



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE
PONTYCYMER LEISURE CENTRE ON 19th JUNE 2017 AT 7.00 PM

Present: Councillor H Griffiths (Chair)

Councillors:

Mr C G Andrews
Mr R Clatworthy
Mr J Davies
Ms S Dendy
Mr D Griffiths
Mr W Hillier
Mr M Jones
Ms C Lloyd
Ms M Pinches
Mr C Sage
Mrs R Stirman
Mrs M Thomas

Apologies were received from:
PCSO J Dulson & PCSO M Rees

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

15/18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Item	Interest
Mr M Jones	Internal Audit	Auditor is the Clerk to another Community Council of which Mr Jones is the Chair
Ms S Dendy	BCBC Planning Committee	Member
Mrs R Stirman	BCBC Planning Committee Garw Valley Railway	Member Member

16/18 **TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 2017 ANNUAL AND ORDINARY MEETINGS**

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

17/18 **TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF NATURAL RESOURCES WALES AND BCBC TO DISCUSS THE DISILTING OF THE GVCC LAKES**

A verbal presentation and some slides were used to explain the works that were planned for the Upper Garw Valley which would help stem the amount of silt being deposited into the lakes. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session.

18/18 **TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH WALES POLICE**

RESOLVED:

The crime figures for May had been included with the papers for the meeting for information. There was no police attendance at the meeting.

19/18 **TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MAY 2017 ORDINARY MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

BAVO Dementia Training

This will take place in the first hour of the July meeting which will be held at Bettws Life Centre. I was agreed to start that meeting half an hour earlier at 6.30 pm to allow plenty of time for the training and ordinary council business to take place in view of the fact that there is no August meeting.

Pontycymmer Square Camera Hub

Confirmation has been received from the Ffaldau School Headmistress that she is happy for the hub to be relocated there subject to there being no disruption to their computers. The Bridgend Camera Centre has been informed of this decision.

Bins

Permission to install a bin next to the dog waste bag dispenser at Llangeinor and at Pant-y-Gog Play Area has now been granted by BCBC and they've agreed to include them on the collection schedule. The bin for Bettws Church has been received but has not yet been installed as the Clerk is trying to source a plastic liner.

Code of Conduct Training

The training was held on 13th June and 8 Members of the Community Council attended. This leaves two councillors without training and they will be included on the next training course to be held in Bridgend.

Refuse Collection

Fly tipping behind Vetz in Oxford Street has been reported to the Clerk. It appears that there has not been a request made to BCBC for this to be collected under the bulky waste collection. In addition there's an abandoned car behind the container and Councillor Clatworthy is going to give me the details so that BCBC can look into it.

Wind Farms: Community Benefits and Llynfi Afan

An acknowledgement of the letter the Community Council sent the Chief Executive of BCBC about this matter has been received stating that a full reply will be received within 20 days

Increase in Costs for Christmas Lights 2016

Last month's query regarding the higher costs for Christmas Decorations has been explained by BCBC. A large jump in costs for the Christmas trees, the cost of installing individual sockets on lighting columns, the cost of labour and material costs for repairing the lights before installation, and the cost of putting up decorations in Bettws in error and taking them down again to put up the hired Christmas trees.

Cycling World Magazine

The 1 page feature has been completed and will appear in their Welsh cycle track feature in July and also on their magazine app.

Community Path

An email has been received from the Garw Valley Railway in response to our suggestion that they carry out some work and it may encourage volunteers to come forward and that the Community Warden is not available during the summer months. Their response to the news about the Community Warden was that it was inevitable. They also informed me that they are legally permitted to spray against invasive species now - having passed the Assessment. In practice there are some minor engineering amendments to make to the gear plus, having been in contact with the lady from Natural Resources Wales who is in charge of the Pilot Project in the Garw (for treatment of same species), they are waiting for her confirmation of the next planned meeting of all the bodies involved - which is likely to be in July.

Councillor R Clatworthy said the Railway Group had requested some dog waste bags to clear up part of the path. It was suggested that the four ward councillors discuss giving the group some bags out of their dog waste bag dispenser supply.

New Councillor Training

5 of the 6 new councillors had attended the training.

Pontycymmer Borough Councillor Attendance at Meetings

Councillor Shaw has been invited to the July meeting to give an update/report and I'm awaiting a reply.

Presentation Plaques

These are in production and will be delivered in early July.

Complaint

Having taken Health & Safety advice a letter was sent to the owner of the dog who died in the lake to express our sympathies. Following the advice we have put in place the following measures:

- We are liaising with all schools in the valley with a view to arranging safety around water guidance to all children. Councillor R Clatworthy was arranging this and was awaiting costs. In addition he suggested involving the children and it was agreed that it would be a good idea to hold a school competition, as suggested by Councillor S Dendy.
- We will continue to work with Natural Resources Wales regarding the silting of the lakes.

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- We will review our risk assessment which will identify the hazards and risks presented by the community using the site. We have also requested Public Protection advice and are awaiting a response.
- We are considering putting up signage to draw attention to the dangers of water.

Clarke Telecom

Further to our letter regarding the possibility of community benefit monies from this proposal, an email has been received from Clarke Telecom saying there is no funding available as part of this proposal as the operators have simply highlighted a need for new infrastructure within the area and to this extent they are seeking a location in which to site the equipment.

Objection to P/16/989/RLX

Councillor Dendy updated the Members on the progress made in this objection.

Resolved: The action of the Clerk was noted. It was agreed that the July meeting would start at 6.30 pm and that the Clerk should order two bins and arrange for the Warden to install them. It was also agreed to invite Councillor R Shaw and past Councillors G Davies, J Szeligiewicz, G Walters and Mrs D Griffiths to the July meeting to be presented with plaques for their past work on behalf of the Community Council and to present Councillor D Griffiths with a plaque for his work as Chair in 2016/17 and in addition it was agreed to install deep water signage.

20/18 AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLVED

Daffodil Planting Pontycymmer

Members were asked at the May meeting to suggest locations for daffodil planting in the autumn for their wards. Some suggestions were made but it was agreed to defer this to the July meeting. The Clerk was asked to remind Members how much the daffodil planting at Llangeinor had cost. Councillor M Thomas reminded Members that ex Councillor G Davies had been responsible for that display.

Visitor Centre Opening Throughout the Summer Months

It was agreed to open the Visitor Centre throughout the summer months and that a rota is drawn up by the Clerk for Councillors who are happy to carry out this work.

Newsletter/Residents' Handbook

This was agreed in principle. The Clerk had some local examples and Councillor W Hillier had an example of one for Aberaeron. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact

the publishers of the Aberaeron handbook to obtain prices for discussion at the July meeting.

Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils

The Public Service Ombudsman has agreed to the principle of referring some complaints against Members back to Community and Town Councils for a local resolution. Members were given a document containing a Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils which gives a common process for dealing with such matters. Members were asked to consider this document and feedback any comments before the next meeting to adopt the model at the July meeting.

Refuse Collections

Problems with the new refuse collection/recycling collection continue in the valley and despite many referrals and complaints there didn't seem to be any progress. The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC and Kier to express their disappointment with the service.

Floodlights Bettws School

Councillor M Jones informed the Council of the need to fund some floodlighting at the school for the sports courts which children throughout the Valley who attend both English and Welsh primary schools will benefit from. There were a range of quotations and it was agreed to support the request for a contribution of £8,000 from the Community Council. It was also suggested a plaque is placed on the sports facility saying that this was provided.

Committee Terms of Reference

Following last month's Annual Meeting it was agreed to review the Terms of Reference for all 3 committees - Finance, Employment and Disciplinary. It was agreed:

- The Chair of a committee would be appointed prior to the other members.
- The Chair of Council could be a committee member.
- Each committee would have a member of each ward in addition to the Chair.

