



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

**MINUTES OF THE PRECEPT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT TANIO, BETTWYS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor M Lewis (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews (via zoom)

J Coles

W Davies

H Griffiths

C Lloyd

G Lloyd

L Thomas (from 6.45 pm)

M Trowbridge

G Walters (via zoom)

D Williams

Apologies: Councillors D Davies & N Harwood  
Scorer

Also Present: None

136/25-26 Apologies (as above)

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### **137/25-26 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
H Griffiths	Ffaldau Primary School All BCBC Matters incl. planning Ysgol Cymunedol y Dderwen	Chair of Governors Borough Councillor Governor
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Calon y Cwm CIC	Member Director
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor
D Williams	Awen Cultural Trust	Volunteer at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall

### **138/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER ORDINARY MEETING**

The November 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

### **139/25-26 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NOVEMBER 2025 ORDINARY MEETING**

#### **Minute 134/25-26 Matters Arising from the September 2025 Ordinary Meeting**

**Green Space behind Bettws Font:** the Warden had visited the site to assess the bramble roots to make a treatment plan; whilst he was there he tidied up the area of bramble roots, cut the grass and removed litter.

**Minute 129 Borough and Ward Reports:** the Clerk asked if all daffodil bulbs had now been collected from the Warden; Pontycymer's were still uncollected and Councillor H Griffiths will report on the response from Ffaldau School at the next meeting.

**Resolved:** All information was noted.

### **140/25-26 CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEEDBACK**

Councillor M Trowbridge gave feedback on the concert. All had been amazed at the turnout which included the Mayor of Bridgend ad Huw Irranca Davies AS. It was noted that there had been a mix up with the programmes which was a great pity as that is most work out of all the arrangements made. The Clerk had emailed Councillor D Davies to ask if there were any costs in publishing the programme which the council needed to repay, but had not received a reply. The Chair said it had been an honour to attend, that the children from both schools were excellent and thanked Councillor

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Trowbridge for all her hard work in organising the event and thanked those that helped on the night.

The surplus mince pies etc. had been donated to Bettws Church.

**Resolved:** Councillor Trowbridge asked if any money made could be used towards the Bettws Church roof fund, but this was not possible as the costs of the concert were paid out of the Events budget line and so the money for ticket purchases would be paid back in to replenish that budget line.

### **141/25-26 TO DRAFT A PRECEPT FOR 2026/27**

The Finance Committee's draft budget had been included in the meeting papers along with BCBC's letter giving the net equivalent tax base for the GVCC area which had been calculated at 2311.67. The Clerk went through every budget line and gave an explanation and answered any questions raised. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed to request a precept for 26/27 of £136,816. A precept weekly increase of £0.05p (4.3%). The Clerk would make the request to BCBC. The Community Projects would be decided after April 2026 when the end of year balance c/f is known, only one project had been put forward for this funding; metal railings to the front of the Strand.

### **142/25-26 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS including FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Payments:** Authority was requested for the payments for December presented totalling £7,110.20. The balance carried forward is £96,863.21.

**Income:** No income had been received in the month.

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

**Finance Committee Recommendations:** the following recommendations were made by the Chair of Finance Committee, Councillor Heather Griffiths:

- To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held in December 2024
- That there were no threats to the 25/26 budget
- To recommend a draft precept of £136,816 to full council
- To agree the date of the next Finance Committee meeting as late March/early April 2026 if there is a need for a meeting as the budget is reviewed every month at full council meeting.

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

### **143/25-26 URGENT BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS**

**Councillor H Griffiths:** due to the heavy rain there had been lots of drainage issues to deal with.

**Councillor L Thomas:** raised a concern with an area at Woodland Close on the bottom housing estate where there are steps and no lighting columns. He asked how this could be made safe.

**Councillor M Trowbridge:** gave details of an act of vandalism; the plants had been removed from the 3 tier planter and thrown all over the street, some were up on top of the bus shelter roof etc. Councillor Trowbridge had replaced the plants she could find with her bare hands and a young lady from a nearby house had helped by sweeping up the mess. It was noted that the Clerk had contacted the gardening contractor who will visit the location on Tuesday and replace the plants. Councillor Trowbridge also reported that one of the Christmas column motifs was not working along Bettws Road.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. The Clerk would contact V2C regarding the steps and ask if a strip could be painted on the steps to highlight them. The Clerk would report the column motif the following day.

### **144/25-26 URGENT ITEMS FOR THE CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair has been informed that the PC Lan lake de-silting will now start in February 2026. She had written to the Highways Officer to express her concerns about the delay and impact on nesting birds. The Clerk read out the response from BCBC. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** The information was noted and it was unanimously agreed that the Chair would write to BCBC on behalf of the full council to express their concerns.

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### 145/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

**T&CC Forum:** The T&CC Liaison Officer had sent out a short poll asking councils what day of the week and what time they preferred to see the meetings held?

**Steps Pontycymer:** the Clerk confirmed that the CAT Officer has said that the works cannot commence until the licence is in place and the Heads of Terms will be sent out shortly.

**Bus Shelter Murals Llangeinor Ward:** the one in Lluest has been completed and the one in Llangeinor will be completed as soon as the walls of the bus shelter dry out. All the social media feedback has been positive.

**Annual Leave:** the Clerk updated members on some annual leave dates being taken in December.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. It was unanimously agreed that any time or date would depend on the representative's circumstances, though later in the day would be best.

### 146/25-26 URGENT 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:

- OVW - AGM Motions for Debate and review of their Constitution
- OVW - free councillor training.
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru - financial request
- Gareth Kiddie Associated - correspondence regarding the REACH project consultation
- Wild Spaces - update to say their butterfly conservation funding application had been unsuccessful

**Resolved:** All information and closing dates were noted. All were asked to give any comments to the Chair on the Motions for Debate and the review of the OVW Constitution to the Chair prior to her attending the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Councillor Williams has taken up the two free training places. The Urdd Gobaith

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Cymru request is deferred to the March 2026 meeting. The Clerk gave an update on the REACH project.

### **147/25-26 URGENT PLANNING MATTERS**

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

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

**Resolved:** All information received was noted.

### **148/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY 2026 ORDINARY MEETING**

- Community Bus Webinar Feedback (DW)
- Draft Biodiversity Report
- Council School Governor Vacancy Tynyrheol Primary School

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

**The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Tanio, Bettws and via zoom.**

**NOTE:** Councillor Glyn Walters gave his apologies for the February 2026 meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.42 pm