



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 19th JANUARY 2026 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor M Lewis (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews (via zoom)

J Coles

D Davies (via zoom up to 8.13 pm)

W Davies

H Griffiths

C Lloyd

G Lloyd

M Trowbridge

G Walters (via zoom up to 7.30 pm)

D Williams

Apologies: Councillors N Harwood Scorer and L Thomas

Also Present: None

149/25-26 Apologies (as above)

150/25-26 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Interest</u>
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
D Williams	Awen Cultural Trust	Volunteer at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall

151/25-26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2025 PRECEPT MEETING

The December 2025 Precept Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the December 2025 Precept Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

152/25-26 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER 2026 PRECEPT MEETING

Minute 139/25-26 Consider Matters Arising from the November 2025 Ordinary Meeting

Green space behind Bettws Font: the treated brambles appear to be dead, though they may re-grow. There has been some vandalism on the green space with the two remembrance wreaths removed from the Tommy/fencing and thrown around.

The Clerk has approached another two monumental masons and is waiting to hear back from them to attend the site and provide a quote for the monolith. The council's initial licence expires on 4th April 2026, though BCBC said it can be extended.

Borough Ward Reports: the Pontycymer daffodils need to be collected and planted asap as they are starting to soften and sprout.

Minute 140/25-26 Christmas Concert Feedback

The Clerk had ordered two bouquets of flowers for the two school choir leaders as these had not been purchased for the night of the concert.

The Clerk gave a breakdown on the £337.24 spent on the concert. £285.81 had been raised via ticket sales etc. Leaving a balance of £51.43 to be charged to the Events budget line.

Minute 141/25-26 To Draft a Precept for 2026/27

A precept of £136,816 had been requested from BCBC and an acknowledgement of the request received.

A site visit had been held with one contractor to obtain an initial quote for metal railings to the front of the Strand; it was estimated that the railings will cost around £7,000. Examples of the design will be sent to the Clerk with a quotation and the work can be scheduled in before the end of the financial year if the council wishes to go ahead.

Minute 144/25-26 Urgent Items for the Chair's Report

The Chair had written to the Highways Officer to raise the council's concerns regarding the delay of the work to the lakes and the Clerk read out the response. Councillor J Coles said he is unhappy about the work being carried out now and the effect on the wildlife and environment.

Resolved: All information was noted. Councillor H Griffiths will collect the daffodil bulbs. The financial breakdown for the concert was accepted. It was agreed to go ahead with the metal railings. Councillor J Coles' objections on nature grounds were noted.

153/25-26 CRIME FIGURES NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025

The crime figures for November and December 2025 had been circulated with the meeting papers. It was noted that the Violence Against a Person figures for Pontycymer were high and that the crime total of 17 was high in Pontycymer. There were no PCSOs present to provide any background to the crimes.

Resolved: The information was noted.

154/25-26 COMMUNITY BUS WEBINAR FEEDBACK

Councillor David Williams had attended a Community Bus Webinar and he gave an update on the 4 types of options available.

Councillor Maxine Williams gave an update on the consultation carried out in Pont yr Rhyl regarding a possible community bus and gave an update on the Community Bus working group meeting held in the previous week. A local bus company had been approached and had not expressed an interest.

Resolved: The information was noted.

155/25-26 DRAFT BIODIVERSITY REPORT

A draft Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025 had been prepared by the Clerk and sent out with the papers.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept the report and publish it on the council's website.

156/25-26 COUNCIL SCHOOL GOVERNOR VACANCY TYNRYHEOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Councillor Deb Davies' term of office as the council governor for Tynyrheol Primary School had ended at the end of 2025. The Chair, Councillor Maxine Lewis, expressed an interest in putting her name forward for the vacancy and Councillor Deb Davies wished to re-stand. Both left the room and Councillor Chris Lloyd, as Vice-Chair, took over chairing the meeting for this item.

A vote was taken and no one abstained.

After being informed of the outcome of the vote, Councillor Maxine Lewis said that she would resign as a council representative governor on the Garw Valley Federation and asked the Clerk to add this vacancy to the February 2026 agenda.

Resolved: A majority vote by 8 votes was in favour of Councillor Maxine Lewis

157/25-26 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH V2C IN THE BETTWS WARD

Councillor Michelle Trowbridge gave an update on tree maintenance and removal carried out on V2C land to the side of the hill next to the Oddfellows pub in Bettws. Councillor Trowbridge said there are still some outstanding works with brambles growing over the wall into the pavement etc. Councillor Trowbridge had written to V2C but had not received an acknowledgement or reply.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to write to the CEO of V2C to request an update and response to Councillor Trowbridge's correspondence.

158/25-26 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Payments: Authority was requested for the payments for January 2026 presented totalling £5,802.98. The balance carried forward £91,060.23.

Income: No income had been received in the month.

External Audit: Two questions had been asked one about authorisation of payments showing in the minutes and the second about a box ticked on the annual statement. Both had been answered by the Clerk. No conclusion had been received to date.

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

159/25-26 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: gave updates on the lack of gritting, some vehicular accidents, water board issues on Oxford Street, pot holes reported and bike riders in Carn fields.

Councillor B Davies: reported a large pot hole by the Police Station in Pontycymer and a motorbike regularly riding at speed up the main road.

Councillor M Trowbridge: said she'd been in touch with Nicola Crouch of the Bettws Federation whose role is that of family engagement officer and gave updates on changes to bus routes. Councillor Trowbridge informed members that Councillor M Jones had secured £25k of funding for the font project; the BCBC members said they weren't aware that project funding had been agreed. Councillor C Lloyd asked what was going to be included and asked why, when GVCC has spent time and money on tidying the green space and obtaining a licence for this GVCC project, was this money needed?

Councillor J Coles: reported on the gravel surfacing at the top of David Street which washes down the road when it rains. It blocks the drains and causes issues. He suggested it needs an additional drain or a cattle grid. He also reported a driver screaming around the roads in a car though to date has not been identified.

Councillor G Lloyd: gave an update on frozen pipes with water discharging at the Welsh nursery building in Bettws and an issue with the contact numbers displayed. He said there had been some activity in the building and asked if anyone knew if it is about to be occupied?

Councillor C Lloyd: had contacted Awen Cultural Trust to see if they are still hiring out the hall at Bettws Life Centre and gave an update. Councillor Lloyd also gave an update on cars parking on and blocking pavements and water gathering on the roads causing more potholes. In addition, an update on defibrillator pads and batteries was given.

Resolved: All information was noted. Councillor H Griffiths will make referrals for the pot holes and the gravel surfacing washing down David Street, though the land is under a private lease. The Clerk was asked to write to Awen Cultural Trust to enquire about their plans to re-open the Life Centre as a social hire space. Councillor C Lloyd was asked to contact the Clerk with the defibrillator details so

that the Clerk can order the items. The Clerk was asked not to progress the font project further and the two BCBC members would write to Councillor Jones and BCBC to find out more.

160/25-26 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair gave an update on an accident involving a child and car outside a primary school and suggested councillors might like to volunteer at the school to discourage illegal and thoughtless parking. A flyer designed by the children will be sent out to parents.

Resolved: Some councillors were happy to volunteer and would make plans with the Chair.

161/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Steps Pontycymer: the Clerk reported that the council is still waiting on a licence from BCBC to enable the council to go ahead with the work. Another site visit had been held with Centre Great to clarify details of the work to pass on to BCBC. The Clerk asked council if they wished to re-submit the T&CC grant funding application as BCBC has informed her that decisions can be made quickly and the council is waiting for the licence anyway.

Councillor Heather Griffiths asked if a bench could be installed on Meadow Street to replace the one removed from there some time ago. This was agreed and would be paid out of Pontycymer funds.

Bus Shelter Murals: one had been completed in Llest and the other in Llangeinor village will be completed in the next few weeks. This is weather dependent.

T&CC Chairs & Clerks Meeting: the next meeting will take place on 29th January 2026, hosted by Bridgend Town Council. The Clerk asked if members had any suggested agenda items?

T&CC Clerks Meeting at BCBC: the next meeting takes place on 28th January 2026, again hosted by Bridgend Town Council. The Clerk asked if members had any suggested agenda items?

Working Group Meeting - Community Bus: the Chair had attended a meeting on 15th January 2026 which was attended by representative councillors from St Brides Minor CC,

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 19th JANUARY 2026

Coity Higher CC, Ynysawdre CC and the Garw. Following each council's consultation with their residents they had pulled together a circular route. The next step is for Councillor Shaun Morgan of St Brides Minor CC to approach local bus companies to see if the route is feasible and to enquire about costs. Once this information is obtained the group will meet again to discuss the findings.

Warden Training: the Warden has requested attending a one day Cycle Trail Inspection Course at a cost of £220.

Tree Maintenance and Cut Back Overgrowth PC Lan: some tree maintenance and flail mowing is needed and quotes are being obtained.

Office Update: almost all the archive files have now been moved to storage at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall. The Clerk thanked Councillor David Williams for his help in unloading the files.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk would re-submit the T&CC grant funding application for Pontycymer Steps and the Clerk would order a bench and seek a licence for it to be installed on Meadow Street. There were no suggested agenda items for the upcoming meetings. The Warden's training request was unanimously approved.

162/25-26 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:

- Marie Curie Cymru - Great Daffodil Appeal 2026 financial request
- Councillor Martyn Jones - ref speaking at a meeting
- National Forest Wales - request for help to become part of the National Forest of Wales

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to defer the financial request to March 2026. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the National Forest information to all councillors.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 19th JANUARY 2026

163/25-26 PLANNING MATTERS

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

1 planning request had been received and there were 2 decision and 1 appeal. 3 Planning Aid Wales had sent out items of correspondence via email.

Resolved: All information received was noted.

164/25-26 ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2026 ORDINARY MEETING

- Grass cutting and floral display quotes 2026
- Items for the April 2026 T&CC Forum agenda
- Events Committee/Purchase of Equipment
- Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance Statement
- Governor Vacancy Garw Valley Federation

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

The date for the next Meeting is Monday 16th February 2026 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Tanio, Bettws and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm