



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

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE WILLIAM TRIGG CENTRE,  
BLAENGARW AND VIA TEAMS ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor C Lloyd (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews

J Coles

D Davies

W Davies

H Griffiths

G Lloyd

N Harwood Scorer

M Lewis

G Walters (up to 7.00 pm on Teams)

D Williams

Apologies: None

Public:

PCSO J Elliott and A Harris, Clerk & RFO

**1/26-27** Apologies (as above)

**2/26-27 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre	Director
H Griffiths	Ffaldau Primary School Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen	Governor Chair of Governors
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Calon y Cwm CIC Tyn yr Heol Primary School	Member Director Governor
C Lloyd	Tyn yr Heol Primary School	Governor
D Williams	Awen Cultural Trust/Blaengarw Workmen's Hall	Volunteer at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall

**3/26-27 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2026 ORDINARY MEETING**

The April 2026 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

**4/26-27 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APRIL 2026 MEETING**

**Minute 207/26-26 Consider Matters Arising from the March 2026 Meeting**

**Lakes:** the Clerk had sent a text to all councillors last week explaining that Centregreat were having internet issues and therefore the update was via text. All had received except Councillor Andrews and the update was noted.

**Lone Worker App:** an update will be given at the June 2026 meeting.

**Minute 209/25-26 PC Lan use for Gender Reveals**

The Clerk asked for a draft policy to be added to the June 2026 agenda.

**Minutes 212, 213 and 214 Lone Worker Polich, PiPIF and Community Awards**

These are all agenda items.

**Minute 219/25-26 Correspondence**

Despite reminding Pontycymer Bowls Club that they need to submit a financial request application form it has not been received, so there's nothing further the Clerk can do to enable the council to consider their email request.

**Resolved:** All information was noted and actions approved.

**5/26-27 CRIME FIGURES APRIL 2026**

Members had received the April 2026 crime figures in their meeting papers. PCSO Elliott explained the violence against a person genre, explained some of the crime including a fallen tree, stalking and assaults on a care worker. A discussion on the figures followed. Councillor D Davies asked if the reporting of the use of cannabis is higher since it became an anti-social behaviour crime? PCSO Elliott said they are receiving more calls but they are usually about the same person.

**Resolved: The crime figures were noted. PCSO Elliott was thanked for attending.**

**6/26-27 ONE VOICE WALES CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE**

There were two documents in the meeting papers on this pledge. One explaining the reason behind it and the other a form for the council to complete and sign.

**Resolved: The information was unanimously accepted and approved and agreement given to complete the form and sign it.**

NOTE: Councillor Chris Lloyd left the meeting for the next item as she had made one of the nominations. Councillor Graham Lloyd declared a personal interest as his wife had made the nomination.

**7/26-27 COMMUNITY AWARD 25/26 NOMINATIONS**

There had been two nominations received for the general award and none received for the sports award. The details of both nominees had been included in the meeting papers. Councillor J Coles proposed that both nominees were worthy recipients and there were no nominees in the other category. The proposal was seconded and a vote requested though there were no supporters. Another proposal was made and seconded to award the two PCSOs and a vote was taken.

**Resolved: The second proposal was unanimously supported. Both recipients will be invited to the June 2026 meeting for a short presentation and a small gift in recognition of their service to the valley.**

**8/26-27 FEEDBACK ON LONE WORKER POLICY**

Feedback had been received from four councillors but all had been received too late to form a document for consideration in time for the meeting.

**Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to defer this item to the June 2026 Meeting.**

**9/26-27 UPDATE ON PROPOSED EVENT IDEAS**

Councillor Williams gave an update on his event ideas including schools, costs etc. These were discussed.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries on whether the council can charge for this service and to set up an Events Committee meeting and invite Councillor Williams to that meeting for a further discussion.

**10/26-27 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS**

Councillor Coles had shared a map showing two green spaces in Blaengarw which he wished the council to consider for CAT. One location is the little park on Tymeinwr Avenue and the other a strip of land at the end of Bryn Bedw/Herbert Street which was created as a car park for the Nanthir lakes. It is now marshy and overgrown. The suggestions were discussed.

**Resolved:** Councillor Lewis agreed to refer the Tymeinwr Avenue land to BCBC as they cut the grass there; Councillor Lewis has reported the issues raised some time ago. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries with BCBC about the possibility of a license or CAT on the land at Bryn Bedw/Herbert Street with a view to improving it and turning it into a sitting out area and report back to the next meeting.

