



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 MARCH 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Present: Councillor Mrs H Griffiths (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:

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

Apologies were received from:

Cllr G Davies
Cllr D T Griffiths (Chair)
Cllr Mrs D Griffiths
Cllr Mrs R Stirman

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO
1 Member of the Public (up to item 17 on the
Agenda)

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

131/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Item	Interest
Mr M Jones	All Matters Concerning BCBC	Member
Mr J Szelięgiewicz	Vestry, Meadow Street	Knows the owners of the property
Mrs M Thomas	All Matters Concerning BCBC incl Planning	Member

132/17 **TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2017 MEETING**

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

133/17 **TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH WALES POLICE**

RESOLVED:

The crime figures for February were tabled. It was agreed that the new format was a big improvement.

134/17 **TO RECEIVE RACHEL MORTON, COMMUNITY REGENERATION OFFICER, V2C**

Rachel Morton attended the meeting to discuss a Hangout Area in Bettws and updated Members on a consultation which had taken place with the youth, what funding is needed and what facilities are available for younger children in the area? Councillor M Jones had a meeting planned with an interested party and other Members suggested some ideas.

Resolved: That Councillor M Jones would meet with the interested party and report back after that meeting to both Rachel and Gaynor Thomas at BCBC.

135/17 TO RECEIVE PHILIP DAVIES, ROTARY CLUB OF BRIDGEND

The Rotary Club of Bridgend are organising a fundraising event for a cancer charity on 25th June 2017. The Event is a cycle ride for mixed ages along the Community Route. The Garw Valley Railway has been consulted and are agreeable and the route has been fully risk assessed. The entry fee will be £10 and the route will be marked out in miles. A medal will be given to participating children and the Rotary Club will be visiting all schools in the area to let them know about the event, and a prize will be given to the family who raise the most money. Councillor Hillier suggested the PCSOs should be involved and dogs kept on leads. Councillor Walters asked about stewards and said it was good PR for the valley. Councillor Szeliegiewicz said that some parts of the lower path needs maintenance. Councillor Shaw agreed that it would be good publicity and suggested the organisers visit the path to look at its condition. Councillor Thomas suggested that those who cycle the whole route and make it to the Visitor's Centre should be given a small reward.

Resolved: It was agreed that this event was a good idea and it was agreed that the Community Council would provide a bottle of water and a bar of chocolate to all who completed the route.

136/17 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2017 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

CAMERA PONTYCYMER SQUARE

Further to the update given at last month's meeting regarding access to the Ysgol Cwm Garw to carry out the repair, the Clerk had been in contact with the CCSU Manager at BCBC and the issues regarding cordoning off the required space for the engineers to gain access to undertake the necessary work are ongoing. A proposal was made and seconded to request that the hub is moved to Pontycymer Leisure Centre for easy access and to enable the repair to take place.

LAKES

A meeting took place on 23rd February at the Visitor's Centre facilitated by Huw Irranca-Davies and representatives of the Community Council, NRW and BCBC were present. By the end of the meeting it was agreed to:

- Set up a CC working group.
- NRW set up a stakeholder group and arrange a meeting.
- NRW to talk to Rob Jones at BCBC to advise on the ecology aspect.
- NRW, Rob Jones and the Warden to meet and look at both lakes
- Sara to talk to the Property Section at BCBC about the lease and the Clerk to provide Huw Irranca-Davies with a copy of it.

TREES NEW ROAD, LLANGEINOR

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BCBC are establishing land ownership. Councillor Thomas has requested that the trees on the right hand side going up the valley be inspected again as she is concerned about their condition.

NEWSLETTER

The Clerk and Councillor M Jones met to discuss this and drew up a rough draft of the layout. The Clerk had obtained one quotation for the design as a rough guide to prices in addition she had obtained two quotes for printing, one from a private design company the other from the prison; the prison being the more expensive of the two. Both felt it was the wrong time to do a newsletter given the forthcoming elections as the Councillor information would be incorrect and it was suggested that the publication of a newsletter is deferred until after the elections and this was agreed.

LIGHT REPAIRS TO SPEED SIGNS

BCBC's lighting team have been systematically attending the signs throughout the Valley. If Members spot any lights not working in the future could they please report them to the Clerk?

GATE INTO GARW FECHAN FOREST

NRW are working with both enforcement colleagues and the local police to try to deal with the illegal motorbike trespass into the forest. They have looked at altering the set up at the location where the CC asked them to install a kissing gate and will be aiming to undertake remedial work in the new financial year to restrict illegal access whilst improving access for legitimate users. This may entail a kissing gate or other appropriate access furniture.

BIN REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT ST DAVID'S CHURCH BETTWS

The Parks Department at BCBC are not happy to re-locate the bin inside the Church yard.

DOG WASTE DISPENSER AND BIN AT PANTYGOG PLAY AREA

A request to BCBC to install a new bin has been submitted but the CC have been asked to hold in abeyance any plans to provide/install a dog waste bag dispenser at this site until a proposed BCBC trial of such dispensers is completed.

Resolved: The action and updates of the Clerk were noted. The Clerk was asked to contact the CCSU Manager and ask that the camera hub is relocated to Pontycymer Leisure Centre, include setting up a CC Working Group for Parc Calon Lan and the Newsletter on the May agenda and to request a bin is installed at Pant y Gog Play Area despite the planned trial. In addition Members were asked to make a note of any road traffic sign lights that aren't working in the valley and report them to the Clerk

137/17 **AGENDA ITEMS**

RESOLVED

Consideration of an Allowance Scheme

It was agreed to leave this on the table.

Attendance at Events

This item was not discussed due to Councillor Mrs D Griffiths' absence.

Resolved: To leave the consideration of an allowance scheme on the table.

138/17 **FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Clerk be accepted.

The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £7,356.16 and it was resolved that the accounts presented were approved. The balance carried forward is £49,121.80.

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. It was noted that the balance carried forward includes £44.15 interest up to the end of February 2017.

Resolved: That the action and information given by the Clerk was noted. That the Receipts and Payments be authorised and accepted

139/17 **CHAIR'S REPORT**

RESOLVED:

There was nothing to report.

140/17 WARD REPORTS

RESOLVED:

Pontycymer: Councillor H Griffiths informed Members that a prowler was causing disturbances in the area and that the police had been informed.

Bettws: Councillor Jones had attended a Garw Valley Community Benefits Meeting and asked the Clerk to email Members a copy of the minutes for information. The next meeting will take place in June 2017.

Resolved: The Clerk would email Members copies of the minutes referred to above.

141/17 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATE

No updates were given although Councillor Jones reminded everyone that the use of social media is not an excuse not to adhere to the Code of Conduct during the forthcoming elections.

142/17 CLERK'S REPORT

As the Community Warden has been on leave there was no update available.

34 Oxford Street Pontycymer

Report of a dangerous section of wall to the left hand side of the steps of this property. Reported to BCBC who sent out a building control officer to inspect it. They will now take the necessary action.

Grass Cutting Contract Glen Garw

Bleaf have not yet thought it necessary to start cutting this area yet and will probably carry out the first cut within a month.

Update Garw Valley Railway

Following last week's blockage and overflow into the river, Dwr Cymru are planning to attend to dig up and repair the sewer that runs beside the train shed in Pontycymer on Monday and Tuesday of this week. However it may take longer as the apparent condition of the pipe is not good. There will likely be heavy vehicle movements around the area as a result, but it should not affect the Community Route as the problem lies on the railway land.

Play Area Bettws Top Site

Clerk has asked BCBC to inspect the gates at the site as they are extremely heavy.

Code of Conduct

Following the April 2016 amendment to the Code of Conduct there is a requirement for the CC to accept and adopt the amendment, publish in the local paper that the adoption has taken place and provide the Ombudsman with the minute number. This has not yet been carried out.

In addition the Clerk tabled a copy of the amended Code to remind Councillors to adhere to the Code during their election campaigns. The Clerk drew Councillors' attention in particular to point 6.1(a) "You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonable be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute". The Clerk was asked to ensure that the 4 Members not present at the meeting are given a copy and a reminder.

In addition Councillor Jones suggested that after the elections all Councillors should attend Code of Conduct training. He suggested that a training session could be arranged via One Voice Wales and that the Garw Valley and Coity Higher Community Councils join together to attend and split the cost.

Log Splitter

The Clerk had been asked previously to look up the minute that agreed to the purchase of a log splitter and the sale of logs.

There are two references found in the minutes; minute no 168/16 January 2016 minutes which states: "Members discussed the possibility of acquiring a Quad Bike or trailer to enable the Warden to harvest and sell logs from the forestry area to local residents. This matter will be further discussed when costs are established". This formed part of the Warden's Report and was noted.

Further reference was made in the February 2016 minutes (minute no 186/16) which states: "the council should utilise the excess wood available from both fallen and cut down trees and sell it to the public". This was in the Warden's report and noted.

A resolution that shows an agreement to buy a log splitter or sell logs has not been found. It was suggested that the log splitter be returned or sold.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate Code of Conduct training for the two Community Councils and deliver the Code of Conduct update to the 4 absent Members. All other matters were noted including the Clerk's leave and a change to the Community Council's email address. The Clerk was also asked to arrange for the Community Warden to cut back areas of gorse and overgrowth around the lakes in Pontycymer and to arrange for a bin in Pontycymer to be cleaned.

143/17 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED:

1.BCBC: Invitation for 1 or 2 representatives to attend a meeting at Bettws Primary School on 10th March to discuss how to make the most of the community benefits of the new school. Ward Councillors informed.

2.Bettws Community Club: Copy of letter of complaint sent to NSA Afan and NSA Afan's reply.

3.Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Annual Report for 2017/18: Section 13 relates to T&CCs. The report is available on the following link:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/170223-annual-report-en.pdf>

4.BCBC: Copy of the order to divert Footpath 9 in Bettws. Ward Councillors informed.

5.Bridgend Samaritans: Letter requesting donation and a copy of their audited accounts - attached to the rear of these papers for your information. It was agreed to donate £25.00

6.Sustrans Cymru: Email informing the council that they are conducting a stakeholder survey in order to collect views on the development of a new walking and cycling route in Abergarw and how it can help local businesses and communities. The scheme will potentially run along the historic railway line and would allow Routes 884 and 4 of the National Cycle Network to join up and avoid a busy road junction. The link will join the whole of the Garw Valley to the main network

6.a Sustrans Cymru: the stakeholder survey is now available at:

<https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/walesrdp-stakeholder-garwvalley>

Please share your views on the development of a new walking and cycling route along the Garw Valley. The survey will be online until 31st March 2017 and the finding will be shared during the stakeholder meeting that will be organised in May.

7.BCBC: Timetable and Nomination pack received for both County Borough and T&CC Elections.

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

8. Boundary Commission for Wales: Letter re launch of a statutory four week period during which individuals and organisations will be able to read and comment on the responses that others have made to the Review of Parliamentary Constituencies consultation. This secondary consultation period will run from 28th February to 27th March 2017. See the Commission website at www.bcw2018.org.uk for both written and oral responses.

9.Teenage Cancer Trust: Letter of thanks for recent donation.

10.BCBC: Invitation to attend a Places to Play Workshop being held on 21st March 2017 between 4.30 and 6.30 pm. It's a workshop to explore how the local authority, T&CCs and partners can work together to continue making Bridgend a more play friendly county.

11.The Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme: Letter of thanks for recent donation.

12.Chris Elmore MP: Follow-up letter following attendance at the recent Funding Advice Day with information about an additional grant scheme.

13.Clerks & Councils Direct: March 2017 edition

14. Bobath Children’s Therapy Centre Wales: Letter asking for funding for this charity which provides babies born in Wales with cerebral palsy with specialist therapy as early as possible after birth to ensure that they develop and achieve their full potential. It was agreed to donate £25.00.

15. Mayor of Maesteg: Invitation to attend the Mayor of Maesteg’s Annual Fund Ball on Saturday 29th April 2017 at Maesteg Town Hall. Tickets are priced at £27.50 per person.

16. Ombudsman: Acknowledgement of reply by the Clerk to an on-going complaint.

17. BCBC: Letter and Copy of the Order and Notice for the Diversion of Footpath 9 Garw Valley.

18. BCBC: Further information for Candidates before submitting their nomination papers. Please make particular note of the fact that the deadline for withdrawal of nominations is the same as for the deadline for submission of nominations.

19. Mayor of Gloucester: has requested permission to wear his chains of office on the 30th March at a private function taking place at Bryngarw Country Park. This was agreed.

20. Member of Public: complaint about the Big Green Bus, school bus, parking in front of the entrance to the Blaengarw play park in the afternoons following completion of the school run, and being left there all weekend. This is preventing people parking and walkers and cyclist from moving freely in that area.

Resolved: The information provided above and the action of the Clerk is accepted. The Clerk was asked to donate £25.00 to Bridgend Samaritans and to Bobath Children’s Therapy Centre Wales and to write to the Mayor of Gloucester giving approval for the wearing of Chains of Office at a function in Bryngarw. The complaint about the big green bus was noted.

144/17 PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED:

Applications/Decisions Received:

Reference	Proposal	Location
Applications:		
P/17/167/LAE	Certificate for lawful use for an existing conservatory	1 Glannant Row Shwt Bridgend CF32 8UB
P/17/159/FUL	External step to hardstanding to rear lane, steps from bedroom external landing to hardstanding	84 Oxford Street Pontycymmer Bridgend CF32 8DF
P/17/150/FUL	Single storey rear extension for bedroom and convert part of existing dining room into a shower room/wc	16 Pen y Mynydd Bettws Bridgend CF32 8SE
P/17/135/FUL	Renovate listed building	5-8 Meadow Street Pontycymmer Bridgend

		CF32 8HF
Decisions:		
P/16/984/FUL	Change of use of three existing stone barns to residential and associated work Conditional Consent given	Tyn-y-Bettws Farm Heol Llangeinor Access to Pandy Bridge Llangeinor Bridgend CF32 8UW

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.

Reference	Proposal	Location
P/17/172/FUL	Demolish existing detached garage, construct new garage attached to bungalow, with room in roof space above. All finishes to match existing, ridge line of garage reduced to 300mm below existing	Woodlands 10 Heol Glynpany Llangeinor CF32 8RB
P/17/124/OUT	Proposed 3 bedroom dormer bungalow - affecting footpath 80 Garw Valley	Vacant Land above: 49 Albany Road Pontycymmer BF32 8HE

Resolved: No objections were raised.

Amendment:

Please note that P/16/984/FUL - Change of use of 3 existing stone barns to residential and associated work should have read **P/16/489/FUL**

For information: At this point the 1 member of the public in attendance left the meeting.

145/17 **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS RELATING TO STAFF** (Public Excluded)

Further to minute no 111/17 (a review of the management of the Warden) the first steps to the changes have been completed and the Warden has agreed to the changes to be made. The Clerk updated the Members on the next steps to be taken.

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Resolved: The Clerk to continue with the second stage of the process.

146/17 ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 2017 ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED:

- Maintenance and Public Safety of Benches (MJ)
- Website Update (ACH)

147/17 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday 24th April 2017 at 7.00 pm at Pontycymer Leisure Centre

With there being no further matters to discuss the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.30 pm