



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall
Monday 16th March 2015**

Members Present:-

Councillor G Davies (Chairman)

Councillors: C G Andrews; F Hughes; D T Griffiths; Mrs D Griffiths; Mrs H Griffiths; W Hillier; Mrs T M Jenkins; M Jones; J Szeligiewicz; Mrs M Thomas and G Walters.

Police: PCSO M Rees

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

No. ***Minute***

180/15 ***Apologies for Absence***

No apologies

181/15 ***Declarations of Interest***

Cllr Mrs M Thomas – all matters relating to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC)

182/15 ***Chairman's announcements***

1. The Chairman informed the Council that he'd attended the special gala dinner at Bryngarw House on 7th March held by the Mayor of BCBC and had a pleasant evening. The Chairman informed the Council of the future direction of Bryngarw House.
2. The Vice-Chairman will be attending The Dunraven Welsh Young Singer of the Year 2015 event on 28th March 2015 as the Chairman is unable to attend
3. The Chairman informed the Council of the Clerk's upcoming annual leave
4. The Chairman requested all Declarations of Interest Forms are completed and returned to the Clerk as soon as possible to meet the 1st April deadline

183/15 ***Wheels to Work Scooter Project (run by Bridgend Community Transport)***

Cllr C G Andrews as Vice-Chairman had attended the launch of the project and informed the Council about the details of the project:

- Aimed at 17-25 year olds to attend a place of work/education
- Unable to make the journey to the place of work/education on foot or by public/private transport
- Cost is £40/week with a £100 returnable deposit
- The scheme provides the training, insurance and clothing

The Members requested that Bridgend Community Transport advertises their services in the Garw Valley so that the residents are aware of the transport options available to them.

184/15 **Police Matters**

PCSO M Rees ran through the Police statistics with the Council.

Cllr M Jones gave his apologies for his late arrival.

Cllr D T Griffiths thanked PCSO Rees for resolving the problem with the cars parking by the traffic calming measure in Bettws.

Two Members brought the matter of discarded used syringes behind Bryn Stores and in the lane behind Adare Street in Pontycymmer.

The other concern brought to the attention of the Police is that the boarded up entrance to the Royal Hotel has been pushed in again and the building is no longer secure. PCSO Rees informed the Council that the Police have contacted the owner on numerous occasions after receiving complaints about the building.

These two matters are to be referred to the Borough Councillor for Pontycymmer who had previously arranged for this building to be boarded up for public safety reasons.

185/15 **Question and answer session re: Legal Forest Riders**

Mr Jonathan Price, Community Ranger for Natural Resources Wales and Mr Jonathan Barrett, Director of Legal Forest Riders (LFR) attended the Meeting to provide information about Legal Forest Riders and to answer the Members questions.

A background was given to the Council on why LFR was established. LFR has two sites – the Garw Valley and Glyncastle, Neath. They hold rides twice a month on a Sunday and therefore there would only be one ride a month in the Garw Valley. The number of riders can vary between 5/6 and up to 35 (split into smaller groups).

The Members raised concerns about the noise created from off-road motorbikes and that this is the biggest complaint they receive about off-road bikes. The Members were informed that all bikes that take part in LFR rides must be road-legal so that noise emissions are kept to a minimum.

The other major concern was the number of vans that are parked on the roads in the Garw Fechan area on weekends which are preventing access to the forestry by emergency vehicles if the need arose. Mr Barrett explained that the LFR park their vans inside the forestry (they open the gate to the forestry to allow access to their riders and close it behind them) and therefore all other vans are assumed to belong to illegal motorbike users.

Mr Barrett explained that the LFR are keen to work with the illegal riders and to encourage them to join the organised legal rides.

A question was asked about what offences were being committed by the illegal riders and what preventative powers are available. Mr Barrett provided a detailed list of offences on which the illegal riders could be prosecuted and preventative measures available. Mr Barrett also enforced the point raised by one of the Members that the Police have to be informed of all illegal off-road biking in the forestry. Mr Barrett explained that the Police are driven by complaints and therefore, the more complaints received, the greater importance the Police will give the matter. If the incidents go unreported, the Police are not aware of the problem and cannot pursue it.

The Members took a vote on supporting LFR using the forestry and it was:-

Resolved: that the Council supports the LFR using the Garw Valley forestry for a ride once a month in the hope that this will drive down the illegal riders in the forestry

186/15 **Minutes of the February 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting**

Resolved: the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16th February 2015 are a true record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

187/15 **Matters arising from the February 2015 Ordinary Council Minutes**

163/15 – Parking problems, bottom site in Bettws – the Police have circulated a letter to the local residents advising them that they will issue fixed penalty notices to any vehicle persistently causing an obstruction at this location.

168/15 (5) – Amendment to lease to include car park – the Clerk met with the Solicitor on 3/3/15 to discuss the matter. The Solicitor is going to contact BCBC to try to simplify the documentation.

174/15 – Grit bin on Richard Street, Pontycymmer – the Clerk has reported this matter to BCBC on 17/2/15. BCBC have replied and confirmed that “*the location has been inspected and the need for works has been identified*”.

188/15 **Finance & Accounts**

- a) The Council noted that all matters relating to the Finance and Resources Committee are ongoing.
- b) The reconciliation of the Council’s Bank Accounts as at 28th February 2015 was confirmed.
- c) The Meeting received and adopted the list of payments and receipts from 1st February to 28th February 2015.

Total payments £18,300.18

Total receipts £10.73

- d) The Meeting received the Receipts and Payments Account from 1st April 2014 to 28th February 2015

- e) To approve the Clerk's expense claim for February 2015
Resolved: the Council approved the payment of the Clerk's expenses for February 2015
- f) To discuss and approve the expenditure for posts and rails for fencing at the end of the Mountain Bike Trails, around the edge of Parc Calon Lan car park and to replace the timber on the raised flowerbed in the park. The cost is £200 including VAT (VAT recoverable).
Resolved: the Council approved the expenditure of up to £200
- g) To discuss the repair/bagging of the CCTV Cameras on Pontycymmer Square
Resolution 1: the Clerk is to obtain other quotes for the necessary repair
Resolution 2: the Council is to request BCBC repairs the static camera (owned by BCBC)
Resolution 3: the Council is to request partnership working with BCBC and each party pay 50% of the cost of the repair of the PTZ camera owned by the Community Council
- h) To discuss the request for financial assistance from the Kidney Wales Foundation "Walk for Life 2015"
Resolution 1: this item is left on the table
Resolution 2: all future requests from charities for financial assistance are to be put on hold for the foreseeable future
- i) To discuss the request for financial assistance from the Samaritans
Resolved: see 188/15 (h)

189/15 **Clerk's Report**

1. Resignation of Cllr Steve Maclaren – the Notice informing that a casual vacancy exists has been displayed outside the Bridgend County Borough Council's Civic Offices in Bridgend, in each of the four wards and on the Council's website. If an election is not called by 13th March 2015, the Clerk will make the necessary arrangements to advertise the co-option opportunity.
 At the Meeting, the Clerk informed the Council that an election has not been called and the deadline has passed. The Clerk presented a Notice that will be displayed from the day after the Ordinary Meeting advertising the co-option opportunity.
Resolved: the candidates will be required to give a short presentation about themselves at the April Ordinary Council Meeting (in addition to their written statement) where the co-option will be discussed and decided on
2. Grant funding for Brown Tourism signs – the Clerk has submitted a claim for £4,430.23 to BCBC; this being 50% of the cost of the construction and installation of the signs. The Clerk informed the Council that the grant funding was received into the bank on 9/3/15.
3. Rights of Way Agency Agreement – the Clerk has submitted a year-end claim of £125 to BCBC for the work the Warden has done since 1st October 2014 on the Rights of Way network in the valley. The Clerk informed the Council that the claim had been passed for payment.

4. Plant! claim – the Clerk has sent a claim to Natural Resources Wales for £6,535 for the costs incurred in relation to the Plant! scheme. The claim has been approved and is awaiting payment.
5. VAT Return – the Clerk has submitted a claim for a refund of VAT for the period 1/12/14 to 28/2/15 of £2,345.04
6. The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 requires Community Councils to make information available electronically. As part of this Act, the Council has to publish the register of members’ interests electronically. The Clerk sent out Declarations of Interest Forms on 13th February 2015 for completion by Members and requested that they are completed and returned by 16th March 2015 in order to comply with the deadline of 1st April 2015 for publication online.
7. CCTV Cameras on Pontycymmer Square – the static camera on Pontycymmer Square is no longer working. The CCSU Manager has informed the Clerk that unless the Community Council pays for the cost of the repair of the PTZ Camera, both cameras will have to be bagged or taken down as she has no budget for the works. The Community Council will be charged for the cost of bagging or taking down the PTZ camera by BCBC. The CCSU Manager estimates that the cost of bagging the camera to be approximately £150 which is the cost of a call out. (Quote of £1,780 was provided in the January 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting to repair the PTZ camera which was left on the table).
8. Work experience student – Mr Oliver Beaman has made contact with the Warden to inform him that he’s got a few more hours work experience to complete which he’s hoping to do over the Easter Holidays.
9. Garreg Side bridge improvements – the Clerk, Chairman and Warden met with Mr Sherwood, Team Leader - Highways Structures at BCBC on 10th March to discuss the Council’s concerns. Mr Sherwood has agreed to address the Council’s concerns but not until the new financial year.
10. Committees – in the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Monday 19th May 2014 the following Committees were appointed:

Staff Appointments	Cllr G Davies (Chairman) Cllr C G Andrews Cllr D T Griffiths Cllr Mrs H Griffiths
Disciplinary Committee	Same as Staff Appointments Committee
Rights of Way Committee	Full Council
Finance Sub-Committee	Cllr Mrs D Griffiths Cllr Mrs H Griffiths
Community Park	Full Council

The Finance Sub-Committee has been replaced by the Finance and Resources Committee made up of:

Cllrs Mrs D Griffiths (Chairperson)
Cllr C G Andrews
Cllr G Davies
Cllr Mrs H Griffiths
Cllr M Jones

If the Council is in agreement, the Clerk is proposing disbanding the Rights of Way and Community Park Committees as they haven't met for a number of years. The Full Council is responsible for making the decisions on these matters which can be discussed at any Ordinary Council Meeting. This would result in the following Committees being in place:

1. Finance and Resources Committee
2. Staff Appointments Committee
3. Disciplinary Committee

This matter had been placed on the Agenda for discussion ahead of the Annual Meeting in May.

11. Lighting columns requiring repairs, Heol Glannant, Bettws – the Clerk has reported to BCBC that columns 16, 17 and 20 are not working (reported to the Clerk by a Cllr D T Griffiths)
12. B'Leaf – B'Leaf will be making a presentation at the April Ordinary Council Meeting
13. Article in the Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine – the Clerk sent an article in to the magazine regarding the presentation made by the Council in January. The Clerk had provided a copy of the article to every Member.

190/15 Correspondence

1. Garw Senior Boys and Girls Club – request for assistance to relocate to the side of the building.
The Council discussed the matter and has learned that the issue has been resolved as the back entrance to the Club is now being used.
2. BCBC (Democratic Services) – enclosing the draft report to be presented to the Town and Community Council Forum on 30/3/15 regarding democratic diversity
3. SLCC – invitation for the Clerk to an event regarding the White Paper: Reforming Local Government in Wales
4. Ms Merete Bang (Democratic Services Assistant for Members and the Mayor at BCBC) – informing that she has resigned from BCBC and her last day will be 31/3/15. The Clerk informed the Council that this has been extended to 31/5/15.
5. One Voice Wales – forwarding the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report (pages 36 – 38 are relevant for Community Councils).
Items 2 to 5 are noted

6. Mr Karl Paterson, Manager at the Garw Valley Life Centre – invitation for the Clerk to a meeting to with the new Centre Manager. The Clerk has replied welcoming a meeting and requesting that the Chairman attends with her. Mr Paterson has suggested attending a Council Meeting to introduce himself.
Resolved: the Clerk and Chairman are to attend a meeting with Mr Paterson
7. Bridgend County Care and Repair – making a request to present at a Council Meeting to inform the Members about the project “Choose Well”
Resolved: the Council is to invite Bridgend Care and Repair to the June Ordinary Council Meeting to make a presentation
8. Ms Jan Gordon – enquiring why Community Councillors do not attend the PACT meetings. Ms Gordon sent an apology to the Bettws and Llangeinor Councillors as she didn’t realise that separate PACT meetings are held for these wards.
Some Members informed the Council that they had replied personally.
9. BAVO – informing of Comic Relief one-to-one funding surgery on 24/3/15
10. OVW (on behalf of the Welsh Government) – informing of the consultation to replace Landfill Tax in Wales with Landfill Disposals Tax
11. OVW – informing of Consultancy Services available to Member Councils
12. BCBC (Mayoral Dept) – informing of the People’s Health Trust funding opportunity
13. Wales in Bloom – details of the launch events – further information available from the Clerk
Items 8 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. BCBC – reply to letter about Community Route (south of the Garw Valley Life Centre, Pontycymmer) – to be discussed at the April Ordinary Council Meeting
15. Richard Price Centre – request for financial assistance towards a summer playscheme (to be considered in the April Ordinary Council Meeting)
16. Clerk to BCBC – reporting further damage to bollard near St David’s Church, Bettws and tipped-over grit bin in Heol Glannant, Bettws (referral received from Cllr D T Griffiths)
17. BAVO – advertising a drop in session in Pontycymmer on 18/3/15
Items 14 to 17 are noted
18. Porthcawl Town Council – advertising the Porthcawl Photography Competition
Resolved: the Council is in favour of displaying the poster on its Notice Board

191/15 **Planning Matters**

- a) The following planning application received was discussed:
- i) P/15/113/FUL – application for a single storey extension at 3 Stable Lane, Pantygog – *no objections*
- a) To note the planning application decisions below:
- i) P/14/842/FUL – permission granted for a single storey side extension at Premier Lloyd’s Store, 14-16 Y Wern, Bettws
 - ii) P/15/11/FUL – permission granted for change of use from former clinic to two bedroom dwelling at The Former Clinic, Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer

192/15 **Update on the Breathing Spaces land**

The Council were informed that Blaengarw Primary School has expressed an interest in taking over the land. No further update was available.

193/15 **Request for bench in Plant! site behind Co-operative store, Pontycymmer**

Resolved: the Council approved the request for the installation of a memorial bench with a plaque in the Plant! site. The family will be responsible for the purchase, maintenance and liability of the bench.

194/15 **To formulate the Council’s response to the White Paper “Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People”**

Resolved: The Chairman will call an Extraordinary Meeting to formulate the Council’s response

195/15 **Grit bin, Richard Street, Pontycymmer**

See Minute 187/15 (174/15) above

196/15 **Income generation from the timber in the Darren Fawr Forestry**

Resolved: this item is deferred to the April Ordinary Council Meeting

197/15 **Continuation/disbanding of Committees**

See Minute 189/15 above

Resolved: the Rights of Way and Community Park Committees are disbanded with immediate effect.

198/15 Items for the April 2015 Ordinary Meeting

None

199/15 Date of the next Meeting

Resolved: That the Council will next meet at 7pm on Monday 20th April 2015 at Bettws Primary School

This concluded the business of the Ordinary Council Meeting where the Clerk was responsible for clerking and she left the Meeting at 9.00pm

Mr Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services at BCBC took over the role of the Clerk.

200/15 Exclusion of the public

Resolved: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they contained exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 14 of Part 4 and or Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act:

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the under-mentioned items in private with the public being excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as stated above.

201/15 Approval of Exempt Minutes

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16th February 2015 be approved as a true and accurate record subject to the inclusion of Cllr H Griffiths as an attendee at the meeting

With business concluded, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.38pm

Chairman _____ Date _____