



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S
HALL, BLAENGARW AND VIA TEAMS ON MONDAY 15th JUNE 2026 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor C Lloyd (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews
J Coles
D Davies
W Davies
G Lloyd
N Harwood Scorer (from 7.15 pm)
M Lewis
M Trowbridge
G Walters
D Wiliams

Apologies: Councillor H Griffiths

Public:

PCSO J Elliott, Sgt J Darra-Edwards, Mr & Mrs K
Dulson and A Harris, Clerk & RFO

21/26-27 Apologies (as above)

22/26-27 - 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

23/26-27 TO RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS FOR 25/26

Former Garw Valley PCSO Janine Dulson attended the meeting with her husband to receive the community award. PCSO Mike Rees was also a recipient but was unable to attend. Janine was presented with a bouquet of flowers, an engraved shield to share with Mike for a year and her own engraved award and a gift card and wine. The Chair and Council thanked Janine for all her hard work in the community over the years.

Resolved: It was agreed to invite PCSO Mike Rees to the July 2026 meeting for a presentation.

24/26-27 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY ANNUAL AND ORDINARY MEETINGS

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.

25/26-27 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MAY ANNUAL AND ORDINARY MEETINGS

Minute 4/26-27 Matters Arising from the April 2026 Meeting

Lakes: an update has been received from Centregreat and sent out to all.

Minute 9/26-27 Update on Proposed Event Ideas

The legal person at OVW has been on leave and the Clerk doesn't yet have the answer to the question re charging for the events.

Minute 12/26-27 PiPIF Update

The Clerk gave an update on the preparation of the tender documents and the requirement to upload onto the sell2wales website. Help from another Clerk had been imperative in knowing how to produce these documents and had adapted their documents for use. The deadline for tenders is noon on 29th June. The work involved was discussed.

Resolved: All information was noted. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that going forward tenders would be produced by an external source.

26/26-27 CRIME FIGURES MAY 2026

PCSO Jon Elliott and Sgt J Darra-Edwards were present at the meeting. The Chair welcomed both to the meeting. PCSO Elliott took members through the crime figures for May giving information where he could. He explained that the violence against a person could be someone making a two finger rude gesture to another, it's not necessarily physical violence. He reiterated the use of SW Listens and would provide Councillor D Williams with the QR code for inclusion in the next Blaengarw newsletter.

Resolved: The crime figures were noted.

27/26-27 SPRING BULBS FOR PLANTING AUTUMN 2026

The Clerk asked if wards wanted to order spring bulbs.

Resolved: The following requests were made:

- Blaengarw - 1 sack of daffodils
- Bettws - 4 sacks of daffodils and 1 sack of pink tulips

28/26-27 DRAFT LONE WORKER POLICY

Two draft lone worker reports had been sent out over the last few months to councillors to amend and return to the Clerk. Four councillors had responded though to an unqualified person some of the information was not user friendly. It was noted that the two staff roles have little in common. The Clerk had enquired from other T&CCs to see what policies they have in place. The Clerk had prepare a risk assessment for a home worker which, along with a suitable lone worker app would be sufficient for that role. As for the lone worker role of the Warden this was more complex and requires H&S knowledge.

Resolved: It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the Risk Assessment and lone worker app is sufficient for the Clerk/RFO and that the Clerk will engage the services of an appropriately qualified person to write a lone worker policy for the Warden role along with a lone worker app.

29/26-27 DRAFT GENDER REVEAL POLICY

The Clerk had drafted a Gender Reveal Policy which had been included with the meeting papers.

Resolved: The draft was accepted and the Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's website.

30/26-27 CO-OPTION BETTWS WARD

One application had been received. The applicant was co-opted.

Resolved: Councillor Martyn Jones was co-opted to the council to represent the Bettws Ward.

31/26-27 WATER SAFETY PC LAN

Councillor D Williams gave a brief powerpoint on water safety and current signage requirements. This was discussed, the Chair thanked Councillor Williams for his work.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the signage to be produced and installed. One at the bottom and top of both lakes and a copy put on the website for information.

32/26-27 REPORTING ON BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

The Chair had requested this as an agenda item to encourage all to be succinct in their ward reporting as some reports are taking up to half an hour. The Chair proposed that only one member from each ward should report on behalf of that ward, making sure all ward councillors engaged with each other and cutting down on the time spent on this item. Councillor M Trowbridge strongly disagreed as she said she was elected to speak. A discussion followed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that no person would speak longer than permissible under the standing orders - 2 minutes.

33/26-27 EVENTS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th November 2024 approved.
- No Matters Arising.
- Councillor Heather Griffiths re-elected as Chair of Committee.
- Councillor David Williams gave a demonstration of one of the games he is offering. Agreed that he will give a demonstration at the next T&CC Chairs & Clerks meeting on 18th June and offer the event to all T&CCs to relay to their youth clubs, schools etc Clerk had not been able to find out the council's position on charging for these events as the legal advisor at OVW was on leave.
- RPM Bike Trails Display Show - councillors agreed to watch the video links provided and consider, if suitable, for next year. (Feedback so far not positive.)
- Visitor Centre Opening during weekends over the school summer holidays - the volunteers - Councillors Griffiths, C Lloyd and D Williams to organise their own rota, purchase teas etc and keep receipts to pass on to the Clerk for reimbursement.
- Christmas Concert Pontycymer Ward - agreed date 4th December 2026. Chair not available, Vice-Chair will deputise. Agreed to find alternative entertainment to the previous Choir. Heather to meet with the Pontycymer Ward Councillors to discuss and regularly feedback to council. The importance of booking the venue and entertainment prior to the summer is imperative. Events Committee to oversee all arrangements.
- Next meeting - Wednesday 8th July at 6.30 pm.

Resolved: All agreed to accept the information above and the recommendations. The Pontycymer councillors would speak to Councillor Griffiths about the venue and arrangements and Councillor Griffiths could feedback at the next Events Committee meeting in July.

34/26-27 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING INTERNAL AUDIT AND AUDIT STATEMENT AND FINANCIAL REQUESTS FROM CCYD AND THE RICHARD PRICE CENTRE

Payments: Authority was requested for the payments for June 2026 totalling £8,276.77. Budget monitoring sheets and a list of payments was presented. See below:

<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>p</i>
D/D	HSBC	Bank account charges	1	60
BP30	LBG Waste Management	Litter collection and disposal PC Lan (inv 35665)	72	00
BP31	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	238	00
BP32	LBG Waste Management	Litter collection and disposal PC Lan (inv 36121)	62	00
BP33	Clerk	Refund for quad tracker	109	99

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		renewal		
BP34	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	238	00
BP35	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	238	00
BP36	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	238	00
BP37	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	156	00
BP38	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	238	00
BP39	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	238	00
BP40	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	82	00
BP41	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	375	00
BP42	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	238	00
BP43	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	238	00
BP44	Evans Gardening Service	Grass cutting Bettws and Blaengarw	425	00
BP45	OVO Energy Ltd	Electricity supply Visitor Centre	27	50
BP46	Councillor	Allowances 2026/27	238	00
BP47	Clerk	Petty Cash for Warden	150	00
BP48	Clerk	Stationery	9	80
BP49	Clerk	May 2026 Mileage	64	78
BP50	Clerk	Refund for purchase of Com Award trophies	33	97
BP51	Warden	June 2026 Salary		
BP52	HMRC	Tax and NI May 2026		
BP53	RCT Pensions	Staff Costs May 2026		
BP54	Clerk	June 2026 Salary		
Total:			£8,276	77

Income: there had been no income received in the month.

Internal Audit: The Internal Auditor Report and the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2026 had been included in the meeting papers. The Clerk took members through the year end figures on the audit statement and the governance statement. The Clerk took members through the Internal Audit Report's 4 recommendations and gave explanations, updates and more information. One of the recommendations was for the council to consider using a bespoke accounts package designed for the local council sector. The Clerk asked for authority to engage the services of a payroll company at the cost of £288 excl vat a year and a one-off set up cost of £30 and to obtain a quote and organise an accounts package such as Scribe.

Financial Requests: the financial requests for CCYD and the Richard Price Centre was deferred to the July 2026 meeting.

Resolved: All information was noted. Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet was approved, The financial

requests were deferred to the July 2026 meeting as a request had been made to put financial requests on the agenda for July. Authority was given for the Clerk to engage the services of a payroll company and to obtain a quote and organise an accounts package such as Scribe. The Chair and Clerk were given authority to sign the audit statement for 2025/26 and for the Clerk to prepare and submit the external audit.

35/26-27 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor G Walters: had received complaints about dog fouling on Pontycymer playing field and pot holes in the valley and he noted that work had started on old Ffaldau site on the square.

Councillor M Lewis: updated members on issues with a sewerage outlet pipe in Pontycymer.

Councillor G Lloyd: mentioned the Big Green Week and the Boys & Girls Club.

Councillor D Davies: asked what progress was being made on the bottom half of the community route and what is the update on the work to the Llangeinor Pavillion? She also raised a point about clearing rubbish behind the bus shelter, a footpath full of weeds and people having to walk in the road, pot holes in Moelgilau and an abandoned car.

Councillor M Trowbridge: gave updates on the embankment in Bettws, the verges, fly infestation, planting and how councils should listen to young people.

Resolved: All information was noted.

46/26-27 CHAIR'S REPORT

Had reported sewerage coming out by Tynyrheol School. The Chair had accepted an invitation to attend Bettws Church on 21st June 2026.

Resolved: The information was noted.

47/26-27 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Site Visit Hill View Land: Councillor M Lewis had no progress to report.

Tree Risk Assessment: A quote for risk assessment of the trees had been received, this was for trees at PC Lan, the Strand and the sitting out area at Lluest. A detailed report would be provided which could form part of an updated tree policy.

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

Removal of Swing Railway Terrace: visitors to the location has increased including groups of teenagers and families bringing their children there. Most of it has now been removed however Karl is unable to remove the chain at the top safely on his own; the Clerk asked authority to employ assistance for Karl to remove the chain.

T&CC Chairs & Clerks Meeting: the next meeting is being held on 18th June 2026 the Clerk asked if council wanted the Chair and Clerk to raise anything?

Map of the Park: there is no proper map of the park to aid contractors, funding requests etc. The Clerk had obtained a quote for a 12.5 cm resolution aerial plan dated 2023, an OS master map and the work of redrawing a map, sourcing and compiling.

Railings the Strand: the Clerk had engaged the services of the successful fabricator and the work is in hand. Notice will be given of the installation date in order for the shrubs along the perimeter to be removed.

Clerk's Annual Leave: Councillors were reminded of the date. The Chair will be the emergency contact.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote for the tree risk assessment and the map of the park. Authority was given to the Clerk to engage the services of the contractor for both these tasks and to assist Karl with the removal of the chain on the trees on Railway Terrace. There were no agenda items for the T&CC Chairs & Clerks meeting.

38/26-27 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:

- BCBC T&CC Liaison Officer - request to re-issue the T&CC Communication Protocol to all councillors

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- Maesteg Town Council - Chair invite to civic service on 19th July 2026 at 2.30 pm
- Bridgend Samaritans - invite to their AGM
- Glanllynfi Garth Wind Farm - introduction to the project and a request for a Teams meeting
- Last Energy - information and dates of next consultations
- Cwm Garw Common Orbit - thank you for the donation

Resolved: All information was noted. The Chair and Consort had accepted the invite to Maesteg TC's civic service and the Bridgend Samaritans AGM.

39/26-27 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.
3 Planning Aid Wales had sent out items of correspondence via email.

Resolved: All information received was noted.

40/26-27 ITEMS FOR THE JULY 2026 ORDINARY MEETING

- To receive PCSO Mike Rees for a Community Award Presentation
- Review of Financial Donations Policy
- Christmas 2026
- Pump Park Tenders

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 27th July 2026 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall and via Teams. Councillor David Williams will Chair the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm