



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE
BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S HALL ON MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Present: Councillor Mrs H Griffiths (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:

Mr C G Andrews
Mr G Davies
Mr W Hillier
Mr M Jones
R Shaw
R Stirman
Cllr J Szelięgiewicz
Mrs M Thomas
Mr G Walters

Apologies were received from:

Cllr D T Griffiths (Chair) and
Cllr Mrs D Griffiths
PCSO J Dulson & PCSO M Rees

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

3 Members of the Public (up to item 16 on the
Agenda)

The Chair welcomed all Councillors and Members of the Public to the meeting.

116/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Item	Interest
Mr M Jones	All Matters Concerning BCBC	Member
Mrs R Stirman	The New Street Gang & Community Furniture Aid	Member
Mr J Szelięgiewicz	Vestry, Meadow Street	Knows the owners of the property
Mrs M Thomas	All Matters Concerning BCBC incl Planning	Member

117/17 **TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2017 MEETING**

Resolved: The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record with this, the Chairman duly signed the Minute Book.

However it was noted during the meeting that item no 8 on the agenda was incorrect and it was altered to Proposed Newsletter in place of Proposed Election Newsletter.

118/17 **TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH WALES POLICE**

RESOLVED:

The crime figures for January were tabled in their new format. The graph contains only the January figures but as the year progresses it will contain a month-on-month comparison.

119/17 **TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY 2017 MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

Pontycymmer Cemetery

BCBC have agreed to put up signs at both entrances to make visitors aware of the need to clear up after their dogs. They feel there are adequate general purpose bins within the cemetery which can be used to place the bags of dog excrement and the gates will remain unlocked so visitors can gain access at any time of the day/week.

Camera Pontycymmer Square

Further to Councillor Jones' referral at BCBC a reply was received on 3rd February, 2017 They hope to get an engineer to the school site asap and will report back on progress.

Wind Turbines

A response has been received from the Wind Turbine company regarding apply for funding. They are in the final stages of completing the criteria for the fund which will go live in the next few months. All the information on how to apply will be available on their website along with an application form, although they have promised to email them too. The only wards that have already received money were those wards that were disrupted because of the component deliveries. This is a different fund to the one we're able to apply to.

Lakes

Huw Irranca-Davies, AM, has arranged a meeting with Sara Taylor, BCBC, and Dave Charlesworth, NRW, on Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 11.00 am to discuss the silting up of the lakes.

Funding Event

The Clerk attended this event in Pencoed on 10th February. There were lots of interesting funds available though nothing that would fit with funding the cleaning up of the lakes as most of the funds available were for new projects.

Added with the permission of the Chair as received after the papers were circulated:
Planning Applications - The Gem

The Gem are looking to increase their circulation in the valley and are investigating new pick up points

Resolved: The action and updates of the Clerk were noted. The Vice-Chair and Clerk would attend the meeting on 23rd February 2017.

120/17 AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLVED

Attendance at Events (DG)

This item was not discussed as Councillor Mrs D Griffiths was absent.

Confidentiality (HG)

The Vice-Chair reminded all Members that anything of a confidential nature discussed at the meeting i.e. staff related matters must remain confidential.

In addition Councillor J Szeliegiewicz had been asked to pass on a message from the Chair in his absence regarding the Code of Conduct and breaches of confidentiality and this was noted.

Proposed Newsletter (MJ)

It was clarified that the proposed newsletter was not an election newsletter but a general update on the work of the Community Council. It was suggested that Councillor M Jones should meet with the Clerk to discuss this further and Members should provide the Clerk with their wishes, ideas and comments. Councillor Mrs M Thomas enquired about distribution and Councillor G Davies said he would like feedback on its impact and costs.

Resolved: The Clerk would set up a meeting with Councillor M Jones and look into the cost of design and printing a newsletter.

121/17 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Clerk be accepted.

The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £7,345.26 and it was resolved that the accounts presented were approved. The balance carried forward to March is £56,210.82

1. The Clerk had presented Members with an up-to-date Receipts and Payments Account and explained the expenditure to date, the balance carried forward to March 2017 was noted. The various cost headings were discussed and Members resolved that the accounts were accepted.
2. It was noted that a cheque for £208.00 had been received from Awen Cultural Trust in reimbursement for office rental at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall. In

addition a refund of £14.99 was made by the Clerk as detailed in ref BP116 above due to an overpayment.

3. Notice has been received from the Pension providers that employer contributions will increase by 2.8% plus a one-off payment of £100 per employee as from 1st April 2017.
4. The External Auditor's invoice has been received for the year 2015/16 for £304.95 which is £220.05 less than the £525 budgeted.
5. The Finance and Resources Committee met on 13th February 2017 and it was agreed to put forward for full Council consideration the following:
 - To propose joining One Voice Wales at a cost of £1,003
 - To consider adopting an Allowance Scheme as laid out in the Independent Remuneration Panel's latest report.

Resolved: That the action and information given by the Clerk was noted. That the Receipts and Payments be authorised and accepted. It was agreed that the Community Council would join One Voice Wales, a vote was taken and one Councillor was against the decision. Members would look at the Independent Remuneration Panel's Allowance Scheme for discussion at the March 2017 meeting.

122/17 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

RESOLVED:

There was nothing to report this month due to the Chair's absence.

123/17 WARD REPORTS

RESOLVED:

Llangeinor Ward: Councillor R Shaw and Councillor G Davies will be attending the presentation of the Under 15 Team's new kit at the Llangeinor Football Club on Saturday. Councillor G Davies requested that a dog waste bag holder be purchased for the Ward and be installed at the football field.

Bettws Ward: Councillor M Jones updated the Council on the progress on the building of the new schools and of a recent school bus accident.

Pontycymmer Ward: Councillor G Walters said the Warden is doing a good job, Councillor W Hillier said he was disappointed with the time taken to make progress on issues in the ward such as the repair of the CCTV camera, the silting up of the lake etc. but was happy to see that these matters were now progressing. Councillor R Stirman requested that a dog waste bag holder be purchased for the Ward and be installed at the park in

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Pantygog. Councillor Stirman informed the Council that a few volunteers were starting work on clearing the community path on Saturday 11th March.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to purchase two dog waste bag holders and arrange their installation.

124/17 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATE

Borough and Community Councillor M Jones updated the Council on matters including the budget and the cuts being brought in by the Welsh Government and Parliament but also pointed out the investment being made in the new schools, Bettws at a cost of £11.2m and the school in Brynmenyn at an unknown cost.

Borough and Community Councillor Mrs M Thomas updated the Council on the budget and the news that a new after care facility will be built to provide facilities in the Garw and Aberkenfig area.

Resolved: The update from the Borough Councillors was noted.

125/17 CLERK'S REPORT

Community Governor Tyn yr Heol School

Further to last month's discussion on this subject, I've received an email from the Chair of Governors expressing her disappointment with the outcome. This was noted.

Speed Signs Garw Valley

Further to reporting to BCBC that about 50% of the lights above the speed signs in the valley are not lit, BCBC are inspecting them.

Christmas Trees Llangeinor

Following a request to remove the trees it was noted that this had now been done.

Trees New Road Llangeinor

Councillor Mrs M Thomas has referred the problem with the trees to BCBC and they were progressing the matter.

Warden's Report

Work Undertaken:

- Repairs and maintenance to all fences in and around Parc Calon Lan.
- Mass litter pick/clearance of rubbish from river bank adjacent to the path by the Co-op Pontycymmer.

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- In process of edging main pathways around Parc Calon Lan. Cutting away encroaching grass & soil.
- Cutback & trimming of Gorse/overhanging trees along some pathways.
- Mountain bike trail maintenance.
- Clearance of few fallen trees along MTB trails & community route.
- Clearance of lots of smashed glass on paths & around picnic benches, Pont Lake.
- Clearance of dumped & smashed up TV debris from Ball court, breathing space area.
- Trimming & maintenance of willow sculptures in Park.
- Cutback of hedgerow by cemetery, Bettws.

Vandalism/Issues:

- A few Mountain Bike waymark posts have been deliberately pulled out & some signage broken off. Will be repaired & replaced ASAP.
- Motorbike activity around Pontycymmer lake over last few weekends.

Councillor G Davies asked that a note is made every time the quad is used so that the council could monitor its use.

Resolved: The report of the Clerk was noted.

126/17 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED:

1. **Ombudsman:** A letter of complaint has been received and a follow up letter asking for copies of paperwork relating to the investigation. The Clerk has provided the information.
2. **BAVO:** Copy of their Annual Report 2015/16
3. **Kidney Wales:** Copy of their Autumn 2016 magazine including details of the 2017 Walk for Life
4. **Teenage Cancer Trust:** Letter requesting a financial donation for their specialist Teenage Cancer Trust Unit at the University Hospital of Wales. It was agreed that a donation of £25 would be made.
5. **The Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme:** Letter requesting a financial donation. It was agreed that a donation of £25 would be made.
6. **B M James:** Letter offering independent grave digging services and a price list
7. **Bridgend Reach:** information and a poster about a Country Craft event in Tondy on 23rd February 2017
8. **Welsh Government:** request for the Council to take part in a survey for research into the services provided and assets managed by town and community councils. It was agreed that the Clerk would complete this survey on behalf of the Council.
9. **Councillor R Stirman:** email received informing the Council that Councillor Stirman has resigned from the Labour Party with immediate effect and is now an Independent Councillor
10. **Bettws Primary School:** Letter asking if the Community Council would consider supporting a heritage project proposed by the contractor, Andrew Scott, for the

new schools being built in Bettws. They are suggesting creating a time capsule which could feature in the new buildings and they would be put either in the walls or under the ground. It was agreed that this cost would be paid out of the Bettws Ward Fund.

11. **Rotary Club of Bridgend:** Email regarding a planned sponsored event which will take place from Bryngarw Country Park along the Garw Community Route and returning to the park. It is aimed at family cycling groups, any money raised will be donated to Cancer Research Wales. They have submitted their plans to BCBC's safety advisory group and will have their own insurance in place. They are requesting to attend a Community Council meeting to discuss the event and answer any questions. It was agreed to invite representative to speak at the March meeting.
12. **Thryve.World:** Email from an administrator of this new website which aims to help people find places to participate in adventure sports such as mountain biking. They are asking if we could provide an image of the Darren Fawr Mountain Bike Trails to include on the website. It was agreed to provide a photo for the website.
13. **Garw Valley Railway:** An update has been received for info. The pedestrian bridge at Ffynon Dwr requires repair as there is a hole and some deterioration in the approach ramp and some fencing needs repair. The work will be carried out as soon as they have volunteers and materials. They are also looking at the state of some of the overhanging trees which need to be felled. The information was noted.
14. **Clarke Telecom Ltd:** Letter regarding proposed base station installation on land at Blaengarw Farm, Mount Pleasant CF32 8AL. It was agreed to write and state no objection but to see if there was 106 money available from this project.

With the consent of the Chairman the following items of correspondence were added as they were received after the meeting's papers had been distributed

15. BCBC: Bridgend Public Services Board has produced a draft Well Being Assessment for Bridgend as a result of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act which came into force in 2015. They have just launched a consultation which will run until 19th March 2017 and have written to ask for comments on the document. All information collected will be used to produce a Well Being Assessment and Plan for Bridged Public Services Board and they are aiming to publish it in April 2017. The ways of participating were noted.

16. Hangout Area Bettws: I've received a request via Gaynor Thomas at BCBC for Rachel Morton, Community Regeneration Office V2C to attend our March meeting to speak to the Community Council about the Hang Out Provision. It was agreed to extend an invite to attend the March 2017 meeting.

Resolved: The information provided above and the action of the Clerk is accepted. The Clerk was asked to invite Rachel Morton and a representative of the Rotary Club of Bridgend to the March meeting to talk about their projects. The Clerk was asked to make the two £25 charitable donations. The Clerk was asked to provide a photo to Thryve of the bike trails, to write to Bettws School confirming a commitment to their project and to complete the Welsh Government survey.

127/17 **PLANNING MATTERS**

RESOLVED:

Applications/Decisions Received:

Reference	Proposal	Location
Applications:		
T/17/6/TPO	Fell Ash Tree as it has extensive tree rot at its base	Awen Cultural Trust Bryngarw Country Park Brynmenyn CF32 8UU
P/16/984/FUL	Metal storage container for use at Parc Calon Lan	Garw Valley Community Council
P/17/48/FUL	Two storey side garage/bedroom extension with balcony to front and alternations to roof	Dan y Werfa Queen Street Blaengarw CF32 8AH
P/17/86/FUL	Proposed shed to rear garden (to replace exisiting sheds)	12 Lower Church Street Pontycymer CF32 8LA
P/17/92/RLX	Vary condition 1 of P/09/474/OUT	Land at Tynewydd Farm Bettws CF32 8TJ
Decisions:		
A/16/55/ADV	Daffodil display sign at Pandy Road, Llangeinor	Garw Valley Community Council Consent given
A/16/56/ADV	Replace existing noticeboard with new at same location. Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor	Garw Valley Community Council Consent given
P/16/984/FUL	Metal storage container for use by the Park Warden	Garw Valley Community Council Visitors Centre Car Park Parc Calon Lan Blaengarw CF32 8AT Conditions: The container to be removed from site by 31 st December 2022 (reason: in the interest of visual amenities) The container to be painted dark green and

		so maintained in perpetuity (reason: as above)
24 Decisions	Dating back 6 months	Please see attached sheet

An email acknowledging the Council’s objection to planning application number P/16/988/FUL at Ocean Farm has been received.

An email has been received from a member of the public objecting to the caravan etc. at Ocean Farm, Blaengarw. A number of concerns were made regarding the use of the caravan for residential purposes, issues with parking on the track leading to the top lake, noise pollution from the generator, mess made by cattle to the public footpath as well as concerns about dog breeding.

With the consent of the Chairman the following planning information was added as it was received after the meeting’s papers had been distributed, as was planning decision number P/16/984/FUL above.

Decided Planning Applications

In order to make better use of BCBC’s upgraded planning applications search webpage and to improve efficiencies, as of 1st April 2017 the Planning Department will not be emailing out lists of decided planning applications. Instead, Clerks will be able to retrieve the lists off the planning applications search webpage by following a simple 4 step process.

The process will be:

- Go to <http://planning.bridgend.gov.uk/plastandard.aspx>
- Select the Community Council from the dropdown list
- Enter the relevant date range in the Decision Between... and ...
- Click on the search button at the bottom of the page

Resolved: No objections were raised.

For information: At this point the 3 members of the public in attendance left the meeting.

128/17 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS RELATING TO STAFF (Public Excluded)

Further to minute no 111/17 a review of the management of the Warden and the Park had taken place on 30th January 2017 with a representative of each ward and the Clerk. Six points were recommended to the full council and agreed.

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Resolved: The Clerk to take on responsibility of line management of the Warden and to carry out the 6 recommendations made at the meeting including the purchase of a mobile phone for the Warden's use.

129/17 ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 2017 ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED:

- Consider an Allowance Scheme
- Rachel Morton to speak on the Bettws Hang Out area
- Rotary Club of Bridgend to speak on their forthcoming sponsored event
- Confidential: Warden update

130/17 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday 20th March 2017 at 7.00 pm at the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.

With there being no further matters to discuss the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the Meeting at 8.15 pm