



# ***GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL*** ***CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW***

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

***Members Present:-***

Councillor G Davies (Chairman)

***Councillors:*** C G Andrews; D T Griffiths; Mrs D Griffiths; Mrs H Griffiths; Mrs T M Jenkins; J Szeligiewicz and G Walters.

***Police:*** PCSO M Rees and Sgt M Davies

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and was chaired by Councillor G Davies.

***No.***                      ***Minute***

***160/15***                      ***Apologies for Absence***

The Members ***resolved*** to note the apologies received from Cllrs F Hughes, W Hillier, M Jones, S Maclaren and Mrs M Thomas.

***161/15***                      ***Declarations of Interest***

None declared

***162/15***                      ***Chairman's announcements***

The Chairman informed the Council that he'd accepted two invitations to events in March:

1. Mayor (BCBC) – Gala dinner on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Bryngarw House to celebrate a new chapter in the history of Bryngarw House
2. Maesteg Gleemen MVC – The Dunraven Welsh Young Singer of the Year 2015 event on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015

***163/15***                      ***Police Matters***

Sgt Mark Davies and PCSO Michael Rees addressed the questions that were asked of them by the Members.

PCSO Rees is responsible for policing the Bettws area and informed the Council that one of his main priorities is trying to find somewhere for the young people of Bettws to go. Currently they are gathering at the school as it is lit and provides shelter but the youths are causing damage there.

Sgt Davies informed the Council that there is a lot of inquisitive crime (petty crimes) in the Valley and that people need to be educated and act responsibly e.g. not leave valuables visible in cars, lock windows and doors in houses etc.

Sgt Davies explained that the Police are evidence gatherers (which then go to the Crown Prosecution Service) but if a victim of crime doesn't want to take any further action by pressing charges, there is nothing that the Police can do to pursue the crime.

If crimes are not reported to the Police, they are not aware of it and therefore cannot take any action. Sgt Davies commented that it was evident from the last PACT Meeting that there is under-reporting of crime. Therefore the more crimes that are reported, the greater the Police presence will be in the area. Sgt Davies also explained that the Police must manage the public's expectations and that some crimes will always be unsolvable.

Cllr D Griffiths raised his concerns about the parking problem in Bettws near the traffic calming measure whereby vehicles are causing an obstruction to the cycle lane and visibility of oncoming traffic which he had made the PCSO aware of some months earlier. Sgt Davies reassured the Council that the Police will be doing something about this problem.

The Council thanked Sgt Davies and PCSO Rees for their attendance and they left the Meeting.

Cllr J Szeligiewicz gave his apologies for his late arrival but he had come straight from work.

***164/15      Question and answer session re: renewable energy***

Mr Jeremy Liley attended the Meeting to outline possible renewable energy schemes that the Council could consider to generate income and provide community benefits for the local residents.

***Resolved: the Council gave an instruction to Mr Liley to research all the options available to the Council and the potential income that would be derived from each of the different types of schemes. The Members also require information on the amount of disruption that would result from each of the different types of schemes.***

***165/15      Minutes of the January 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting***

***Resolved: the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 are a true record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.***

***166/15      Matters arising from the January 2015 Ordinary Council Minutes***

148/15 (130/15) – Missing files – the Clerk provided a report to the Members a week prior to the Meeting. A lengthy discussion took place on this matter and Cllr D Griffiths requested that it is minuted that the Clerk is not to blame.

151/15 (item 25) – poppies on street lighting columns. The Clerk has received a second query (dated 20<sup>th</sup> January) regarding the removal/replacement of the poppies. The Clerk has replied stating that the poppies were placed there by the Royal British Legion and provided contact details for the Royal British Legion.

158/15 – Non-attendance of the Llangeinor Ward Member at Council Meetings – this item, with the agreement of Cllr D T Griffiths, has been deferred until the March 2015 Ordinary Councillor Meeting.

**167/15**      **Finance & Accounts**

- a) The reconciliation of the Council's Bank Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 was confirmed.
- b) The Meeting received and adopted the list of payments and receipts from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31 January 2015.

Total payments £4,781.97  
Total receipts    £2,965.00

- c) The Meeting received the Receipts and Payments Account from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015
- d) To approve the Clerk's expense claim for January 2015  
***Resolved: the Council approved the payment of the Clerk's expenses for January 2015***
- e) To confirm the re-appointment of Mr B Rees as the internal auditor for 2014/15 (Mr Rees has been the Council's Internal Auditor since 2008/09)  
***Resolved: Mr B Rees is reappointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for 2014/15.***
- f) To discuss the renewal notice received from the Society of Local Council Clerks. The Council has paid for the Clerk to be a Member since February 2012. The cost of membership for 2015/16 is £210 (cost for 2014/15 was £207 and 2013/14 was £203).  
***Resolved: this item is deferred for discussion at or after the Extraordinary Meeting being held at the conclusion of this Ordinary Council Meeting.***
- g) To discuss the Clerk's attendance at the joint One Voice Wales/SLCC event on 14/5/15. The event will focus on community governance, devolution of services/asset transfers from unitary authorities, financial governance and accountability and contributing to sustainability. The cost of the event is £69 (plus VAT). Councillors are also able to attend the event.  
***Resolved: this item is deferred for discussion at or after the Extraordinary Meeting being held at the conclusion of this Ordinary Council Meeting.***
- h) To discuss the renewal notice received from One Voice Wales for membership for 2015-16. The Council has been a member since April 2012  
***Resolved: this item is deferred for discussion at or after the Extraordinary Meeting being held at the conclusion of this Ordinary Council Meeting.***
- i) To discuss the request for financial assistance from the Teenage Cancer Trust Wales  
***Resolved: this item is left on the table***
- j) To discuss the request for financial assistance from The Bridgend and County Borough Veterans Association  
***Resolved: this item is left on the table***

**168/15**      **Clerk's Report**

- 1. In the January 2015 Ordinary Meeting, the Clerk reported that the Police were searching for a missing person in the Darren Fawr Forestry on the day of the Meeting.

The Warden reported to the Clerk on the day after the Meeting that a body had been found by the Police and removed. The Clerk informed the Members on the same day. The Warden had informed the Clerk that there are lots of flowers laid at the site.

2. Cleaning of steps and lane, Llangeinor – Mrs Trigg telephoned the Clerk requesting that the steps and lane are cleaned again. The Warden has performed the work and Mrs Trigg has rung to say thank you.
3. The Clerk has put an item on the Agenda “To discuss the venue for the April to October 2015 Ordinary Council Meetings”. Currently the Bettws Life Centre is only open during Library hours and therefore is not available to hold the Council Meetings. The Council needs to decide on an alternative venue to hold the Meetings for the Bettws and Llangeinor Wards.
4. Plant! – The whips have been received. However, the ground has been too hard for them to be planted so the Warden is hoping for some milder weather to plant them. The Clerk reported at the Meeting that the Warden has completed the site behind the Co-op in Pontycymmer and is now working on the Carn sites.
5. Amendment to Lease to include the car park – the Clerk has received documents from the Council’s Solicitor and discussed the suggested amendments with him. The way that BCBC is proposing to proceed is making the documentation unnecessarily confusing and therefore the Council’s Solicitor is going to discuss this with BCBC.
6. Damaged bridge near Charter Club – the Warden informed the Clerk of his concerns for public safety on this bridge as there are several gaps in the railings and in one section there is a gap of approximately 50cm where three railings are missing. The Clerk contacted Mr Steve Sherwood and Cllr D Pugh to raise these concerns. BCBC have carried out the repair works.
7. Locks cut on gate on Community Route to allow emergency access – the Chairman of the Bridgend Valleys Railways Company contacted the Clerk and visited the Warden to inform them that the locks had to be cut by Welsh Water to deal with a sewerage leak from a manhole just beyond the gate. The Warden had two spare locks in the Visitor Centre and has fitted them on the gate (provided by BCBC). The same locks are now on all the gates for the whole length of the Community Route.
8. The Warden has informed the Clerk that some of the fencing protecting the hedgerow around the car park in Parc Calon Lan needs replacing. The Clerk has requested that he prices up the cost of the materials and this can be presented at the March 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting. In addition, the Warden pointed out that a small part of the statue in the park has chipped off in the cold weather conditions.

In addition to the above points that the Clerk had circulated a week prior to the Meeting, the Clerk informed the Council of the following:

9. Fencing at the end of the MTB Trail where it joins the Community Route – the Warden has recommended in his Monthly Inspection Report that a length of fencing is installed at the end of the Trail where it meets the Community Route to make the end of the Trail more obvious and to try to deter people walking up the Trails. The Clerk has asked the Warden to price up the materials and this will be presented to the Council for consideration at the March Ordinary Council Meeting.

10. Steps in the Strand Park, Blaengarw – the Clerk informed the Members that a small section of one of the steps has collapsed. The Clerk has reported this to BCBC and Cllr Pugh.
11. Damaged bollard near St David’s Church, Bettws – Cllr D Griffiths reported to the Clerk that one of the newly installed bollards has been hit by a vehicle and is need of a repair. The Clerk has reported this to BCBC and Cllr Jones.
12. Garreg Side – the Clerk informed the Members that the work on the bridge is now complete and provided photos. The gates to the Community Route are due to be installed soon; BCBC are waiting to take delivery of them (confirmed via a telephone call with the Rights of Way Department, BCBC).

**169/15**      **Correspondence**

1. Clerk to BCBC (Cllr P White) – expressing the Council’s concerns over the long-term use, liability and upkeep of the Community Route south of the Garw Valley Life Centre, Pontycymmer. (Minute 151/15 (9 and 10))
2. Clerk to Local Policing Inspector – addressing the concerns of the Members raised at the January 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting (Minute 145/15)
3. Clerk to BCBC (Transportation) – request for double yellow lines near traffic calming measure in Bettws – see Minute 163/15  
*Items 1 to 3 are noted*
4. BCBC (Monitoring Officer) – Invitations of Nominations to the Standards Committee  
***Resolved: Cllr G Walters expressed an interest in becoming a Member of this Committee. All Members present were in favour of Cllr G Walter’s nomination and therefore Cllr Walters must submit a summary of his experience to the Monitoring Officer at BCBC for consideration.***
5. Welsh Government – informing of the publication of the White Paper “Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People”. Responses to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015.  
*The Clerk circulated a letter to all Members on 13<sup>th</sup> February summarising the key points of the White Paper affecting Community Councils and enclosed a copy of the section of the Consultation Survey relating to Community Councils. The Clerk proposed that this item is put on the Agenda for the March Ordinary Council Meeting to formulate the Council’s response. With all Members present in agreement, it was:-*  
***Resolved: this item should be included on the Agenda for the March Ordinary Council Meeting.***
6. Pencoed Town Council – notification that the installation of the new Mayor, Cllr J Hancock OBE and Civic Service will be taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> May
7. Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) – informing of volunteering information sessions in Pontycymmer
8. BAVO – informing of a Community champions volunteer befrienders session on 18/2/15

9. Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales – thanking for donation
10. Urdd – thanking for donation
11. National Assembly for Wales – informing of the Inquiry into Consideration of powers: Public Service Ombudsman for Wales
12. BCBC – informing of the Consultation – Social Services and Well-being Act Self-Assessment Tool. Comments to be received by 18/2/15.
13. South Wales Fire and Rescue Service – notifying that they have published their 5 Year Strategic plan 2015-2020.  
*Items 6 to 13 are noted*

With the consent of the Chairman, the Clerk reported the following correspondence which had been received after the Minutes had been circulated and was provided for information purposes only (the three clear days' notice as defined in Sch 12 para 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 could not be adhered to due to the timing of receipt of these items):

14. Ms Beth Payne – request for a memorial bench to be placed near the lake in Parc Calon Lan. The Clerk has replied stating that the Council has passed a resolution not to allow any more benches in the area (Minute 84/14 (10)). Ms Payne has since requested that a bench is placed in the Plant! site behind the Co-op, Pontycymmer. The Clerk said this will have to be considered by the Full Council in the March Ordinary Meeting and the Welsh Government as it is a Plant! site.
15. Mayor (BCBC) – invitation for Chairman and guest to a gala dinner on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Bryngarw House to celebrate a new chapter in the history of Bryngarw House – see Minute 162/15
16. Maesteg Gleemen MVC – invitation for Chairman and Consort to the Dunraven Welsh Young Singer of the Year 2015 event on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015 - see Minute 162/15
17. Royal British Legion – invitation for the Chairman to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Poppy Appeal Band Concert on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
*Items 14 to 17 are noted*
18. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) re: Legal Forest Riders – NRW are willing to renew the permission but are requesting a response from the Council prior to doing so. The Legal Forest Riders are willing to attend a Council Meeting to discuss any queries.  
***Resolved: the Council would like a representative from both NRW and the Legal Forest Riders to attend the March Ordinary Council Meeting to answer questions on this matter.***
19. Planning Aid Wales – training opportunity on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in Maesteg Town Council Offices
20. Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales – informing that a consultation is taking place on amendments and updates to include in the Police and Crime Plan.
21. OVW – Agenda for the Larger Local Councils Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015

22. OVW – press release from the First Minister regarding the Welsh Government’s plans for the commemoration of the First World War in 2015
23. OVW (on behalf of the Welsh Government) – informing that the Minister for Finance and Government Business has issued a Consultation Paper on proposals for a Land Transaction Tax to replace Stamp Duty Land Tax in Wales in 2018.
24. BCBC (Education) – informing that the Decision Document for the enlargement of YGG Cwm Garw is available
25. Marie Curie Cancer Care – thanking for donation  
*Items 19 to 25 are noted*

**170/15**      **Planning Matters**

a) The following planning applications received were discussed:

- i) P/15/47/FUL – application for 2 semi-detached 4 bed dwellings with integral garage at 2-4 Heol Dewi Sant (plot between 2B and 6), Bettws – *no objections*

With the consent of the Chairman, the Clerk reported the following Planning Applications which had been received after the Minutes had been circulated and was provided for information purposes only (the three clear days’ notice as defined in Sch 12 para 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 could not be adhered to due to the timing of receipt of these items):

- ii) P/15/72/FUL – application for change of use of shop to dwelling incorporating a new front elevation at 39 Oxford Street, Pontycymmer - *no objections. The Members not present had been informed of this application and not submitted any objections to it.*
- iii) P/15/73/FUL – application for a faceted conservatory to side of lounge extension with GRP roof to form sundeck off the bedroom at Brynawel, Llangeinor - *no objections. The Members not present had been informed of this application and not submitted any objections to it.*

b) The following planning application decisions were reported on:

- i) P/14/795/FUL – permission granted for a rear two storey kitchen/bathroom/bedroom extension at 43 Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer
- ii) P/14/289/FUL – permission refused to convert a vacant shop into a flat at 24A Y Wern, Bettws

With the consent of the Chairman, the Clerk reported the following Planning Decisions which had been received after the Minutes had been circulated and was provided for information purposes only (the three clear days’ notice as defined in Sch 12 para 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 could not be adhered to due to the timing of receipt of these items):

- iii) P/14/825/FUL – permission granted for a timber workshop and store for the coppicing and management of a woodland copse for private use at Woodland Copse, off Moel-Gilau Road, near Llety Brongu

**171/15      Update on the Breathing Spaces land**

This matter was deferred until the March 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting as Cllrs M Jones and Mrs M Thomas were not present.

**172/15      Venue for Council Meetings for April to October 2015**

***Resolved: the Council will meet at Bettws Primary School for the Ordinary Council Meetings being held in April, May and June. The situation will be reviewed for the July, September and October Ordinary Council Meeting closer to the time depending on whether the Bettws Life Centre has fully re-opened.***

**173/15      Appointment of Community Council representative to the Board of Governors at Ffaldau Primary School**

***Resolved: Cllr G Walters was nominated as the representative and all Members present were in favour of his appointment. Therefore, Cllr G Walters will represent the Council on the Board of Governors.***

**174/15      Items for the March 2015 Ordinary Meeting**

1. To discuss the grit bin on Richard Street, Pontycymmer (JS)
2. To discuss the income generation from the timber in the Darren Fawr Forestry (Mrs DG)

Cllr C G Andrews informed the Council that he will provide a report on the “Wheels to Work” scooter loan project launch at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

**175/15      Date of the next Meeting**

***Resolved: That the Council will next meet at 7pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the Blaengarw Workmen’s Hall***

With business concluded, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.50pm

**Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_