



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

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S  
HALL ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor H Griffiths (Chair)

Councillors: Mr G Andrews  
Mr R Clatworthy  
Ms S Dendy  
Mr R Jones  
Ms C Lloyd  
Ms M Pinches  
Mr C Gillard-Sage  
Mrs R Stirman  
Mrs M Thomas(left the meeting early at 8.09 pm)  
Mr G Walters

Apologies were received from:

Councillors J Davies and M Jones  
PCSO J Dulson

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

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The Chair welcomed Mr Karl Paterson of Halo Leisure to the meeting.

### **91/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:

| <b>Councillor</b> | <b>Item</b>                                 | <b>Interest</b>                                    | <b>Minute No</b> |
|-------------------|---|--|------------------|
| Mr G Andrews      | To Discuss Tynyrheol Primary School         | School Governor<br>Cwm Garw<br>Primary School      | 98 (2)           |
| Ms S Dendy        | BCBC incl. Development Control and Planning | Member   | All relevant     |
| Mrs H Griffiths   | To Discuss Tynyrheol Primary School         | Chair of<br>Governors<br>Ffaldau Primary<br>School | 98 (2)           |
| Mrs C Lloyd       | To Discuss Tynyrheol Primary School         | School Governor                                    | 98 (2)           |
| Mrs R Stirman     | BCBC incl. Development Control and Planning | Member   | All relevant     |

### **92/18 TO RECEIVE KARL PATERSON OF HALO LEISURE RE. SUMMER PLAY SCHEMES**

Mr Paterson had attended the meeting to give feedback on the Summer Play Schemes.

**Resolved:** That the information given was noted, that new activity ideas would be forwarded to the Clerk. The Members also thanked Mr Paterson for all the hard work put in by the Halo staff.

### **93/18 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2017 ORDINARY MEETING AND THE DECEMBER 2017 PRECEPT MEETING**

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

### **94/18 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH WALES POLICE**

PCSO Mike Rees and Andrew Jenkins attended the meeting.

**Resolved:** The information discussed was noted.

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### 95/18 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2017 ORDINARY MINUTES

#### Natural Resources Wales

An email confirmation had been received from NRW. Members were updated on the long term management plan for the lakes.

#### Lighting Column Llangeinor

This has now been removed following an inspection by BCBC.

#### Sale of Logs

The sale of logs has been advertised throughout the valley.

#### Noticeboard Blaengarw

Permission had been sought from the WEXA to locate the noticeboard on the outside of their building.

#### Bettws Bin

Permission to site a bin outside the kebab shop has been granted.

#### Dog Bin

A suitable location at the rugby field is being considered.

#### Interpretation Board Update

Councillor Stirman updated Members of the plan to reproduce the three trails and generate an accompanying QR code to be put on a large interpretation board similar to the one showing the mountain bike trails at the entrance to the Parc Calon Lan car park.

#### Financial Request Ffaldau School

There were no progress reports on this matter.

#### Correspondence

Mr N Allcock had requested to know the reasons for the Community Council unanimously rejecting his suggestions.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted. It was agreed to install a dog waste bin near the gate to the rugby field in Pontycymer. The update re the interpretation board from Councillor Stirman was noted. The Clerk was asked to ask the Borough Councillors who were not present at the meeting for an update

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on the financial request for Ffaldau School and to inform Mr Allcock of the reasons for not wishing to take his suggestions further, which were:

- They do not wish to have public compost heaps in the valley for health and safety reasons.
- That the Pontycymer noticeboard has been inspected by the Community Warden and some maintenance work has been advised. Two of the Community Councillors for Pontycymer will work together to carry out the work (the Community Council will cover the cost of materials)
- In regards to the fly tipping, this is a BCBC matter and the Community Council do not wish to enter into a contract for a private collection in the valley.

### 96/18 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

Blaengarw - Councillor Dendy gave an update.

Llangeinor - Councillor Stirman gave an update

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

### 97/18 AGENDA ITEMS

#### 1.To Discuss Pontycymer Cemetery

Councillor Griffiths expressed her concerns about the water ingress at the cemetery, the suitability of the current bins and dogs left to roam off their leads.

#### 2.To Discuss Tynyrheol School

Councillor Stirman made a request to discuss funding of the school alarm on the agenda for the February meeting.

**Resolved:** The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC regarding the issues raised regarding the cemetery and to include the Tynyrheol School financial request in the Finance section of the February meeting.

### 98/18 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

#### RESOLVED:

That the report of the Clerk be accepted.

1.Accounts submitted for approval at the January 2018 Full Council Meeting were read and approved. £4,466.76 for December 2017 and £3,719.76 for January 2018.

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The recent By-Election Costs were noted.

**Resolved:** That the action and information given by the Clerk was approved. The Receipts and Payments for December 2017 and January 2018 were authorised and accepted.

### 99/18 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended a thoroughly enjoyable Story with Santa event at Bettws Community Club, as well as the Pontycymer Christmas Lights switch on.

**Resolved:** The Chair's report was noted.

### 100/18 WARD UPDATE

Blaengarw - Councillor Andrews gave an update.

Llangeinor - all matters had been covered in the Borough Council report.

Bettws - Councillor R Jones raised his concerns regarding the lack of pavement and lighting along Bettws Road between Bettws and Brynmenyn.

Pontycymer - Councillor Clatworthy gave an update.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. Councillor R Jones was advised to refer his concerns re Bettws Road to the Bettws Borough Councillor. The Clerk had already reported the fly tipping to BCBC. The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC regarding the problems with refuse and ask the staff to take extra care.

### 101/18 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE FROM WARDEN/PARC CALON LAN

#### Wardens Report

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

#### Clerk's Report

##### Grass Cutting 2018

The Clerk asked if Members wanted to continue to contract BLeaf to cut the grass at Glen Garw flats and Pen Parcau in 2018, and this was agreed.

##### Metal Container next to Blaengarw School

A letter had been received from Dwr Cymru asking about water and sewerage connectivity to the Container.

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### Rights of Way Enquiry

The Clerk has received an email from the Rights of Way department at BCBC asking about Community Council expenditure for the year on the cycle route adjacent to the Co-op in Pontycymer.

### Helicopter Landing in Blaengarw

The Clerk updated Members on the request to land a helicopter in the Breathing Space.

### Play Areas

Following a discussion it was agreed that Councillors would carry out a play area audit and feed back at the February meeting.

### Western Power

The Clerk had been contacted about a replacement support wire for the pole next to the Miner's Lamp in Pontycymer and advised Members of the options.

### Vexatious Complaints Policy

The Clerk recommended adopting a Habitual and Vexatious Complaints Policy.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. Authority was given for the Clerk to arrange the continued grass cutting at Pen Parcau and Glen Garw flats for 2018, to obtain a price for selling the metal storage container, to speak to the Rights of Way Manager regarding the conditions of the lease of Parc Calon Lan and to look into the provision of No Dogs Allowed signs. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with a representative of Western Power and the two Llangeinor Ward Councillors at the Miners' Lamp site. Authority was given for the Warden to hire a wood chipper for 2 days. The additional maintenance request for the Warden was agreed. The recommended policy would be considered and discussed at the February meeting.

## 102/18 CORRESPONDENCE

Note: Councillor M Thomas left the meeting at 8.09 pm.

**Resolved:** The items of Correspondence were noted, the Clerk highlighted various items. It was agreed to include the T&CC Charter on the February 2018 agenda, that a copy of the revised electoral register was not required, to donate £25 each to the Welsh Ambulance Service Charity and Cancer Information and Support Services. It was also agreed to donate £25 towards the Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2018 (a vote was taken and Councillors G Walters, R Stirman and M Thomas voted against the donation, whilst Councillor S Dendy abstained).

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### 103/18 PLANNING MATTERS

Note: Councillors R Stirman and S Dendy left the room during the planning item

1. All applications and decisions received were noted.
2. All Planning Aid Wales correspondence was noted.
3. The One Voice Wales details of a consultation on Planning Law in Wales which closes on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 was noted.

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

### 104/18 ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2018 ORDINARY MEETING

- To consider an Electric Car Charging Station (RC)

**Resolved:** This suggestion would be included for discussion at the February meeting along with the other suggestions which were requested during the meeting.

### 104/18 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS RELATING TO STAFF (PUBLIC TO BE EXCLUDED)

This discussion was confidential. An email response to an item of confidential correspondence was unanimously agreed.

**Resolved:** The Clerk was asked to send the email response in relation to the confidential correspondence. She was also given authority to speak to the PCSO to seek advice in relation to another matter.

### 105/17 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 6.30 pm at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm