GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT RICHARD PRICE CENTRE AND VIA TEAMS ON MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor C Lloyd (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles
D Davies
W Davies
H Griffiths
M Jones
G Lloyd
N Harwood Scorer
M Lewis
M Trowbridge
D Williams

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews and G Walters

Public:
1 member of the public and A Harris, Clerk & RFO

MEETING OF COUNCIL – 21st SEPTEMBER 2026

62/26-27 Apologies (as above)

63/26-27 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre	Director
H Griffiths	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen	Member Governor
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

64/26-27 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2026 ORDINARY MEETING

The July 2026 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the July Ordinary meeting was approved and signed by the Chair.

65/26-27 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM JULY 2026 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 48/26-27 Consider Matters Arising from the June 2026 Ordinary Meeting

PiPIF: the Clerk gave an update on where this project stands. The Clerk updated members on the delay regarding the letter of consent causing a delay in letting the project bidders know whether they've been successful or not. The Clerk also informed members that during the external QS examination of the documents an error had been found in one of the bid's calculations meaning the total is a £1,000 more than initially thought. The Clerk had brought this to their attention. The Clerk asked for guidance on the way forward and expressed her concern that as there has been a delay and time is heading into the second half of the financial year the council need to keep a focus on its cash flow for the PiPIF project.

Minute 31/26-27 Water Safety Sign

These are now in place on Blaengarw lake and will be installed on Pontycymer lake asap.

Minute 49/26-27 Crime Figures June 2026

This will be covered in the Staff Confidential item.

Minute 53/26-27 Bus Shelters Bettws Ward

The locations were received today and the Clerk has contacted BCBC but does not yet have a response.

Minute 55/26-27 Finance & Accounts

The CCYD request is on the agenda under Finance & Accounts, further information has been obtained. The Richard Price Centre request has been determined and the quotes received. The weeds on the Square have been addressed by BCBC.

Minute 56/26-27 Borough and Ward Reports

The Clerk has asked Centregreat about the tonnage removal again, but has not received a reply.

The mural artist has said he'll have a look at the paintwork in Llangeinor and come back to the Clerk.

A copy of the map has been given to the councillors who requested it.

The EOI for the land at Bryn Bedw has been completed and has been approved by the CAT Steering Committee under the fast track system. A condition of the CAT would be that GVCC consults with BCBC's biodiversity and climate change response team and implement any recommendations. It was noted that whilst the Clerk will consult with the teams indicated, the council has not yet resolved to progress from and EOI to a CAT.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to forward the information on the PiPIF delay to the 3 borough members and Councillor M Jones would look into it. As the error in the bid is the contractor's error the council expects the contractor to stick to the total of £85,250.

66/26-27 CRIME FIGURES JULY AND AUGUST 2026

There was no PCSO in attendance at the meeting to explain the figures. It was noted that some of the figures for violence against a person were remarkably high.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to forward the invitation sent to the PCSO regarding the meeting.

67/26-27 DRAFT TRAINING PLAN 2026/27

A draft plan had been included with the meeting papers and this was discussed.

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

68/26-27 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

A draft report had been included with the meeting papers and this was discussed.

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

69/26-27 CHRISTMAS 2026 QUOTES FOR CONSIDERATION

3 quotes had been obtained for the installation, removal and storage of 40 column motif features and the supply, installation, removal and dressing/undressing of lights on 5 x 20ft trees.

The quotes were discussed.

Resolved: The quote from Centregreat Ltd was unanimously accepted.

70/26-27 COMMUNITY SPACES

Councillor Martyn Jones spoke about the importance of keeping our community spaces to a standard and this was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that ward members will work together to look at what they would like to achieve in their green spaces and feedback their green space plan at the October meeting to enable the Clerk to obtain quotes prior to precept setting.

71/26-27 PARKING OUTSIDE BETTWS SCHOOL

Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer raised concerns regarding the parking outside the Bettws schools, with some vehicles double parking. This was discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to request that the PCSOs monitor this problem.

72/26-27 GLANLLYNFI GARTH WIND FARM

Councillor John Coles had attended the consultation session and had 3 main concerns:

- Noise from the turbines
- The effect on wildlife
- A shadow ticker

Councillor Coles pointed out the locations of the turbines on a map. He also spoke about the Community Benefit Fund and how good Merryl Lewis had been in organizing an additional event. This was discussed including the economic viability, no community benefit, the impact on hearing aids, cocleacher implants, epileptics etc.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to write and request that the turbines, in particular turbine 5, is reduced in height from 180m to 150m and to write and request a portion of the Community Benefit Fund is allocated to the Garw Valley Community Council. It was unanimously agreed that the council does not support this project.

73/26-27 SEPTEMBER 2026 EVENTS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

The Chair of Events Committee gave an update on the meeting held on 16th September.

The Committee recommends to full council:

- That Councillor D Williams in partnership with Awen runs an October 2026 event at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall. That Councillor Williams confirms that the necessary DBS checks and public liability insurance are in place.
- The arrangements for the Pontycymer Christmas Concert are in place. Ticket prices need to be discussed at the next meeting. The Pontycymer ward members will collaborate with Councillor D Davies on the tickets, poster and programme with a draft ready for full council to approve at the October 2026 meeting.
- Councillor Griffiths and the Clerk will ask the school for numbers for Christmas gifts for 2026. Councillor C Lloyd will visit the warehouse to look for suitable items; Christmas mugs were the preferred option.
- The next meeting will be held on 15th October for discussions to take place and further recommendations made to full council.

The warehouse visit has since taken place and two types of mug could be sourced, one at £2.40 and one at £1.95. The £2.40 was preferred this would mean a cost of £1,536. Councillor Lloyd is finding out if they are sold in individual boxes or not.

Resolved: Councillor Williams confirmed that the necessary DBS checks and public liability were in place for the half term event. All recommendations were accepted. It was agreed that the Clerk will share any publicity materials for the half-term event with councillors and on the council's website.

NOTE: The member of the public was asked to leave the meeting for the next item. The Clerk was also asked to leave following her feedback ref. the Warden.

74/26-27 STAFF CONFIDENTIAL

Two points were raised.

Resolved: The Warden to be invited to the October 2026 meeting, the other matter to be deferred to the October 2026 meeting.

75/26-27 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING FINANICAL REQUEST FOR CCYD

Payments: Authority was requested for the payments for August and September 2026 of £7,993.24 and £7,456.84.

Budget monitoring sheets and a list of payments was presented. See below:

August 2026

Ref.	**Payee**	***Description***	***£***	***p***
BP82	Clerk	Community Award Gift	10	10
BP83	OVO Energy	Electricity Supply Vis Centre	2	48
BP84	Evans Gardening Service	Grass cutting	425	00
BP85	Maison et Jardin	Installation of bench Meadow St	165	00
BP86	C Harding	PAT testing Vis Centre & Clerk's Equipment	130	00
BP87	Robert Price	Materials for Warden	24	65
BP88	BGS Motors & Mowers	Hedgecutter service	205	20
BP89	BGS Motors & Mowers	LR Hedgecutter service	148	40
BP90	St David's Fire	Fire safety checks Vis Centre	473	59
BP91	Starboard Systems	Scribe Installation	658	80
BP92	Robert Price	Materials for Warden	47	99
BP93	BGS Motors & Mowers	Parts for equipment	61	00
BP94	Maison et Jardin	Noticeboard cleaning and maintenance	81	20
BP95	Ovo Energy	Electricity supply Vis Centre	23	12
BP96	Clerk	July 2026 Mileage	77	00
BP97	LBG Waste Management	Litter bin service	78	00
BP98	Clerk	Stationery	14	37
BP99	LBG Waste Management	Litter bin service	64	00
BP100	Blue Sky Enterprises	Water Signs Lakes x 4	264	00
BP101	Clerk	August 2026 Salary	[redacted]	
BP102	Warden	August 2026 Salary		
BP103	RCT Pensions	Staff Costs July 2026		
BP104	HMRC	Tax and NI July 2026		
		Total:	**£7,993**	**24**

September 2026

Ref.	**Payee**	***Description***	***£***	***p***

BP105	Evans Gardening Services	Grass cutting	425	00
BP106	LBG Waste Management	Litter bin service	76	00
BP107	LBG Waste Management	Litter bin service	74	00
BP108	LBG Waste Management	Litter bin service	62	00
BP109	Clerk	Postage	1	55
BP110	Clerk	Purchase of banding tool for Warden	166	80
BP111	LBG Waste Management	Litter bin service	60	00
BP112	Clerk	August 2026 Mileage	32	61
BP113	Ovo Energy	Electricity supply Vis Centre	21	99
BP114	Starboard Systems	Scribe monthly payment	79	20
BP115	Clerk	Stationery	24	93
BP116	LBG Waste Management	Litter bin service	74	00
BP117	Bakers DIY	Materials for Warden and daffodil bulbs	603	97
BP118	LBG Waste Management	Litter bin service	60	00
BP119	Evans Gardening Service	Grass cutting	425	00
BP120	Coity Higher CC	Printing and copying	125	03
BP121	Coity Higher CC	Photocopier hire (error on invoice received £31.31 to be deducted from the next invoice)	125	03
BP122	Clerk	September 2026 Salary	[redacted]	
BP123	Warden	September 2026 Salary		
BP124	HMRC	Tax and NI August 2026		
BP125	RCT Pensions	Staff Costs		
		Total:	**£7,456**	**84**

Income: There had been no income in either month.

External Audit: no correspondence or questions have been received to date.

Financial Requests: The deferred financial request from CCYD was discussed following the receipt of further information.

A further request had been received to cover the cost of a defibrillator cabinet to enable Bettws FC to move their defibrillator so that there is access for all. The Clerk had made enquiries and the cost is £499 + VAT and carriage for the cabinet.

Pay Award 2026/27: the pay award for 2026/27 has been agreed and is payable from April 2026. It is equivalent to a rise of 3.3% and is in line with the Clerk's contract of employment.

Resolved: All information was noted. Authority was given for the payments for the two months and the budget monitoring sheets were approved. The pay award was noted and in line with the Clerk's contract of employment would be backdated to

April 2026. It was unanimously agreed to donate £250 to CCYD's production. The Clerk was asked to forward the Bettws FC request to the 4 ward members and to find out from Bettws FC is the defibrillator is going on the outside but within the gated area or the non-gated area.

76/26-27 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor M Lewis: Gave updates on Oxford street and Llangeinor Square works teams.

Councillor H Griffiths: informed members that the work at Waunbant has been completed, that a referral has been made about the pot holes on Shwt hill and that she is still trying to sort litter bin numbers. Councillor Griffiths said the floral displays this year have been, and continue to be, fantastic and that the contractor worked hard to ensure they were watered throughout the months of dry weather.

Councillor M Jones: asked what members wanted from him in his borough councillor role? Councillor Jones was asked to push for a later bus from Bridgend up the valley to enable people to work part-time/shifts and get home by bus. A sunken drain cover just before Llangeinor Square needs attention, there was some discussion on whether it is a BCBC or Dwr Cymru drain.

Councillor G Lloyd: said he'd been informed that the 20 newly build flats in Bettws will be completed closer to Christmas than expected and that the Welsh nursery is now occupied and open.

Councillor J Coles: reported a decomposing dead sheep in the water at Nanthir. Ebikes continue to be a concern.

Councillor N Harwood Scorer: informed members about the water supply to the new flats in Bettws.

Councillor M Trowbridge: gave updates on a collapsed drain which had been reported, trouble with scrambler bikes on the playing fields, reports of camp fire, fly tipping and the burning of fly tipping on the fields, traps hung around the field containing barbed wire which is a public safety concern especially for dog walkers and litter pickers.

Councillor Deb Davies: Agreed that e-bikes continue to be a concern, said she'd been told that the missing 16 year olds appearing regularly on social media is an under 16 game of dare and that the Veterans Hub that meets at the Richard Price Centre is holding a Remembrance Service on 8th November 2026 at Calvaria Chapel with light refreshments afterwards at the RP Centre. The withdrawal of works on the new Pavillion in Llangeinor was mentioned.

Resolved: All information was noted. Councillor Coles was advised to report the dead sheep to Shared Regulatory Services and any issues with e-bikes to South Wales Listens.

77/26-27 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended the following meetings/events on behalf of the council:

- 21st June 2026 Bettws Church for Father Phillip's ordination
- 2nd July 2026 Bridgend Samaritans AGM – an insight into their brilliant work
- 15th and 18th July 2026 presentation of the council's Community Award at two of the primary schools
- 19th August 2026 V2C walkabout bottom site Bettws

The Chair asked all councillors to provide comments on the staff to facilitate appraisals. Comments to be received by 11th October – for Karl to the Clerk and for the Clerk to the Chair.

Resolved: The information was noted.

78/26-27 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Site Visit Hill View Land: no response from BCBC to date

Tree Risk Assessment: this is almost complete and a report will be received soon. There are some trees which need attention within the next 4 and13 weeks and others that can be put into a schedule of works. The council needs to consider this when precept setting.

Meadow Street: the bench has been relocated further along the street and a litter bin installed nearby.

Remembrance Wreaths: the Clerk asked how many remembrance wreaths are required this year and was asked to obtain 5 – 2 for Pontycymer and 1 for each of the 3 other wards.

Noticeboards: maintenance has been carried out to all noticeboards; they have been cleaned inside and out and the hinges and locks lubricated.

Railings the Strand: work is starting on these in October.

Parc Calon Lan: The annual PAT testing has been carried out with no failures. The annual fire assessment report has been received with 3 recommendations which the Clerk is obtaining quotes for consideration.

A bench at the top of PCLan has rotted and been removed. A replacement has been purchased.

Civic Chains: both chains have been cleaned and polished and some small repairs made. A full report on both chains has been written and is included in the meeting papers. These are useful documents going forward to enable the council to plan works. The work was carried out free of charge.

Plant! Site fencing: a quote has been received for the fencing, posts and gate work around the site. A quote for all the job and a quote for the parts which currently need attention.

Clerk's Annual Leave: the Clerk reminded members of her leave in late September/early October. Urgent calls and emails will be directed to the Chair.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. The Clerk was asked to ensure the engraving is up-to-date on the Chair's chain of office. It was unanimously agreed that quotes for the full job should be obtained as if the fencing has deteriorated the rest is likely to follow shortly. The Civic Chains and reports were well received and the council thanked the polisher for their excellent work. The Clerk to order 5 remembrance wreaths.

79/26-27 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:

- One Voice Wales – amendment to Model Standing Orders
- One Voice Wales – Motions for AGM (deadline 4th December 2026)
- One Voice Wales – Amendment to Model Contract of Employment
- BCBC – letter from the Rights of Way Manager ref council representative LAF
- BCBC – letter from Mayor ref chosen charity
- Land Registry – enquiry ref. land Railway Terrace
- BCBC – invitation to Financial Briefing for Clerks 28th September and invitation to Councillors and Clerks to a Transformation Strategy meeting on 14th September 2026.

- South Wales Police – details of a youth event
- Democracy and Boundary Commission – Review 2030 of Senedd constituencies (link in email sent)
- Wales Audit Office – cost of 24/25 external audit
- OVW/NALC – Annual Pay Settlement for staff 2026/27 backdated to April 2026
- OVW – Important letter to Member Councils ref. Community Boundary Reviews
- Bridgend Town Council – invite to Chair to attend Civic Service
- Cwm Taff Morgannwg Regional Project – invitation to attend a project scoping workshop on 27th October 2026
- Galileo Empower – Mynydd Ty Talwyn Energy Park – info on the project.

Resolved: All information was noted. The amendment to Model Standing Orders and Motions for AGM will be included on the October meeting agenda, the request from the Rights of Way Manager ref LAF was accepted. Councillor D Williams had attended the Transformation Strategy meeting, the South Wales Police event details had been shared with councillors and published on the council's website. The Chair was unable to accept the Bridgend Town Council Civic Service invitation.

80/26-27 PLANNING MATTERS

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

5 planning requests 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. The Clerk was asked to object to the height of the turbines, particularly turbines 1 and 2 in P/26/455/RLX.

81/26-27 ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2026 ORDINARY MEETING

- Quotes for grass cutting and floral displays 2027/28
- Amendment to Model Standing Orders
- Motions for OVW AGM (deadline 4th December 2026)
- Feedback from Events Committee Meeting
- Staff Confidential
- Invite Warden to the October 2026 meeting
- Community Pantry (MJ)

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 19th October 2026 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the Richard Price Centre and via Teams.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm