



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE
PONTYCYMER LEISURE CENTRE ON 15TH MAY 2017 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Councillor H Griffiths (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Apologies were received from:

Cllr C Lloyd
Cllr D Griffiths
Cllr M Thomas

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO
2 Members of the Public (up to item 24 on the
Agenda)

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Item	Interest
Mr M Jones	All Matters Concerning BCBC	Member
Ms S Dendy	All Matters Concerning BCBC	Member
Mrs R Stirman	All Matters Concerning BCBC Garw Valley Railway	Member

1/18 **TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2017 MEETING**

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

2/18 **TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH WALES POLICE**

RESOLVED:

The crime figures for April had been included with the papers for the meeting and increases in certain crimes were noted. There was no police attendance at the meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact the Bettws PCSO regarding a report of underage drinking in Bettws.

3/18 **TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APRIL 2017 MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

BENCH AUDIT AND POLICY

An audit of benches had not been possible as BCBC do not have a definitive list of their benches to use as a guide. The Clerk circulated a draft policy to be discussed for commemorative benches and trees.

LAKES

A site meeting with Natural Resources Wales and BCBC representatives on 22nd May which the Warden, Chair and Clerk would attend. The Clerk had invited these representatives to attend the start of the June meeting to give an update on the way forward to desilting the lakes and they had accepted.

Pontycymmer Square Camera Hub

The Clerk had requested the hub be moved to Pontycymmer Leisure Centre. The CCSU Manager had agreed this could be a possibility however the network connection is via the library at the centre which is now the responsibility of Awen Trust and if the trust decide to provide their own network at any point BCBC will no longer have any network presence at the site so this needs to be considered as a risk if investment is undertaken to move the camera. After discussion it was agreed that the Chair would talk to the Head of Ffaldau School to see if it would be possible to move the hub there instead.

Bins Pantygog and Bettws

The purchase of the new bin for inside St David's Church grounds Bettws has gone ahead and delivery is expected in the next week. Getting a bin installed at Pantygog Play Area was continuing to be a difficulty but the Clerk would continue to request this. The Clerk was asked to purchase a bin and install it next to the dog waste dispenser in Llangeinor Football Field.

In addition the smelly bin in Station Street, Blaengarw has been cleaned and the grit bin on Richard Street relocated to the top of the hill.

Joint Code of Conduct Training Following the Elections

This was now going ahead on Tuesday 13th June from 6.30 to 9.00 pm venue tbc.

Additional Bank Account

A Parish Council Savings Account has been opened with the Cambridge Building Society.

Resolved: It was agreed that commemorate flowers and wreaths could be placed on benches in Parc Calon Lan, without a time restriction for removal. The Chair would speak to the Head of Ffaldau School to see if the Pontycymmer Square camera hub could be moved to the school instead of the leisure centre. The Clerk would obtain the necessary permissions to install a bin at Llangeinor Playing Field and purchase a bin. The Clerk would confirm the venue for the Code of Conduct Training.

4/18 AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLVED

Daffodil Planting Pontycymmer

Members were asked to consider if they'd like daffodils planted in their wards and where they'd like them and to bring their requests to the June meeting for consideration.

Refuse Collections

The new refuse collection arrangements were discussed. Incidents of fly tipping were also reported in Pontycymmer and Bettws. Councillor M Jones as a Borough Councillor had written to Kier regarding some issues and it was agreed that if the system doesn't improve the Community Council would write as well. It was agreed to keep this on the agenda for the June meeting.

Wind Farms: Community Benefits and Llynfi Afan

Councillor R Stirman brought the Members attention to a reply from BCBC to a Freedom of Information request she'd made about a one-off contribution of £135,000 from the Llynfi Afan Renewable Energy Park Project and this was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Chief Executive at BCBC to seek clarification on where and when that money would be distributed and it was agreed to keep this on the June agenda.

Complaints Procedure

The Clerk circulated a draft policy for consideration and discussion at the June meeting.

Resolved: Councillors to bring their requests for daffodil planting to the June meeting. To keep the refuse collection issues on the agenda for the June meeting. The Clerk to write to the Chief Exec. at BCBC regarding funds from the Wind Farm and to keep this on the agenda for the June meeting. Councillors to consider the draft complaints procedure police for discussion at the June meeting.

5/18 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Clerk be accepted.

The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £10,373.65 and it was resolved that the accounts presented were approved. The balance carried forward to June 2017 was £106,529.07 this included a payment of £68,000 of the annual precept.

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. A variance of £968.64 was noted on the cost of Christmas Lights for Christmas 2016, an increase of £1,659.13 on the previous year and the cost of the lights in Bettws was not included in this figure as they had been paid out of the 2016/17 budget. The rises in costs of £580 for labour, £300 for plant, an almost doubling of the cost of the Christmas trees as well and the addition of individual sockets

were the reasons for the increase, but the Clerk had contacted BCBC for a further explanation.

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

6/18 CHAIR'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

7/18 WARD REPORTS

Due to the elections there was nothing to report this month.

8/18 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATE

Borough Councillors were receiving Code of Conduct training at BCBC on different dates in May.

9/18 CLERK'S REPORT

Warden's Report

Work Undertaken

- First grass cut of Parc Calon Lan & surrounds of the season.
- Repaired stile at Darren Fawr woods after further vandalism. Rebuilt whole structure, replaced rails more securely.
- Windblown tree cleared across Mountain Bike trails.
- Tree cleared across a Right of way, Blaengarw.

Pontycymer Lake:

- Slab to stone bench seems to have been placed back on plinth by someone? Slab has now been fixed down with cement.
- Trailer full of rubbish cleared from lake & surrounds.
- Picnic benches cleaned & resprayed after graffiti & fires.

Bettws:

- Village green grass mowed.
- Strimmed grass around stone monument.
- Adjacent steps to monument cleared of encroaching grass & soil.
- Strimmed grass along pathway at Pen Parcau.
- Trimmed hedgerow & cleared pathway by community club.
- Path leading into Pen Y Mynydd strimmed, scraped & weed killer sprayed.

Parc Calon Lan

The Warden had requested approval to purchase soil and plants for the Park and this was agreed.

Cycling World magazine had offered to include the Mountain Bike Trails in a cycling feature on Wales and it was agreed to take up a half page offer at a cost of £270 which the Clerk would co-ordinate with the Warden.

Community Path

There had been an agreement last autumn with the Garw Valley Railway to co-ordinate volunteers and the Warden to help with work on the Railway's section of the Community Path during the winter months. For many reasons this work has not been carried out and the Clerk asked Members if they still wanted to go ahead with this offer not that the busy summer months are here and the Warden is busy. After a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Railway to suggest that if they did a little work on the path and residents could see that work was being done, it may enthuse others to want to help and the work would get done.

New Councillor Training

One Voice Wales were offering New Councillor Induction training in Bridgend on 24th May and the Clerk suggested it would be good training for the 6 new councillors to attend and this was agreed.

Pontycymmer Borough Councillor Attendance

The Clerk suggested that Borough Councillor Rod Shaw be invited to Community Council meetings every 2 months to give a borough report. This was agreed and it was agreed that the agenda and minutes should be sent to him each month too for information purposes.

Presentation Plaques

The Community Council's stock of presentation plaques had been used up and the Clerk requested authority to order a further 5 using the same design as previously used at a cost of £242.50 plus vat and delivery, and this was agreed. It was also agreed that once the plaques had been received, previous Councillors G Davies, R Shaw, G Walters and J Szeligiewicz would be invited to the next meeting for a presentation and a presentation to the Chair for 2016/17, Councillor D Griffiths would also take place.

Resolved: The Clerk to provide the Warden with Petty Cash to purchase plants and soil for Parc Calon Lan, to arrange the Cycling World magazine article, to write to the Garw Valley Railway regarding the Community Path, to organize New Councillor training for the six new councillors and to invite Councillor R Shaw to future meetings as agreed.

10/18 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED:

1. Good Councillor Guide - electronic guide sent to Councillors plus the Clerk has an office copy

2. BAVO - offer of 1 hour Dementia Friendly Training. Agreed to invite them to carry out this training at the start of the July meeting.

3. JACS (UK) Ltd - introduction to their product village gateways

4. One Voice Wales:

- What to do in a Power Cut leaflet
- Public appointment of non-executive members to the Wales Audit Office (closes 19/05)
- April e-bulletin
- National Development Framework for Wales - April 2017 newsletter
- National Assembly for Wales' Expert Panel on Assembly information and a link to a website
- Public appointment of Chair to Meat Promotion Wales
- Larger Councils and Innovative Practice Awards Conference - 5th July 2017 at the Royal Welsh Showground
- Code of Practice on Workforce Matters (Two Tier Code) - Annual Monitoring Form from the Welsh Government
- Notification of the next Bridgend, Cardiff & Vale Area Committee plus copies of minutes for the Community Council's representatives.
- Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils. Agreed to include on June agenda.

5. BCBC - notification of the Bridgend County Borough Mayoral Inauguration and Blessing on Wednesday 24th May 2017 1.45 for 2.00 pm at the Civic Offices

6. Coalfields Regeneration Trust - information about 1 to 1 appointments in Maesteg on 15th June.

7. Ombudsman Complaint - a request to confirm the re-election of the councillor involved

8. A guide to taking part in Battle's Over - A Nation's Tribute and WWI Beacons of Light on 11th November 2018

9. Freedom of Information Request - to provide information regarding the amount of money spent on Parc Calon Lan including quad, machinery, trailer and everything associated with it.

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

10. Complaint - a letter from the owner of the dog that died in PCL lake. This was noted and commiserations expressed. The Clerk was asked to seek advice to see if there were any measures which could be implemented to prevent this happening again, and to reply to the letter. Councillor R Clatworthy suggested working with a charity such as the RNLI and asking them to visit all schools in the area to warn of the dangers of the lakes. This was agreed and Councillor Clatworthy was asked to work with the Clerk on this.

11.Halo Leisure - a request from Halo Leisure Manager, Karl Paterson, to attend the September 2017 meeting to give feedback on the Summer Play Schemes. This was agreed.

12.Shared Access - an email regarding improving mobile network coverage for the local community and asking who the freeholder or leaseholder is for Parc Calon Lan in order to discuss locating an antenna on the site in exchange for a payment. The Clerk was asked to confirm.

13.Cynnal Cymru - April newsletter

14.Community Energy Wales - May newsletter

15.Resident Seeking Advice - a Pontycymer resident has sent an email, copied to the Clerk, to BCBC regarding the explosion of knot-weed growth along the length of Oxford Street/Meadow Street asking for advice. This was noted.

16.BCBC - Declaration of Results of Poll - emailed to Members and put on all the usual display boards in the valley

17.Clerks & Councils Direct - May 2017 issue

18.BAVO - Spring 2017 Involve magazine

19.SLCC - The Clerk magazine May 2017 issue

20.Clarke Telecom - proposed base station installation at land at Moel Gilau Bettws - a response is needed no later than 22nd May 2017.

21.Bobath - letter of thanks for £25.00 donation received and noted.

Resolved: The Clerk to arrange the BAVO dementia training, to include Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils on the June agenda, to provide the information for the FOI request, to research what measures could be implemented at PCL lake and reply to the dog owner, to work with Councillor Clatworthy to look at the possibility of arranging school visits to remind children of the dangers of the lakes, to invite Karl Patterson to the September meeting and to respond to Clarke Telecom

11/18 PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED:

Applications/Decisions Received:

Reference	Proposal	Location
Applications:		
P/17/361/OUT	Outline for 3 dwellings	Land off Convil Road Blaengarw CF32 8BN
P/17/246/FUL	Erection of two storey extension, conversion of garage and external alterations (amended proposal)	Bradley House Bettws Road Bettws CF32 8TB
Decisions:		
P/17/263/FUL	Single storey rear extension	115 Heol Glannant

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	Conditional Consent	Bettws CF32 8SF
P/17/212/FUL	Change of use from existing members mess room to sale of soft drinks, snacks etc for consumption off the premises Conditional Consent	Bridgend Valleys Railway Co Old Station Yard Pontycymer CF32 8AZ
P/16/989/RLX	Variation of condition 3 of P/15/628/FUL to increase the number of dogs kept at the site to 50 Conditional Consent (RLX)	Ocean Farm (Off David Street) Blaengarw Bridgend
P/16/331/FUL	Repairs to existing outbuilding to make safe, landscaping and new double garage Conditional Consent	Bradford Cottage Llangeinor CF328RD
P/16/1001/FUL	Change public house into residential dwelling Conditional Consent	Braichycymmer Arms Pleasant View Pontyrhyl CF32 8BJ
A/17/9/ADV	2 flagpoles to be erected outside the visitor centre displaying the Welsh national flag and the Green Flag Award flag Conditional Consent (advert)	Bryngarw Country Park Brynmenyn CF32 8UU
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

Reference	Proposal	Location
Applications:		
P/17/319/LA	Certificate of lawfulness to retain existing use of land as garden (land included into curtilage of property)	3 Hillside Gardens Pontycymmer CF32 8LF

Resolved: Objections were raised to P/16/989/RLX and it was agreed that the Community Council would support Borough Councillor Dendy's objection to this decision.

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For information: At this point the 2 members of the public in attendance left the meeting.

12/18 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS RELATING TO STAFF (Public Excluded)

Resolved: The Clerk would find a suitable course and arrange for the Community Warden to attend.

13/18 ITEMS FOR THE JUNE 2017 ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED:

1. Daffodil Planting Pontycymer (HG) - ongoing
2. Visitor Centre Opening - Summer 2017 (RS)
3. To consider a Council Newsletter/Residents' Handbook (ACH)
4. Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils (ACH)
5. Refuse Collection (HG) - ongoing
6. Wind Farm Funds (MJ/RS) - ongoing
7. Complaints Procedure (ACH)

163/17 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday 19th May 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 8.50 pm