



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT TANIO, BETTWS AND VIA
ZOOM ON MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2026 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor M Lewis (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews (via zoom)

D Davies (via zoom)

W Davies

H Griffiths

C Lloyd

G Lloyd

L Thomas

D Williams

Apologies: Councillors J Coles, N Harwood
Scorer, M Trowbridge and G Walters

Also Present: None

165/25-26 Apologies (as above)

166/25-26 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre	Director
H Griffiths	Ffaldau Primary School All BCBC Matters incl. planning Ysgol Cymunedol y Dderwen	Governor 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 Events Committee/Purchase of Equipment	Volunteer at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall Provider

167/25-26 PROTOCOL REMINDER

The Clerk reminded members of the purpose of the Borough and Ward Reports. This item is on the agenda so that councillors can update the meeting on events they've attended on behalf of the council such as the OVW area meetings, T&CC Forum meeting, working groups etc. or if a councillor has a referral they wish to request from a borough member. It is not an opportunity to give an update on everything that's going on in the wards. If a ward matter is important and needs a discussion it should be requested as an item for the next agenda.

Resolved: The reminder was noted.

168/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2026 ORDINARY MEETING

The January 2026 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the January 2026 Ordinary Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

169/25-26 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY 2026 MEETING

Minute 152/25-26 Consider Matters Arising from the December 2025 Precept Meeting

Green Space Bettws: Despite the resolution at the January meeting not to progress this matter further, one of the stone masons called to arrange a site visit for another project and the Clerk visited the Bettws site with him to obtain a quote for the work. The Clerk updated councillors on the feedback including the cost of a crane to lift the monolith into place. An alternative design had been suggested too. The Clerk had also received a response to a planning enquiry. Councillor L Thomas agreed to pass on the

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 16th FEBRUARY 2026

planning information and the photo of an alternative design to Councillor M Trowbridge for information.

Daffodils: these have been collected.

Lakes: the BCBC Officer is meeting with the contractor later in the week and will update GVCC immediately afterwards, it is hoped the work will start soon.

Minute 157/25-26 Working in Partnership with V2C in Bettws

The Clerk had received the background information the previous day and had written to the CEO.

Minute 159/25-26 Borough and Ward Reports

The Clerk had written to Awen Cultural Trust and is awaiting a response. Councillors M Lewis and H Griffiths gave an update on the funding for the font.

Minute 162/25-26 Correspondence

The National Forest Wales information had been sent out to all. Councillor Griffiths and the Warden had responded but the items the Warden suggested were not eligible. The Clerk suggested putting in a request to develop a woodland management plan which could form part of an updated tree management policy.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk's information on the green space was noted and the resolution from the January 2026 to not progress this matter further is still valid. It was agreed that the Clerk could put in a bid to develop a woodland management plan.

170/25-26 CRIME FIGURES JANUARY 2026

Due to illness there was no SW Police PCSOs at the meeting. Councillor H Griffiths had been informed that there'd been a further reshuffle of the PCSOs.

Resolved: The crime figures were noted. The Clerk was asked to find out who the PCSOs are for the valley and let councillors and the Warden know.

171/25-26 COUNCIL SCHOOL GOVERNOR VACANCY GARW FEDERATION

The Chair asked if anyone had any interest in putting their name forward for this vacancy; only Councillor David Williams wished to be considered.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that Councillor David Williams would be the council's representative governor on the Garw Federation.

172/25-26 PANTYGOG PLAY AREA

Councillor Maxine Lewis raised her concerns and said that this play area needs replacing.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 16th FEBRUARY 2026

Access was discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to meet with a play area installer on site to see how the work could be carried out given the limited access.

173/25-26 LAND AT HILL VIEW, PONTYCYMER

Councillor Maxine Lewis brought this area of land to the council's attention and asked members if they would consider a CAT of this land.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to set up a site visit for all to see the land and consider the idea put forward.

174/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 2026 T&CC FORUM AGENDA

Councillors had been asked to bring suggestions for agenda items to the meeting.

Resolved: There were no items put forward for inclusion on the T&CC Forum agenda.

175/25-26 ASSERTATION 10 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Whilst this is not yet statutory in Wales, at a recent Clerks meeting it was noted that some T&CCs have already started preparing for this to become statutory in Wales within the next few years. The purpose of this item is to raise council's awareness of this assertion and to be aware of the costs the council will incur when these changes are in place and the council must meet these data compliances. These include: a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain i.e. .gov.uk.,org.uk etc., legal requirements for existing websites, processing personal data, IT Policy,

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would investigate what's needed and the costs which will be incurred for information purposes and until such time as the council is officially notified of these changes.

176/25-26 EVENTS COMMITTEE/PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT

Councillor David Williams explained his wish to purchase items to enable him to offer team gaming sessions to the primary schools, youth clubs etc in the area. The idea was discussed.

Resolved: It was resolved that Councillor Williams could offer these services as part of the Events Committee and the items would be purchased and remain Events Committee items.

177/25-26 FLASHING SCHOOL LIGHTS BLAENGARW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Councillor Maxine Lewis had previously mentioned the accident outside Blaengarw Primary School. BCBC are currently obtaining a quote for the installation of flashing lights outside the school to support existing signage and had been asked if the council could consider a donation towards the cost, which is not yet known. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that whilst the council supports any safety measures being put in place at Blaengarw Primary School, safety items including lights should be provided by the Education Directorate at BCBC.

178/25-26 GRASS CUTTING AND FLORAL DISPLAY QUOTES FOR 2026

4 quotes had been requested from various contractors for grass cutting in Bettws and Blaengarw and floral displays. These were discussed.

Resolved: Despite the two quotes for floral displays not being close in price, it was unanimously agreed to approve quotes from the following as the provision and quality of plants and service were known from D Thomas.

- Grass cutting - Evans Garden Services
- Floral Displays - D Thomas

179/25-26 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 24/25

Payments: Authority was requested for the payments for February 2026 presented totalling £7,404.70. The balance carried forward £83,655.53.

Income: No income had been received in the month.

Conclusion of Audit: An unqualified audit had been received with 4 recommendations

Resolved: All information was noted. Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheets presented. The budget monitoring sheets were approved. The Conclusion of audit was accepted and the Clerk was thanked for her work. The 4 recommendations would be addressed.

180/25-26 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: reported a residential disturbance, pot hole reporting, litter bin matters and a report of buses driving onto a grassed area at Woodlands Close, Bettws.

Councillor C Lloyd: had attended the OVW Larger Councils Committee meeting and gave updates on bus franchises and school transport discussed at the meeting along with biodiversity packages that can be lent to schools.

Councillor G Lloyd: raised the concerns of residents about the number of large pot holes.

Councillor L Thomas: reported an overgrown Hawthorn bush near the surgery/post office in Bettws.

Councillor D Davies: reported water issues, pot holes complaints and drainage matters.

Councillor G Andrews: reported the gas works are causing traffic issues in Blaengarw.

Pot holes continue to be an issue for residents across the valley.

Resolved: All information was noted. Councillor Griffiths will refer the Hawthorn bush and make further pot hole referrals. Councillor Lewis will report the traffic issues.

181/25-26 CHAIR'S REPORT

Had reported a small landslip in the valley to NRW.

Resolved: The information was noted.

182/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Miners' Lamp Llangeinor: the lights have remained on during the day since Christmas. The Clerk has reported it to BCBC and asked them to investigate.

Bin Pontyrhyl: the council's bin, bought from Llangeinor ward funds, has been removed from outside the bus shelter at Pontyrhyl despite it clearly being branded as GVCC's property. It has been replaced with a dog waste bin so there is no longer a general litter bin for use by schoolchildren using the bus shelter.

Calon Lan Plaque: the Chair and Clerk had met with a stonemason to look at installing the plaque on the Strand, mounted on a stone plinth of some kind. However the plaque is not slate and it was suggested it would be best placed on a wall as they are not confident in the material. Councillor Lewis was disappointed the plaque marked Daniel James' death and not his life.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 16th FEBRUARY 2026

Steps Pontycymer: BCBC has confirmed that planning permission is not required for the solar lights at this site.

Bench Meadow Street: this has been ordered and a licence sought.

Bus Shelter Murals: the weather has hindered the painting of the bus shelter on the main road in Llangeinor. It is hoped that with some dry weather it will dry out and the work can be completed prior to year end.

Tree Maintenance and Overgrowth PC Lan: the Warden has identified work within the park which needs to be carried out. Quotes had been obtained and the details were discussed.

Pre-election Period: The Clerk reminded members that the Senedd will be dissolved at one minute past midnight on Wednesday 8th April 2026 and the pre-election period will begin on that day. GVCC meetings will continue as usual however councillors should be mindful of this pre-election period.

T&CC Clerks Meeting held at BTC: the Clerk had attended this meeting on 28th January which had been useful and attended by 8 Clerks and 1 Assistant Clerk. It was agreed that the meeting will take place on a quarterly basis, that Jake Morgan will be invited to the net meeting, that nothing will be taken forward on the Charter update until after the 2026 elections, that the group is looking into having a shared space so that any useful policies or documents can be placed there for Clerks to share.

T&CC Chairs & Clerks Meeting held at BTC: the Chair and Clerk had attended this meeting on 29th January which had been attended by 9 T&CCs. The next meeting will be hosted by Ynysawdre CC at Sarn Library on 19th March. Items discussed were the local Boundary Review, CAT Process, slow responses to FOIs, Town Twinning, Protocols for wearing chains, a shared platform, Assertion 10 etc.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to contact BCBC to enquire where the bin had gone? The Warden would be asked to install the plaque on the wall in the Strand. The quote from ARB Cymru for the tree work was accepted and the Clerk was asked to get the work completed asap.

183/25-26 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:

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 16th FEBRUARY 2026

- Rights of Way overgrowth on bridleway 16 and manure on footpath 14 in Bettws.
- CAT Officer enquiry ref. access track at Carn Park
- Resident request to use PC Lan on 28th February for a gender reveal party
- Tanio request to use PC Lan on 6th August for a Forest Arts session
- RPM Display - information on a bicycle stunt show they can offer
- Levan Ecology - request for suggestions of a receptor site for any reptiles found on a client's site in Pontycymer
- CCYD - request for funding for their school production
- Cllr M Jones - email ref discussion at the previous ordinary meeting
- Gareth Kiddie Associates - update on community survey for REACH project
- Standards Committee - attendance at March Ordinary Meeting.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Warden has carried out the maintenance to bridleway 16, the Clerk has reported the mess on footpath 14 to the Rights of Way department who will inspect. Councillor M Lewis is dealing with the CAT Officer enquiry. Permission is granted for the gender reveal party following confirmation that the items being used are environmentally friendly and permission is subject to the area being cleaned up after use. Permission is granted to Tanio subject to the Warden being on site, a risk assessment received in advance of the event and a copy of their public liability insurance being given to the Clerk in advance. The Clerk was asked to find out more about the bicycle stunt show and the cost. The Warden has spoken to and carried out a site visit with the representative of Levan Ecology and has found a suitable location to place any reptiles that are found at the site. The Chair asked for the use of PC Lan for Gender Reveal Events to be on the next agenda.

184/25-26 PLANNING MATTERS

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

3 planning request had been received and there were 2 decisions and 0 appeals. 5 Planning Aid Wales had sent out items of correspondence via email.

Resolved: All information received was noted.

185/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 2026 ORDINARY MEETING

- Draft Sexual Harassment Policy
- Draft Lone Worker Policy
- Deferred Financial Requests for 25/26
- PCLan use for Gender Reveals

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 16th FEBRUARY 2026

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

The date for the next Meeting is Monday 16th March 2026 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Halo Leisure, Pontycymer and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 7.57 pm