-26 THE STRAND PROJECT

Councillor Maxine Lewis proposed that the council obtains quotes to install railings along the front wall of the Strand and the Warden removes the shrubs. This was discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for the works to be considered as a community project at the next council meeting.

106/25-26 STEPS PROJECT

The council has previously applied for BCBC T&CC grant funding for this project which was not successful as BCBC said the steps were not their land and were privately owned. The Clerk has now been informed by BCBC that there was an error in their system and the steps are owned by BCBC. BCBC has now offered the council either a licence or a CAT transfer. This information was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to request a licence from BCBC for the council to carry out the work which could be funded from the projects budget line. It was also agreed that SW Contractors/Centre Great's quotes will be accepted.

107/25-26 REACH PROJECT UPDATE

Councillors J Coles and D Williams gave an update. A further meeting with the consultants has been arranged on 22nd October which the Clerk will also attend. Confirmation was needed by REACH that the council is happy to move to the next step of consultation; there is no cost to be bourn by GVCC. The Clerk had noted that the Pump Park did not form part of the tender and had spoken to REACH about this

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that REACH could move to the next step of consultation as there is no cost to be bourn by GVCC. The council reiterated its desire to include a Pump Park, a new bike trail and an outdoor natural play area along with the other items already identified at the initial meeting with REACH.

108/25-26 BUS SERVICE WORKING PARTY UPDATE

The Clerk gave feedback on the results of the interest of T&CC councils to be part of a working party. Coity Higher CC, Garw Valley CC, St Brides Minor CC, Ynysawdre CC, Newcastle Higher CC, Pencoed TC and Coychurch Higher CC had expressed an interest. The first working group meeting will meet on 6th November.

Resolved: The information was noted.

109/25-26 QUOTES AND TENDERING WITH A VIEW TO PRECEPT SETTING

This had been put on the agenda due to the changes to Financial Regulations in December 2024. Items affected were discussed, some would prove difficult to obtain.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to obtain 3 fixed price quotes for the environmental maintenance, floral displays and Christmas provision in time for precept setting.

110/25-26 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments: Authority was requested for the payments for October presented totalling £17,175.84. The balance carried forward is £124,009.52.

Income: Income of £120 had been received as a refund for an overcharge for spring bulbs.

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

Financial Request: A request had been received on behalf of four schools in the valley towards the cost of a school trip in the Spiegel Theatre, Cardiff; a cost of £10,294.

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

unanimously agreed to donate £3,375 towards the school trip to cover the cost of the 9 buses. The Clerk was asked to inform the school that a maximum of £3,375 would be donated and if less coaches were needed they would donate the lower amount.

111/25-26 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: gave updates on road works, water leaks and drainage.

Councillor M Trowbridge: said there had been issues with overgrowth from St David's Church into the pavement, concerns continue with the land on the main road up to the top road from the Oddfellows, plans for spring bulb planting and proposed litter picking which did not go ahead.

Councillor N Harwood Scorer: raised a concern about overgrown trees and foliage to the side of Bettws Primary School into a private drive and his first meeting as a school governor.

Councillor Deb Davies: said the resurfacing on Heol Llangeinor has been completed. There were grass cutting issues in the village. Hedgerows had been cut back on New Road and a tree to the side of the Richard Price Centre had fallen on to a car. Electric charging points are being considered for the RP Centre car park and two Llangeinor bus shelters, 1 in Lluest and 1 in Llangeinor village, will be decorated like the ones in Pontycymer. Tynyrheol primary school children will be asked to draw designs.

Councillors J Coles/D Williams: said that they're going to write a Blaengarw monthly newsletter and deliver it themselves. They asked full council agreement for the Clerk to print them on the council's copier.

Councillor L Thomas: raised concerns from resident about speeding vehicles on Shwt hill; he had referred them to BCBC's consultation.

Councillor G Lloyd: said it was good to see the hedgerow overgrowth from Shwt village to the junction with Bridgend Road had been cut back.

Resolved: All information was noted and all matters discussed. The Clerk was given authority to print the Blaengarw newsletters.

112/25-26 CHAIR'S REPORT

Councillor Maxine Lewis had attended Bridgend Town Council's civic service at Nolton Church. It had been a lovely event.

Resolved: The information was noted.

113/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Brithdir Farm Moelgilau Road, Bettws: the Clerk has been notified of a tree across a path which needs removal.

SLA Letter to BCBC from the T&CC Chairs & Clerks Meeting: the Clerk reported that after some months the letter has now been agreed by 14 of the T&CC councils and sent to BCBC's CEO. The CEO has asked the T&CC Liaison Officer to set up a working group of representatives of T&CCs and BCBC to look into it. The next meeting of this group will be held on 23rd October.

Owain Glyndwr Day: following last month's request to put up a banner to mark this day it appears it is a flag not a banner so the Clerk has explained we do not have a flag pole to fly this.

Tommy Silhouette Bettws: the Warden has been asked to install this prior to Remembrance Day on 9th November and to cut the grass around the war memorial in Pontycymer.

Electoral Boundary Review: this is on the agenda of the next BCBC full council meeting to be held on 22nd October.

Use of Parc Calon Lan: the Clerk asked school governors to ask their schools to notify the council if they are bringing buses of schoolchildren to the site for forest activities. Buses had turned up recently and the Warden was not expecting them, it was just fortunate that he was working near the Visitor Centre and was there to open up the toilet facilities.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to contact the Rights of Way Manager to arrange for the fallen tree to be removed.

114/25-26 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:

- Submission of the Draft Annual Remuneration Report 2026/27
- Deputy Leader Christmas Donation Letter 2025
- Bridgend Town Council - invitation to the Chair to attend their Civic Service
- Bridgend Carers Wellbeing Service - request to publish a poster
- Resident - request to resurface a road to the side of Lluest garage
- Resident - request to prune one of the small trees located in the Pocket Park, Pantygog
- Wales Air Ambulance - project update and appeal for funding
- Hope Rescue - update on the charity and a request for funding
- Garw Valley Federation of Schools - request for permission to use woodland area for Forest School sessions.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Chair had accepted Bridgend Town Council's invite to their Civic Service, the Bridgend Carers Wellbeing Service could be published on the council's website, the request to resurface a road had been passed on to a borough councillor to refer, the request to prune trees in the pocket park had not been agreed and the two funding appeals would be deferred to March 2026. The request to use an area of Parc Calon Lan for forest school sessions was agreed, subject to receipt of a risk assessment and a copy of public liability insurance, the Clerk was asked to ask the Forest School Leader to speak to the Warden.

115/25-26 PLANNING MATTERS

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

No planning requests had been received and there were 3 decision and 1 appeal. Planning Aid Wales had sent out 4 items of correspondence via email.

Resolved: All information received was noted.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 20th OCTOBER 2025

116/25-26 STAFF CONFIDENTIAL

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

Resolved: The information was noted.

Note: Standing Orders were suspended at 9.00 pm

117/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

- Project Ideas for inclusion in the Precept Discussions for 2026/27
- T&CC Liaison Officer attend the November 2025 meeting
- Representatives of Awen Cultural Trust attend the November 2025 meeting

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

The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 17th November 2025 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.03 pm