**11/26-27 FLY INFESTATION BETTWS WARD**

Councillor C Lloyd gave an update with the fly issue in Bettws and the surrounding areas and the false messages circulating about the cause. Residents have been ringing shared regulatory services but the number given is to a deadline which no one is answering. Councillor Lloyd asked if the council could write to SRS to ask how many complaints they've received, ask for copies of any site reports and investigations including details of all areas that have been inspected. It was noted that one local hospitality business had been unable to serve food due to the fly infestation. Councillor D Davies said the issue seems to have occurred when the new schools were built.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to write to SRS to ask the questions Councillor Lloyd had proposed.

**12/26-27 PIPIF UPDATE**

The Clerk had received an application for the second phase of the process which is 15 pages long and requires a lot of information including 3 quotes or tenders. The Clerk has asked for advice from REGEN on whether they will accept 3 quotes or if they want 3 tenders and if that affects the deadline for submission. The response had been that the

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money (£71,200) is ringfenced for this project and they are happy to wait to receive the application once the tender process has been carried out. The Clerk asked for authority to go ahead and tender.

**Resolved:** Authority was unanimously given for the Clerk to go ahead and tender.

**13/26-27 STAFF CONFIDENTIAL**

**Resolved:** The information provided by the Clerk was accepted and approved.

**14/26-27 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**Payments:** Authority was requested for the payments for May 2026 totalling £28,174.96. Budget monitoring sheets and a list of payments was presented. See below.

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>p</b>
BP8	Clerk	Postage	9	95
BP9	D Evans Gardening Services	Grass cutting Pen Parcau and Glen Garw flats March 2026	425	00
BP10	Dwr Cymru	Supply Visitor Centre PC Lan	105	74
BP11	BCBC	Business Rates	416	66
BP12	LBG Waste Management	Litter collection and disposal PC Lan (inv 34751)	50	00
BP13	Bakers DIY	Supplies for PC Lan	42	66
BP14	D Evans Gardening Services	Grass cutting Pen Parcau and Glen Garw flats April 2026	425	00
BP15	Clerk	Stationery	23	50
BP16	BCBC	Provision of Christmas column motifs Blaengarw	4,063	49
BP17	Clerk	April 2026 Mileage	61	83
BP18	DW Thomas	Summer Planters	4,580	00
BP19	DW Thomas	Provision of floral display Llangeinor Ward	770	00
BP20	DW Thomas	Additional summer planters	2,748	00
BP21	DW Thomas	Hanging baskets (x 10 per ward), barrel planters, sign planter and rail planters	5,000	00
BP22	DW Thomas	As above split into two payments as £5,000 per day is the max	3,168	00
BP23	OVO Energy	Supply Visitor Centre, PC Lan	74	20
BP24	LBG Waste Management	Litter collection and disposal PC Lan (inv 35230)	74	00
BP25	One Voice Wales	Annual Membership	1,577	00
BP26	Warden	May 2026 Salary		

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BP27	HMRC	Tax and NI April 2026		
BP28	RCT Pensions	Staff Costs April 2026		
BP29	Clerk	May 2026 Salary		
<b>Total:</b>			<b>£28,174</b>	<b>96</b>

**Income:** received in April 2026 totalled £144,682.85 including precept for 26/27, vat reclaim, salary adjustment, income from store room ire and bank interest.

**Cambridge Building Society:** the ex councillor signatory has now been removed and the two new signatories are to be added - Councillors D Davies and H Griffiths. It was also proposed that the Chair and Vice-Chair be added once confirmation of the success of adding Councillors Davies and Griffiths had been received.

**Financial Request from Common Orbit CIC:** a request has been received for this year's Cwm Garw Fun Palace of £730. This was discussed. Councillor M Lewis proposed donating £500 which was seconded by Councillor W Davies and a vote was taken which was in unanimous support of the proposal.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet was approved, the income was noted, approval was given to add Councillors D Davies and H Griffiths as signatories on the Cambridge Building Society account and agreement to add Councillors Chris Lloyd and D Williams once the first change has been confirmed. The financial donation of £500 was approved and the funds would be used from the contingency budget line.

**15/26-27 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS**

**Councillor H Griffiths:** reported on issues with one of the Ffaldau Industrial Estate units burning materials which had a terrible smell and a complaint had been referred to BCBC. Councillor Griffiths gave updates on Lawrence Park and Waun Bant play areas, issues with dog mess, potholes and parking on the pavement in Oxford Street causing obstructions.

**Councillor M Lewis:** reported on a smashed window as the fish and chip shop in Pontycymer, which had been referred to BCBC.

**Councillor G Lloyd:** reiterated the problem with flies in Bettws.

**Councillor J Coles:** gave an update on the public meeting the Blaengarw councillors held on 11<sup>th</sup> May at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall. It had been attended by two members of the public. One request had been to provide disc golf in PC Lan. Councillor Coles also gave an update on the repair of benches in Blaengarw following a referral by the Clerk to BCBC.

**Councillor D Davies:** gave an update on Cuppa with a Copper, pothole issues and cannabis smoking.

Councillor C Lloyd asked for an item on the June 2026 agenda to propose that only one member from each ward gives a ward report.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. Councillor C Lloyd's request for a June 2026 agenda item was agreed.

### **16/26-27 CHAIR'S REPORT**

This was the Chair's first meeting so there was nothing to report.

**Resolved:** The Chair had nothing to report.

### **17/26-27 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

**Site Visit Hill View Land:** Councillor Lewis had not been able to obtain any further information from BCBC in time for the meeting. The Clerk had received a response from the War Memorials Trust on relocating a memorial and read out the response. The Trust only supports the relocation if they are at risk in their current position.

**Bin Pontyrhyl:** the bin audit is now complete and a list will be sent to BCBC with a mention that the dog waste bin at Braichycymer is not working out as it's full of ordinary litter.

**Green Space Bettws:** the Clerk informed members that the licence for the space behind the font has now run out and asked if the council wanted to extend it considering that Councillors Jones and Trowbridge are now working together on the monolith project as Councillor Jones has obtained funding for it?

**T&CC Chairs & Clerks Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026:** this meeting has been moved to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**RPM Bike Show:** the costs of the two events on offer will be discussed at the next Events Committee meeting.

**Biodiversity Packages:** Councillor Lewis had asked if the council can apply and donate the packs to the schools. This is not possible as the packages are for T&CCs only.

**Bench Meadow Street:** the Clerk is still waiting on a licence from Highways to relocate the bench and install a bin close by.

**Steps Meadow Street:** BCBC's surveyor had now carried out a survey and the CAT Officer informed the Clerk that it raised concerns regarding the side walls. They are now carrying out a topographical survey and await the determination of the report to find a way forward at an alternative location.

**Railings the Strand:** the Clerk had obtained 3 quotes for railings and each was considered.

**Vacancy Bettws Ward:** there had been no calls for an election so the vacancy now moves to the co-option stage. The Clerk will publish the notices and circulate them for councillors to share on their social media pages and local hubs.

**Swing Railway Terrace, Blaengarw:** a complaint has been received from a resident regarding a swing tied to the council's trees on Railway Terrace which is attracting children in groups of 10 or more to gather. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted. The council unanimously agreed not to extend or renew the licence for the land outside Calon y Cymoedd School as they were no longer involved in the monolith project. It was agreed to award the railings work to P Hancock at the price quoted. The information on the steps were noted. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously voted in favour of not progressing this project any further given the delays encountered over the last 16 months. The RPM Bike Show events will be discussed at the next Events Committee meeting. It is not possible for the Biodiversity Packages to be used for schools. The Co-option was noted. As the swing is on council land/trees the Clerk was asked to instruct the Warden to remove the swing and the decking boards and fake turf that has been placed underneath it and dispose of the materials as this may encourage anti-social behaviour and damage the bark of the trees.

**NOTE:** Councillor H Griffiths left the room for the next item and declared an interest in the financial request item for CCYD.

**18/26-27 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:

- Coleg Sir Gar - upcoming training courses
- Kids Cancer Charity - financial request
- WA Employment Engagement - invitation to the council's armed forces champion and guest to attend an event on 26<sup>th</sup> May.
- Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen - request for a financial request for their school production in February 2027.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. The Clerk had sent the list of courses to the Warden, but none of them were needed at this time. The Kids Cancer charity request was deferred to March 2027. The council does not have an armed forces champion - Councillor D Williams was nominated and seconded and a unanimous vote in favour was taken. Councillor Williams accepted the role. The council will consider the financial request from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen at its Juen 2026 meeting.

**19/26-27 PLANNING MATTERS**

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

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

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

**20/26-27 ITEMS FOR THE JUNE 2026 ORDINARY MEETING**

- Feedback on Lone Worker Policy
- Borough and Ward Reports
- Draft Gender Reveal Policy
- Financial Request Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen
- Spring Bulbs for Autumn 2026
- Community Award Presentation
- Co-option Bettws Ward

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- Internal Audit and Audit Statement

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

The date of the next Ordinary Council meeting is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall and via Teams.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm