



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held at the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall
Monday 13th April 2015**

Members Present:-

Councillor G Davies (Chairman)

Councillors: C G Andrews; D T Griffiths; Mrs D Griffiths; W J Hillier and J Szeligiewicz

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and was chaired by Councillor G Davies.

No. **Minute**

1/16 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Mrs H Griffiths; F J Hughes; Mrs T M Jenkins; M Jones; Mrs M Thomas and G Walters

2/16 **Declarations of Interest**

None declared

3/16 **Formulation of response to the White Paper – Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People**

The Councils started considering questions in the Consultation Survey relating to Community Councils (Questions 4.12 – 4.33) but after discussing questions 4.12 – 4.18 felt that they were disagreeing with every proposal. The Members stopped considering the Consultation Survey questions and resolved that a letter is written to the Welsh Government to express the Council's views that it is not worthwhile completing the Consultation Survey as the Council cannot agree to any of the proposals.

Resolved: a letter is written to the Welsh Government to cover the following points:

- 1. The Council is satisfied with the way that it is structured and managed***
- 2. If the proposals go ahead, there will be increased responsibilities for the Members with no mention of any remuneration. Borough Councillors receive payments for their work and the Members fear that they will be expected to carry out some of the work previously done by Borough Councillors for no financial reward***
- 3. How much will the transformation the sector cost and who will meet this cost?***
- 4. The Members were upset about the terminology of 'competent' councils. Currently, the Council cannot meet two out of the four proposed tests and would therefore be deemed to be not competent (or possibly 'incompetent')***
- 5. Why change a Council that is working well for its community***

The Recommendation from BCBC was that the Town and Community Council Forum:

- notes the content of this report (copy provided to every Member);
- agrees that each Town and Community Council will:
 - Identify a Member Champion for Diversity
 - Consider the co-option of a youth member.
 - Encourage their elected members to undertake mentoring of potential successors
 - Work with the BCBC Diversity Champion to collate and assess relevant data and assist in the development of the Diversity Strategy

Resolved:

- *The Council noted the content of the Report received.*
- *The Council disagrees with the identification of a Member Champion for Diversity (there was no information provided to the Council about what this role will entail)*
- *The Council disagrees with giving consideration to the co-option of a youth member*
- *The Council disagrees with encouraging their elected members to undertake mentoring of potential successors*
- *The Council is not interested in working with the BCBC Diversity Champion to collate and assess relevant data and assist in the development of the Diversity Strategy. The Council feels this is the role of the Diversity Champion at BCBC.*

With business concluded, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.40pm

Chairman _____ Date _____