



**GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD AT**  
**HALO LEISURE PONTYCYMER ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Councillor H Griffiths (Finance Committee Chair)

Councillors: C G Andrews  
R Stirman

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

No Apologies: Councillor R Jones

FR19/18 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Councillor Roz Stirman declared an interest as a Member of BCBC.

FR20/18 TO RECORD THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

Resolved: The Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record; with this, the Chairman duly signed the Minute Book.

FR021/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NOVEMBER 2018 MEETING

Resolved: There were no Matters Arising.

FR22/18 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND IDENTIFY ANY POTENTIAL RISKS

The Clerk presented the up-to-date budget monitoring figures and these were discussed. The balance carried forward to February 2019 was £74,307.87 (which included £5,000 for the Bettws bus stop refurbishment from the borough council).

There were no risks to the budget as there were funds held in the general reserve, however it was noted that the external audit budget line was £10.62 overspent.

Resolved: The explanations were noted and the figures accepted. There were no budget risks identified. Though it was noted that there may be a by-election in Llangeinor, which along with the Bettws ward by election costs would use up all of the elections budget line.

FR023/18 THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2019/2020

Further to the January Precept Meeting the Clerk reminded Members of the system for setting the draft budget, whose purpose was to then discuss in full at the precept meeting and amend. It was not a definite budget, but a means to aid discussion on each budget line.

The Clerk expressed her concern that several items had not been included in the budget:

- Councillor allowances - only an allowance for the Chair had been included. The Clerk had talked about including councillor allowances as some members had taken the allowance in the previous year, but no provision had been included.
- No provision made for unknown services which may be moved to T&CC from BCBC during the year.
- No provision made for the resolved strategy items that were agreed in previous meetings, including the match funding agreed for the upgrade of Waun Bank play area.

- No provision for floral displays which was the most requested item in the feedback surveys received from the public meetings held in November. Although it had been stated at the January precept meeting that wards can use their own funds if they wish to have floral displays.
- No provision for the financial implications of the risk assessment received.
- No provision for the T&CC Sector first steps i.e. training courses for councillors, printing and distribution of an annual report etc.
- No provision for the Clerk's £270 annual increment.

There had been no opportunity for the Clerk to raise these concerns at the precept meeting as she had not been recalled into the meeting following the salary budget line discussion.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Chair would raise these concerns at the January 2019 Ordinary Meeting.

FR024/18 THE 2019/20 ALLOCATION UNDER THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND

A resolution had been made at the November meeting (minute76/19) to apply for match funding to upgrade the Waun Bant play area, but no provision had been made in the budget for 2019/20. A discussion followed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed to raise this as a concern at the January Ordinary Meeting as it was a resolved matter.

FR25/18 THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE COUNCIL'S LEASED LAND RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessment has now been received and the Clerk has drawn up a list of the works required, which was tabled for members.

Of concern was the list of the more expensive work as detailed below:

- Repairs to wooden bridges
- Repairs to the footpaths around the monument
- Repairs to the drain in the Visitor Centre car park
- Replacement/Removal of the bench at Railway Terrace
- Additional signage required on the MTB trails and the MUGA area
- Replacement life ring/rope
- Replacement MUGA surface as it does not meet current standards
- Repair to the top of the steps near Cwm Garw Surgery

**Resolved:** The Clerk would meet with the Warden to go through the list of smaller jobs that he could carry out during routine maintenance. The financial implications

of the larger works, as listed above, would be raised at full council. It was agreed to recommend to full council that the MUGA area is closed off.

FR26/18      REED CUTTING AND POND WEED REMOVAL BOTH LAKES

A quotation from a specialist company had been obtained in late autumn and following a discussion at the October Ordinary Meeting (Minute 60/19) the Finance Committee had been asked to try and find the money for the cost within the current budget. This had been detailed on the forecast sheet distributed for the December meeting, but had not been discussed.

**Resolved:**    The recommendation to full council is that the work is carried out ASAP before the birds start nesting in March. The cost would be covered by using £6,500 from the earmarked projects budget and £5,600 from the contingency fund.

FR27/18      CONCLUSION OF 2017/18 AUDIT

The conclusion of audit has now been received. There were two items to note, the incorrect use of Section 137 for a donation to the Eisteddfod and the crossing out of an incorrect multiple choice question on the annual statement regarding gratuity payments. These had both been discussed and noted at the October Extraordinary Meeting (Minute 68/19).

**Resolved:**    The recommendation to full council was to accept the Conclusion of Audit.

FR28/18      STAFFING COSTS

The Clerk's appraisal had been carried out by the Chair, and in line with her contract of employment an increment of £270 for the year was now due.

**Resolved:**    The recommendation to full council was to award the £270 increment to the Clerk.

FR29/18      ITEMS FOR THE NEXT FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

There were no items suggested for the next meeting.

**Resolved:**    With the Chair's agreement it was agreed to keep this open to include anything that may arise in the time between meetings.

FR30/18      TO AGREE THE DATE AND LOCATION FOR THE NEXT FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

Resolved:      The Committee will next meet in March prior to year-end - date, time and venue tbc.

With there being no further matters to discuss the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.48pm