



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 27th JULY 2026 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor D Williams (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles

D Davies (via Teams from 6.40 pm)

W Davies

M Jones

N Harwood Scorer

M Lewis

M Trowbridge (via Teams from 6.43 pm)

D Williams

Apologies: Councillor H Griffiths, C Lloyd, G Lloyd and G Walters

No Apologies: Councillor G Andrews

Public:

PCSO M Rees and A Harris, Clerk & RFO

44/26-27 Apologies (as above)

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The Chair welcomed Councillor Martyn Jones to the council meeting.

45/26-27 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre	Director
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Cabinet Member for Education and Young People
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Calon y Cwm CIC Tyn yr Heol Primary School	Member Director Governor
D Williams	Awen Cultural Trust/Blaengarw Workmen's Hall	Volunteer at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall

46/26-27 TO RECEIVE PCSO M REES JOINT COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER FOR 25/26

PCSO Mike Rees was one half of the successful nominees but had been unable to attend the previous meeting's presentation. The Chair welcomed him to the meeting, thanked PCSO Rees for all his hard work in the valley and presented him with an engraved trophy and a small gift.

Resolved: The information was noted.

47/26-27 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2026 ORDINARY AND JULY 2026 EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

The June 2026 Ordinary Meeting and July 2026 Extraordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of both meetings were approved and signed by the Chair.

48/26-27 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM JUNE 2026 ORDINARY AND JULY 2026 EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

Minute 25/26-27 Consider Matters Arising from the May Annual and Ordinary Meetings

Lakes: Two updates on the lakes have been sent out to all.

PiPIF Update:

The Regeneration Team has informed the Clerk that they still haven't received permission from the Corporate and they are now on leave for two weeks. REGEN has also chased it up and they will let us know as soon as they get a response.

The tenders are still awaiting QS review and have been asked for an update.

I am waiting to inform the two bidders and start the project and cannot progress this project until I hear back from both; both have been informed of the delay.

Minute 28/26-27 Draft Lone Worker Policy

The Clerk had taken advice and had been told that only a Risk Assessment is required for the Warden and the lone worker app should the council wish to go ahead with that for peace of mind. Other similar local parks do not have a lone workers policy.

Minute 31/26-27 Water Safety PC Lan

All councillors had been sent an email from Councillor Coles expressing his concerns regarding water safety and the need for an additional life ring. There were two life rings at Blaengarw lake but one was removed for the work to be carried out. They are being put back in place tomorrow (28th July); there is no need to purchase any more.

Minute 32/26-27 Reporting on Borough and Ward Reports

It was noted that the council's standing orders specify 2 minutes per councillor to speak.

Resolved: All information was noted and accepted.

49/26-27 CRIME FIGURES JUNE 2026

There was no representative from SW Police in attendance to give further information on the crime figures for June 2026.

It was noted that the person who attacked the Warden is breaking his court conditions, which are in place to October 2026, and has been seen several times in PC Lan.

Concerns were discussed.

Councillor W Davies said that incidents with e-scooters are on the increase and are a concern to people living in the valley.

Resolved: The crime figures were noted. The Clerk was asked to report the breaking of the court conditions to the PCSO and it was unanimously agreed that the Warden must always wear his body camera.

50/26-27 CHRISTMAS 2026

The Clerk asked members what their requirements for Christmas 2026 were in terms of column motifs and trees. Due to the constraints the number of motifs has on the Blaengarw Ward budget it was noted that it is almost impossible for the Blaengarw ward to carry out any other work in their ward.

Resolved: The Blaengarw Ward members agreed to consider reducing the column motif numbers for Christmas 2026 and would consult with the Clerk. The Clerk will obtain 3 quotes for the council's requirements and present them at the September 2026 meeting for full council to consider.

51/26-27 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL DONATIONS POLICY

At the June 2026 meeting it was agreed to include this item to clarify the council's policy on donations. This was discussed.

Resolved: The following was resolved - a request from a national organization would be considered for a £25 donation in March each year. A request which will benefit a particular ward will be considered by the ward members and decided on a majority vote. A requests which benefits residents of the whole of the Garw Valley will be considered by full council, a donation made from general funds and on a majority vote. The ward and all Garw requests will be considered as received.

52/26-27 JULY 2026 EVENTS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

The Events Committee had met on 8th July and make the following recommendations to full council:

- To approve the minutes of the June 2025 Events Committee meeting.
- That Councillor Williams' idea to offer the games he can provide to schools, parties and youth clubs in the whole of the borough should go ahead but without any charge.
- That whilst the idea of opening the Visitor Centre at Parc Calon Lan on weekends during the school summer holidays is a great idea, it is something to consider for summer 2027 when the Visitor Centre car park is back in use and not being used as a contractor compound for de-silting the lakes.
- That Councillor Heather Griffiths will meet with the other Pontycymer ward members to discuss their ideas for their Christmas concert and secure a venue and entertainment.
- Items for the next meeting which takes place on 16th September: update on Christmas Concert and Christmas gift ideas for schools which Councillor Chris Lloyd is already researching.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept and agree all Events Committee recommendations. Councillor M Lewis confirmed that the discussion about the Christmas Concert had taken place and that the venue and entertainment had been agreed and secured. Councillor Deb Davies agreed to collaborate with Councillor Maxine Lewis to produce the event programme, posters and tickets.

53/26-27 BUS SHELTERS BETTWS WARD

Councillor M Trowbridge raised her concerns regarding the condition of some of the bus shelters in the Bettws ward, some which had been vandalized. These were discussed.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Clerk will contact BCBC to make enquiries about the cost of improving the bus shelters. Councillor Trowbridge will provide the Clerk with a list of the bus shelters concerned.

54/26-27 STAFF CONFIDENTIAL

Due to the number of councillors absent from the meeting Councillor Maxine Lewis asked for the item to be deferred to the September 2026 meeting.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to defer this item to the September meeting.

55/26-27 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DEFERRED FINANCIAL REQUESTS FOR THE RP CENTRE AND CCYD

Payments: Authority was requested for the payments for July 2026 totalling £8,275.58. 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>
BP55	Clerk	Community Award Engraving	25	00
BP56	Common Orbit CIC	Donation	500	00
BP57	Bakers DIY	Warden Materials	101	04
D/D	HSBC	Bank Charges	0	80
BP58	LBG Waste Management	Litter collection and disposal PC Lan (inv 36553)	70	00
BP59	JDH Business Services	Internal Audit	780	00
BP60	D Evans	Grass cutting Bettws and Blaengarw	425	00
BP61	Awen Cultural Trust	Storage room BWH	30	00
BP62	Awen Cultural Trust	Storage room BWH	31	00
BP63	Clerk	Community Award Gifts	102	50

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BP64	Clerk	School Community Award Trophies	71	99
BP65	Coity Higher CC	Copier 28/1/26 to 28/4/26	35	87
BP66	Coity Higher CC	SLCC Membership	147	33
BP67	Coity Higher CC	Copier 8/5/25 to 7/8/26	93	72
BP68	Clerk	June 2026 Mileage	85	58
BP69	OVO Energy Ltd	Visitor Centre Electricity	25	44
BP70	Maison et Jardin	Removal of swing chains from trees PC Lan	49	50
BP71	Clerk	School Community Award 5 x £50 vouchers	250	00
BP72	Clerk	Stationery & Copier Paper	16	20
BP73	One Voice Wales	Training invoice 10418	42	00
BP74	LBG Waste Management	Litter collection and disposal PC Lan (Inv 36998)	76	00
BP75	LBG Waste Management	Litter collection and disposal PC Lan (Inv 37485)	68	00
BP76	Glasfryn Farmhouse - R Wilson	Preparation of map of PC Lan	647	00
BP77	Clerk	2 x litter pickers for Warden	36	08
BP78	Warden	July 2026 Salary		
BP79	HMRC	Tax and NI June 2026		
P80	RCT Pensions	Staff Costs June 2026		
BP81	Clerk	July 2026 Salary		
Total:			£8,275	58

Income: income of £10 had been received in the month from another council for storage room hire.

Scribe Quote: a quote for Scribe which is a purpose built solution specifically designed for T&CCs had been obtained £549 initial set up and £792 per annum each year. This system modernise financial workflows, reduces error risk and saves time.

External Audit: this had been submitted by the deadline of 7th July 2026.

Financial Requests: Two financial requests had been deferred from June 2026 until clarify on donations had been discussed at this meeting. A donation request from CCYD for their school production and a request from the Richard Price Centre for new audio equipment. The Clerk was asked to request more information from CCYD for consideration at a future meeting. The RPC request should be discussed by the Llangeinor ward members, though it was noted that there were concerns with the wording of the request, the ward should consider if this is a priority for their ward and that other quotes should be sought.

Recommendations by the Finance Committee:

- To re-appoint Councillor Heather Griffiths as Chair of Committee
- That the minutes of the November 2025 Finance & Resources Committee are accepted.
- That there are no threats to the 26/27 budget.
- To call a meeting on 14th July 2026 to award the tender for the Pump Park project.
- The Clerks' concerns about cash flow for the Pump Park project were noted.
- Items for the next agenda: Update on the costs of the Christmas Concert, Christmas gifts for schools costs and review the Financial Regulations.
- Update on PiPIF funding.
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Resolved: All information was noted. Authority was given for the payments of £8,275.58 and the budget monitoring sheet was approved. The Scribe quote was unanimously accepted and the Clerk instructed to engage these services, the Clerk would request further information regarding funding for the school production and ask about complimentary tickets for those who are in need in the community and the Clerk will liaise with the Llangeinor ward members regarding two more quotes and the priorities of their ward. All Finance & Resources Committee recommendations were unanimously approved and agreed.

56/26-27 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor M Lewis: had asked Centregreat a question in relation to tonnage removed and had not received a reply. Councillor Lewis also raised concerns about children entering the site despite there being heras fencing in place.

Councillor M Jones: requested Community Spaces on the September agenda.

Councillor J Coles: said he is impressed with the work carried out to the lake in Blaengarw.

Councillor N Harwood Scorer: said many people in Bettws had raised their concerns that the notice on the outside of the flats showing how the completed project will look is nothing like the actual look. He said parking outside the school is getting worse

Councillor M Trowbridge: gave updated on grass cutting, drainage issues, bins overflowing and bus shelter vandalism including graffiti.

Councillor Deb Davies: raised her concerns about the paint damage to the mural in the bus shelter and weed growth.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk would chase up a reply from Centregreat. It was agreed to put Community Spaces and Parking Outside Bettws School on the September agenda. The Clerk will speak to the mural artist about Councillor Davies' concerns. It was noted that BCBC no longer carry out blanket sprays and only sprays where weeds are coming up due to environmental legislation. The weed spray takes approx.. 3 weeks to take effect and during this period it is vital that the weeds are not removed manually as this will prevent the spray from penetrating the roots. The machine that does the spraying only does so when it detects chlorophyl, so if weeds are removed manually before this take place, spraying will not occur in that area.

57/26-27 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair was absent from the meeting, the Vice-Chair had nothing to report.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Chair had attended the Samaritans AGM and Maesteg TC's civic service in the month.

58/26-27 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 not received a response from BCBC.

Tree Risk Assessment: this work is being started on 18th August 2026

Bench Meadow Street: a licence has been received, the bench has been moved and the bin will be installed shortly.

Removal of Swing Railway Terrace: this has now been done.

T&CC Chairs & Clerks Meeting: this meeting took place on 18th June and 7 councils were represented. It was agreed to write to BCBC to ask for a further review of the T&CC Forum meeting.

Map of the Park: this has been completed.

Railings the Strand: work is starting on these in mid August.

Parc Calon Lan: a number of complaints had been made regarding unemptied bins during the Warden's week of leave. It had been exceptionally hot and the park had received higher number of visitors than in the past when this hasn't been an issue.

The PAT testing of both the Warden and Clerk's office equipment is due at a cost of £130. The fire risk assessment and extinguisher checks are also due at a cost of £ Both visits have been arranged.

The Warden has requested that the larger opening from the Visitor Centre into the park remains and a farm gate is put in place. This has been arranged.

BCBC T&CC Forum: it's been agreed that at Clerk representative will attend the Forum, Clerks will put themselves forward and a vote sent to Clerks.

Land Bryn Bedw Street: the Clerk has received an Expression of Interest form to complete.

School Community Award: it's been noticed that at least one school has been giving out 5 awards and not 1 x £50 award for the best community award at the end of school leaver's services, despite only one trophy accompanying the vouchers.

Clerk's Annual Leave: the Clerk is on leave 12th, 17th and 18th August. An out of office will be put on the Clerk's email directing urgent matters to the Chair and the same on the Clerk's phone. The Clerk asked members to make a note of leave dates as both the Warden and Clerk had received texts during their leave despite the Clerk informing members of the dates.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. Councillor Coles and Williams asked for a copy of the map of the park. It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the EOI for the land at Bryn Bedw. The Clerk would remind schools about the criteria for the School Community Award/vouchers.

59/26-27 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:

- Last Energy 0 stakeholder communication ref Llynfi Energy Project
- Democracy & Boundary Commission - survey for councillors

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- V2C - rescheduled community event and walkabout Bettws Bottom Site 19th August 11.30 am to 3.00 pm
- Bridgend Samaritans - AGM (Chair accepted)
- UK Community Renewals - Cyber Insurance £374.80
- Non local resident - correspondence ref councillors
- Resident - copied into correspondence ref concerns about Ocean Farm
- Welsh Government Survey - travel for all research
- BCBC - T&CC Liaison Officer Budget Briefing for Clerks
- T&CC Liaison Officer - encouragement to comment on the pre-planning application consultation for Ysgol Bro Ogwr
- Halo Leisure - invite to councillors to view a session at Pontycymer Leisure Centre
- Cerebral Palsy Wales - funding request

Resolved: All information was noted. The Chair and Consort had accepted the invite to Maesteg TC's civic service and the Bridgend Samaritans AGM. It was unanimously agreed to accept the Cyber insurance renewal quote. The Cerebral Palsy Wales request will be deferred to March 2027.

60/26-27 PLANNING MATTERS

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

5 planning request had been received and there were 2 decisions and 0 appeals.

4 Planning Aid Wales had sent out items of correspondence via email.

Information on the proposed extinguishment of Footpath 9 - responses by 9th July had also been received.

Resolved: All information received was noted. P/26/327/FUL was a concern, Councillor J Coles offered to look into BCBC's HMO Policy before commenting. Parking and possible anti-social behaviour were a concern.

61/26-27 ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2026 ORDINARY MEETING

- Staff Confidential (ML)
- 3 Christmas lights/tree quotes
- Financial Request CCYD
- Community Spaces (MJ)
- Parking Outside Bettws School (NHS)
- Events Committee Update
- Draft Training Plan
- Draft Annual Report 25/26

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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 21st September 2026 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the Richard Price Centre and via Teams.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm