



**GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT HALO LEISURE CENTRE  
PONTYCYMMER ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor H Griffiths (Chair)

Councillors: Mr G Andrews  
Mr J Davies  
Ms S Dendy  
Mr M Jones  
Mr R Jones  
Ms C Lloyd  
Mr C Gillard-Sage  
Mrs R Stirman  
Mr R Shaw (following item 8)

Apologies were received from:

Councillors R Clatworthy, M Thomas and G  
Walters plus PCSO M Rees

Also Present: PCSO J Dulson and Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

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136/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Minute No</b>
Ms S Dendy	BCBC incl. Development Control and Planning	Member	All relevant
Mr M Jones	BCBC	Member	All relevant
Mr R Shaw	BCBC Boundary Commission	Member Review Committee Member	All relevant Plus 143 (item 12)
Mrs R Stirman	BCBC incl. Development Control and Planning	Member	All relevant

137/18 TO RECEIVE AN ADDRESS FROM MERRIE REES-AKENKIDE

With advance permission from the Chair, Mrs Merrie Rees-Akenkide gave a short address regarding the fund raising to place a memorial bench in Parc Calon Lan that had taken place following the sad loss of Mrs Rhian Hollett.

**Resolved:** Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to look at the possibility of a replacement bench in Parc Calon and to look at suitable alternative locations at Pontycymmer Lake and inform Mrs Rees-Akenkide of this request within 7 days of the meeting.

138/18 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM SHARON GRONLAND AND THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT TEAM

Unfortunately the team were unable to attend.

139/18 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2018 ORDINARY MEETING

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

140/18 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH WALES POLICE

PCSO Dulson attended the meeting. The Clerk tabled a graph and narrative of the February 2018 figures. The date of the next Pontycymmer PACT meeting was also confirmed.

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**Resolved:** The information was noted.

### 141/18 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH 2018 ORDINARY MINUTES

#### Minute 130

##### Broken Lantern Waun Bant

This will be fixed in the next few weeks.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted

### 142/18 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES AND WARD REPORTS

- Bettws - Councillor M Jones
- 
- Blaengarw - Councillor Dendy
- 
- Llangeinor - Councillor Stirman
  
- Pontycymmer - Councillor R Shaw

**Resolved:** The updates and information given were noted.

### 143/18 AGENDA ITEMS

#### Item 8: Co-option of a Councillor to Represent the Llangeinor Ward

The Clerk reminded Members of their duty to declare a personal or prejudicial interest and to consider whether they should leave the meeting whilst the matter is under consideration and the vote is taken.

#### Item 9: Electric Car Charging Station

Unfortunately a further discussion could not go ahead as the proposer was not present to progress the discussion.

#### Item 10: Motions for Debate at the OVW Annual Meeting

Member councils are invited to propose a maximum of two motions for debate at the AGM. The criteria for motions to be acceptable were tabled.

#### Item 11: To Discuss the Independent Remuneration Panel's Report

The Clerk updated Members on the changes to the scheme following the report which was published in February. There is no longer a choice on whether to join the scheme or not. From April 2018 all Community Councillors will be paid an annual sum of £150

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unless they decide not to accept it, in which case they must write to the Clerk by 30<sup>th</sup> April to let her know they wish to decline the payment. This payment is not available to Borough Councillors.

In addition there are recommendations for payments to the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chairs of Committees and also an honorarium payment to the Chair. These are not mandatory but guidance as to limits is given.

### Item 12: Consider a Reponse to the Boundary Commission Review of Electoral Wards

The Clerk reminded Members of the details of the review.

### Item 13: To Further Discuss a Bee Friendly Scheme

The Clerk had spoken to the Community Warden about the scheme and drawn up a list of what's already in place that fits in with it. They had also drawn up a list of other suggestions and these were discussed.

### Item 14: To Discuss the Provision of Memorial Benches in Parc Calon Lan

**Resolved:** Following a discussion a vote was taken on the two applicants for the role of Community Councillor Llangeinor Ward. One Councillor abstained, 3 voted for 1 candidate and 4 voted for the successful candidate Councillor Rod Shaw. As a casting vote was not needed the Chair did not vote. It was decided not to put forward a motion for debate at the OVW Annual Meeting. The information given about the Independent Remuneration Panel's report and the mandatory allowances was noted and the action Members needed to take by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The non-mandatory allowances were discussed and it was agreed to retain the Chair's allowance at the amount agreed in this year's budget. That no payment would be made to the Vice-Chair or Committee Chairs. The Clerk was asked to submit a response to Item 12 and given authority to progress the Bee Friendly Scheme with the Warden.

## 144/18 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING A FINANCIAL REQUEST

1.Councillor M Jones requested the Community Council's financial support for a Bettws couple who have recently received a Mayor's award and who have been invited to the Royal Wedding in recognition of their charity work. This is an honour and a great recognition for the Bettws community.

2.The accounts submitted totalling £10,722.38 for approval at the April 2018 Full Council Meeting were read and approved. The balance carried forward to May 2018 was £18,076.74 and the income of £290.03p was noted from the sale of logs, bank interest and the repayment from the Co-op for the Christmas light.

3.Finance Committee Report - the Chair of Committee gave a report and made its recommendations. All were agreed.

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**Resolved:** That the action and information given by the Clerk was approved. The Receipts and Payments for April 2018 were authorised and accepted. It was agreed to support the financial request and meet reasonable travelling and accommodation expenses up to the value of £500. £250 from the Bettws ward fund and £250 from the general Community Council fund.

Note: Standing Orders were suspended at 9.00 pm

### 145/18 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended a presentation and a concert for two elderly residents' major birthday celebrations.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

### 146/18 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE FROM WARDEN/PARC CALON LAN

#### Wardens Report

A list of work carried out by the Warden was read out.

#### Clerk's Report

##### Rights of Way Agency Agreement

A claim for £2,425 plus £600 for the Community Route has been submitted.

##### Council as an Employer Course

The Clerk had recently attended a OVW course.

##### Rubbish and Pot Holes

Pot holes and rubbish in Bettws have been reported to BCBC.

##### Blaengarw Primary School Crossing

A response to the Community Council's letter of concern had been received and was read out.

##### Back Straining Wire Pontycymer

This will be replaced in November.

**Resolved:** All information and action by the Clerk was noted. It was agreed to arrange for the bridges in the park to be inspected, the response from BCBC to the

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letter of concern about crossing outside Blaengarw Primary School would be emailed to all Members.

### 147/18 CORRESPONDENCE

**Resolved:** The items of Correspondence were noted, the Clerk drew attention to the consultations, surveys and invitations for this month. A vote was taken on the suggestions by a resident ref. building a shelter in the park and letting them finish the bike park in Blaengarw; it was unanimously agreed that a shelter would not be built and the Community Council are already looking into completing the bike park. The request to sow a wild flower meadow in Marion Street was a BCBC matter as it is not Community Council land.

### 148/18 PLANNING MATTERS

1. All applications and decisions received were noted.
2. All Planning Aid Wales correspondence was noted.

**Resolved:** There were no objections to any of the planning applications. The other information was noted.

### 149/18 ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2018 ORDINARY MEETING

- Litter and Fly Tipping
- Branding the Community Council
- Fudgie's Health & Fitness Club

**Resolved:** These suggestions were put forward for the April agenda but could not be accommodated. They will be included for discussion at the May meeting if still relevant, along with any other suggestions which were requested during the meeting.

### 135/17 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meetings, both Annual and Ordinary, will be held at Halo Leisure Centre Pontycymer, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 at 6.00 pm for the Annual Meeting followed by the Ordinary Meeting at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.14 pm