In addition the vacancies on those committees were agreed: Councillor D Griffiths would represent the Bettws Ward on the Finance Committee and Councillor C Lloyd would represent Bettws on the Employment and Disciplinary Committees. In addition it was confirmed that Councillor D Griffiths is the Chair of both the Employment and Disciplinary Committees.

Wind Farms

As mentioned in Matters Arising a response had not yet been received to the Community Council's letter to the Chief Executive of BCBC regarding the FOI request information discussed at last month's meeting. As Rob Jones of BCBC was named on the FOI it was agreed to invite him to the July meeting for a further discussion on how the funding

received would be spent. In addition Councillor S Dendy as a Borough Councillor would be attending a meeting re Llynfi Afan Wind Farm on 20th June to discuss community benefits. Councillor Dendy also informed Members that an open day was planned for the Llynfi Valley wind farm and as soon as she has the full details she'll let Members know so they can attend if they wish.

Complaints Procedure

A copy of a draft Complaints Procedure was circulated by the Clerk at the May meeting for comments and consideration for adoption. It was agreed to adopt this policy.

Provision of Allotment Gardens, Bettws

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Bettws Forum would make further progress in consideration of this matter.

Events Held on Community Council Land

A poster seen on social media for a barrel race from Blaengarw to Bettws was shown to Members. This was likely to take place on Community Council land and the Clerk was asked to contact the event organisers to make enquiries about it.

Maintenance of Park Bridges

The Clerk showed Members photos of one of the Park bridges that needs repair and asked for authority to get them fixed. A member of the Rights of Way team at BCBC had inspected all the bridges with the Warden recently and reported that all footbridges are safe and in very good working condition. One bridge requires minor attention (mentioned above) to a partially rotten deck board. The Rights of Way Department confirmed that they are responsible for two of the bridges (one south of Pwllcarn Terrace and one south of Station Street). They are looking at possibly taking over responsibility of the footbridge nearest to the Co-op in Pontycymmer as they may include this part of the cycle route within the main cycle network.

Resolved: The information provided was noted. It was agreed to defer daffodil requirements to the July meeting, the Clerk would draw up a rota for the opening of the Visitor's Centre and obtain a quotation for a handbook for discussion at the July meeting. In addition, the Model Local Resolution Protocol would be considered and discussed at the July meeting, the Clerk would write to BCBC and Kier regarding the new refuse/recycling collection and enquire about the barrel rolling event. The Clerk would also amend the committee terms of reference as detailed above and it was agreed to adopt the Complaints Procedure as a policy. The Bettws Forum would look into the provision of allotments further and it was agreed to support the £8,000 funding requested for floodlights and to authorise the repair of the bridge in Parc Calon Lan.

21/18 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Clerk be accepted.

The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £4,984.38 and it was resolved that the accounts presented were approved. The balance carried forward to July 2017 was £101,552.51 this included a credit payment of £7.82 in bank interest.

Accounts submitted for approval at the June 2017 Full Council Meeting

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 was noted. The various cost headings were discussed and Members resolved that the accounts were accepted.
2. The Internal Auditor's report was circulated along with a copy of the audit statement of figures. The full council adopted the report and statement and the Chair and Clerk were given authority to sign the audit statement as approved and the Clerk was asked to prepare the papers for the External Auditor.

Resolved: That the action and information given by the Clerk was noted. That the Receipts and Payments for June be authorised and accepted. The Internal Auditor's report and the statement of figures were accepted and approved and the Chair and Clerk were given authority to sign the paperwork and the Clerk prepare the papers for the Internal Auditor.

22/18 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended and enjoyed one of the Maesteg Festival events.

22/18 WARD REPORTS

Llangeinor:

- Rubbish removed from the square in Llangeinor
- Agreed to contribute again this year to the Play Scheme at the Richard Price Centre
- Agreed to contribute again this year to the Football Club firework display

Blaengarw:

- Some pathway clearing arranged

Pontycymmer:

- Councillor R Clatworthy had requested a Jo Cox fundraising pack

23/18 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATE

- Llangeinor - family re-housed
- Blaengarw - the building in James Road not now going ahead

24/18 CLERK'S REPORT

Warden's Report

Work Undertaken:

- Mowed & cut Parc Calon Lan & surrounds twice
- Mowed Events field for school sports day
- Trimmed all hedges around park
- Pontycymer lake area & surrounds mowed & strimmed
- Community route from top of Blaengarw to Pontycymer square strimmed & cut back
- Sides of Pontycymer steps from surgery to lake cut back
- A few Rights of way cut back in Blaengarw & Pontycymer
- Garw Walks (official waymarked promoted walks) inspected & waymarks replaced where needed.
- Car park & pathways weedkiller sprayed

Other:

- 1 Strimmer & ride-on mower in for repair
- Two meetings regarding de-silting of lakes
- Llangeinor daffodil sign searched for but not found

Daffodil Sign Pontycymmer

The front panel of the sign has been stolen and cannot be found, it has been reported to the police. As the main part of the structure was still in place and money had already been spent on planning permission for the sign it was agreed to replace the front panel at a cost of £42 plus vat and p&p.

Broken Path Behind Co-op

This has been reported to the Rights of Way Department who are aware of the issue. The path is not technically their responsibility but Right of Way are in the process of seeking to rectify this by having the route dedicated. They are currently waiting for a quotation for the works and to undertake similar works on other parts of the track in similar condition. Once those quotes are received the work will be considered alongside the other schemes that they are currently seeking costs for and if resources are available the work will be programmed in to this financial year.

Rotary Club Cycling Event

The event is going ahead as planned but interest has been low. The Rotary Club has thanked the Community Council for the offer of water and a chocolate bar for all those who reach Blaengarw but because of the low uptake have decided to decline the offer.

Policies

The Clerk circulated a draft Social Media Policy for consideration and adoption at the July meeting.

Resolved: The Clerk would order a replacement front panel for the daffodil sign in Llangeinor and arrange for the Community Warden to install it. The Social Media Policy would be considered. All other information was noted.

At 9.00 pm Standing Orders were suspended for 20 minutes.

25/18 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED:

No.	Sender	Details
1.	BAVO	Wellbeing Grants - details of an information briefing on the People's Health Trust 'Active Communities' grant scheme and details of the scheme
2.	BCBC	A letter from Air Vice Marshall Garry Tunnicliffe, the Defence Services Secretary requesting that the Armed Forces flag be flown on 24 th June 2017
3.	BCBC	Announcement of the new Mayor, her Consort and the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress.
4.	One Voice Wales	Details of the public appointment of a Research Ethics Committee Professional Practitioner
5.	One Voice Wales	Plant a Tree Charter Legacy Tree - register your town or community council as a Charter Branch.
6.	One Voice Wales	One Voice Wales' May 2017 e-bulletin
7.	One Voice Wales	The Welsh Government's Historic Environment Update
8.	BAVO	Information about a free funding surgery with

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		Welsh Church Act Fund (not just for Churches) 7 th July in Maesteg
9.	BCBC	Details of the Swansea Special Festival taking place 10 th to 13 th July
10.	BCBC	Further information for those who expressed an initial interest in becoming a member of the Authority's Standards Committee
11.	Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council	Results of their Hospital Food and Drink Survey
12.	One Voice Wales	Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens details of events
13.	Seafarers UK	A letter requesting that the Red Ensign is flown on 3 rd September on Merchant Navy Day
14.	Bridgend Town Council	A request to display posters and leaflets in the community for the WWII Re-enactment Day held on 10 th June
15.	Maesteg Town Council	Invitation for the Chair and Consort to attend four of the Maesteg Festival Events taking place throughout June.
16.	Play Wales	A Focus on Play briefing for Town and Community Councils providing information about how to support better opportunities for children to play in their own communities.

With the consent of the Chair the following correspondence was added as it was received after the meeting's papers had been distributed

No.	Sender	Details
17.	BAVO	New round for Youth Led Grants now open - deadline 14 th July
18.	BCBC	Advance notification of Rolling Temporary Closures for Big Family Gathering Blaengarw 24 th July 2017
19.	BCBC	Active Travel Networks Consultation. Consultation responses to be received no later than 1 st September 2017. Link to consultation: http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/services/consultation.aspx
20.	BCBC	Celebrate World Blood Donor Day by donating in Maesteg ON 16 th June
21.	Resident	Further FOI request received for information on why a log splitter was purchased when there are no plans to sell

		logs and copies of all correspondence between the council and the windfarm company. In addition the resident has asked that the following footpaths are cleared: the path connecting the top of Railway Terrace Blaengarw to the main road and the RoW next to Tymeinwr Farm above Tymeinwr Avenue which is overgrown and has been illegally fenced off and not cleared for a long time.
22.	BCBC	Maesteg steps back in time and makes history event
23.	BCBC	Email regarding a report from a member of the public regarding two footpaths in the valley Footpath 56 off Bridgend Road towards Panty-y-Gog and Footpath 53 towards Ponty-y-Rhyl and a request from the RoW Department to clear Footpath 37 from Beech Road.
24.	BAVO	June e-bulletin
25.	Y Bont	Letter of thanks for the recent donation of £25.00

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to respond to the FOI request and to arrange for the Rights of Way to be cleared. It was noted that Councillor S Dendy reported that the work to the footpath at the top of Railway Terrace to the main road was already in hand.

26/18 PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED:

Applications/Decisions Received:

Reference	Proposal	Location
Applications:		
T/17/35/TPO	Fell Beech Tree	Eastern side of the river Garw just north of the Garw Community route bridge
P/17/342/FUL	Loft extension with platform/balcony (fire escape bridge to garden)	34 Bridgend Road Pontycymmer CF32 8EH
Decisions:		
None to date		
Appeals:		
None to date		

With the consent of the Chairman the following planning information was added as it was received after the meeting's papers had been distributed

2.Proposal to Introduce 20mph Speed Limit Zone on Bettws Road and Unnamed Lane leading to Bryn Bach Cottages, Bettws

Papers were circulated to all Bettws Councillors as the deadline for requests was prior to the June council meeting. Councillor J Davies made the observation that the 20mph speed limit should be taken further up the hill towards the football field and gave his reasons for the observation. His comments were passed on to BCBC with a note informing them that these were not the observations of the full council but were Councillor J Davies' personal observations.

Resolved: No objections were raised to any planning applications. Councillor M Jones requested that the Clerk makes the observation that the sign to be placed on the pavement near Brynna House, Bettws would cause an obstruction as the pavement is very narrow in that location and would be dangerous to pedestrians.

27/18 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS RELATING TO STAFF (Public Excluded)

The Clerk had booked the Community Warden on a First Aid course. The Clerk proposed a planned maintenance schedule to be put in place for each ward and Members were asked to submit their requests asap to the Clerk. In addition the Clerk asked if Members would be interested in doing a tour of Parc Calon Lan and the mountain bike trails so that when items were discussed in council meetings they would be able to identify particular areas and this was agreed. In addition the Clerk informed the Members that the life saving rings at the lakes are missing and that new ones need to be purchased, along with housings as these have deteriorated; the cost will be 4 x £200. The Clerk informed the Members that the Warden would be on leave for 6 days from 7th to 16th July.

Resolved: The information given by the Clerk was noted. The Clerk would arrange a short tour of the Parkland and Members would submit items for planned maintenance to the Clerk asap. The Clerk was asked to purchase the life saving rings and housings.

28/18 ITEMS FOR THE JULY 2017 ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED:

1. Council Newsletter/Residents' Handbook - ongoing
2. Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils (ACH)
3. Refuse Collection (HG) - ongoing
4. Wind Farm Funds (MJ/RS) - ongoing
5. Social Media Policy (ACH)
6. Christmas (ACH)

29/17 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday 17th July 2017 at 6.300 pm at Bettws Life Centre

With there being no further matters to discuss the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.