



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S
HALL ON MONDAY 21ST JANUARY 2019 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor S Dendy (Interim Chair)
Councillor R Stirman (elected Chair)

Councillors: G Andrews
H Griffiths
C Lloyd
M Jones
R Jones
M Thomas

Apologies: Councillor R Clatworthy, M Trowbridge and G Walters

No apologies received from Councillor C Gillard-Sage

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk
3 Members of the Public
PCSO M Rees

94/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Item	Interest
Ms S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Llynfi Afan Wind Farm	Member BCBC Committee Member
Mr M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member BCBC
Mrs R Stirman	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member BCBC

95/19 TO ELECT A CHAIR

Following Councillor Shaw's resignation, in the interim period Councillor S Dendy, Vice-Chair had acted as Chair. A proposal was made to elect Councillor R Stirman as Chair and a vote was taken.

Resolved: Councillor R Stirman was elected Chair until the May Annual Meeting when a new Chair will be elected. Councillor Stirman continues the representation of the Llangeinor Ward as Chair for the year 2018/19.

96/19 TO RECEIVE THE SOUTH WALES POLICE/CRIME FIGURES

PCSO M Rees gave an update on progress and issues over the past month. The Clerk tabled a graph and narrative of the October and November 2018 figures. Questions were asked on the violent and sexual crime, the number of 'unable to prosecute suspect' results, who reviews the crimes and increases in domestic violence

Resolved: The information was noted.

97/19 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2019 PRECEPT MEETING

The Minutes of the January 2019 Precept Meeting were presented for approval.

Resolved: It was noted that the minutes state the meeting wasn't closed. The Clerk was not present at the end of the meeting and it was noted that this was not an accurate minute and that the meeting was called to a close by the Chair, though the time was not noted. With this amendment the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and the Chair duly signed the Minute Book.

98/19 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY 2019 PRECEPT MEETING MINUTES

There were no matters arising to be discussed.

99/19 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES AND WARD REPORTS

- Bettws - Councillor M Jones
-
- Blaengarw - Councillor S Dendy
-
- Llangeinor - Councillor R Stirman
-
- Pontycymer - Councillor H Griffiths

Resolved: The updates and information given were noted.

100/19 FRIENDS OF PARC CALON LAN

The Clerk had spoken to Lynne Harris-Seal, Chair of the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park to find out how they set up the group, applied for grants, obtained green flag status, how they worked with volunteers etc. Representatives of the group had offered to meet with representatives of GVCC to have a further discussion and look at the work they've carried out in their park.

Resolved: It was agreed that Councillors R Stirman, S Dendy, C Lloyd and M Thomas along with the Clerk and Community Warden would meet with representatives of the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park to find out more about setting up a Friends Group. Two members of the public in attendance at the meeting also offered to be involved and it was agreed that they would also attend.

101/19 UPPER GARW VALLEY WORKSHOP

The Clerk informed members that NRW had met with the consultants in late November to review progress and all is going well. They have completed the baseline assessments and are now progressing with assessment of the various options that were proposed and will also be working on the management plan for the lakes.

They expect the study to report in mid February and would then like to propose a half day workshop with the members to present and discuss the outputs, they are offering Thursday 28th February am. The lead consultants will be preparing a presentation and will be able to discuss their findings and answer any queries as well as discussing the long term management of the lakes.

Resolved: It was agreed that the workshop should go ahead on that date and members would attend.

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102/19 ACKNOWLEDGING LGBT MONTH AS A COUNCIL

Councillor Dendy asked members to support LGBT month as a council and suggested arranging a photograph to upload to the website show support.

Resolved: The suggestion was agreed.

103/19 WORKING WITH SCHOOLS ON COUNCIL PROJECTS

Councillor Dendy suggested that the community council encourages schools to take a more active role in the community. Various suggestions were made and planned events noted.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Events Committee would take this idea forward.

104/19 3 YEAR STRATEGY - GOING FORWARD

Councillor Dendy asked for clarification on the way forward now that the Strategy Committee is no longer active.

Resolved: This would be discussed further when the Finance Committee report is given.

105/19 TO RECEIVE AN EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It was agreed that this item would be discussed under Staff Confidential later in the meeting.

106/19 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Payments January 2019:

The Clerk requested authority to pay the £4,870.36 of payments for January as detailed on the January papers. The balance carried forward to February is £74,307.87 (includes £5,000 from BCBC payment for the bus stops in Bettws). It was noted that bank interest of £8.14 had been received as income.

Conclusion of Audit:

As discussed and approved at the October Extraordinary meeting the conclusion has at last been received, along with the known two items to note; the incorrect line through on the gratuity column and the incorrect use of Section 137 rule. As explained at the October meeting this is not the case but because our budget monitoring sheet shows the row labelled as S137/Donations they've assumed we're applied that Section 137 rule.

Resolved: Full Council accepted and approved the Conclusion of Audit. The January 2019 payments were approved and authority given to make the payments. Councillor M Jones requested a breakdown from the Clerk of the Bettws ward forecasted figure to year end.

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107/19 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair was newly elected and therefore there was no report.

108/19 CLERK'S REPORT

Parc Calon Lan:

The Clerk confirmed that the Warden had returned to work on 14th January 2019 on a 3 day week on lighter duties. Therefore the bin emptying contract and the grass cutting contract had been ended.

Following receipt of the risk assessment of the council's leased land, the Clerk had extracted the recommended work to be carried out and tabled a document. The Clerk had talked through the work with the Community Warden and identified the smaller maintenance jobs that he could start carrying out. It was noted that the 111 page document had been sent to members via email and if members would like a printed hard copy they could request one from the Clerk.

Clerk's Report:

Permission for new bins

The Clerk has now received permission to install the 3 new bins 2 in Bettws and 1 in Federation Lane Pontycymer and had received confirmation that they will be included on BCBCs collection schedule. The Clerk would now order the bins and arrange their installation.

Cllr Andrews requested a new bin for the top of the zig zag path in PC Lan and this was agreed.

Porthcawl Town Council Joint Working Initiative Meeting

The Clerk had represented the Council at the above meeting. Some very interesting ideas about best practice, working together to obtain better value for money etc. had been put forward. As a first step a form will be issued to all Clerk to complete to see what resources and equipment are available within each T&CC.

Resolved: The Clerk would order the 4 bins and arrange their installation and once installed add them to BCBC/Community Warden's collection schedule.

109/19 CORRESPONDENCE

The items of Correspondence were noted, the Clerk drew attention to the consultations, surveys and invitations for this month. Of particular note was the Welsh Government's First Steps response to the T&CC Sector Review and the invitation to attend the OVW Larger Council Meeting.

Resolved: It was agreed that full council did not wish the Chair to attend the OVV Larger Council meeting on this occasion and the Clerk was asked write to OVV to request that the meetings are held in the north and south instead of mid Wales to make the meetings more accessible.

110/19 PLANNING MATTERS

A list of planning applications, decisions and appeals was tabled.

Resolved: It was noted that it was sad to see the demolition of Pontycymer School included and some members wanted more details about P/18/1025/FUL which are available on BCBC's website.

111/19 TO DISCUSS STAFF CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS (Public to be excluded)

Note: The Clerk left the meeting at 7.45 pm

Employment Committee Recommendations:

Chair of Employment, Councillor H Griffiths read out the recommendations.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Clerk and Warden would be asked to fill in daily time sheets. It was agreed to approve the Clerk's salary increment of £270 The Clerk was asked to submit her work sheets/overtime from the date of the October meeting and request authorisation from full council. It was noted that the Clerk is in the correct salary banding and that the Clerk would continue to be paid for a 15 hour week and any overtime recorded for approval by full council on the submission of time sheets/overtime. It was agreed to have a discussion at the March meeting on the Warden's request. It was agreed that the Clerk would carry out the Warden's annual appraisal but that the Chair would be present. It was agreed that the Chair would carry out the Clerk's appraisal but would seek input from full council before the appraisal took place.

Finance Committee Recommendations:

The Chair of Finance Committee, Councillor Griffiths made the following recommendations:

- The Clerk as RFO had expressed her concern at the Finance Committee that several items had not been included in the precept budget. There had been no opportunity for the Clerk to raise these concerns at the precept meeting as she had not been recalled into the meeting following the salary budget line discussion.
- Councillor allowances - only an allowance for the Chair had been included. The Clerk had talked about including councillor allowances as some members had taken the allowance in the previous year, but no provision had been included.

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- No provision made for unknown services which may be moved to T&CC from BCBC during the year.
- No provision made for the resolved strategy items that were agreed in previous meetings, including the match funding agreed for the upgrade of Waun Bank play area.
- No provision for floral displays which was the most requested item in the feedback surveys received from the public meetings held in November. Although it had been stated at the January precept meeting that wards can use their own funds if they wish to have floral displays.
- No provision for the financial implications of the risk assessment received.
- No provision for the T&CC Sector first steps i.e. training courses for councillors, printing and distribution of an annual report etc.
- No provision for the Clerk's £270 annual increment.

- A resolution had been made at the November meeting (minute 76/19) to apply for match funding to upgrade the Waun Bant play area, but no provision had been made in the budget for 2019/20.

- The risk assessment had now been received and the Clerk has drawn up a list of larger/more expensive works required:
 - Repairs to wooden bridges
 - Repairs to the footpaths around the monument
 - Repairs to the drain in the Visitor Centre car park
 - Replacement/Removal of the bench at Railway Terrace
 - Additional signage required on the MTB trails and the MUGA area
 - Replacement life ring/rope
 - Replacement MUGA surface as it does not meet current standards - suggest closing this area off
 - Repair to the top of the steps near Cwm Garw Surgery

- Reed Cutting and Pond Weed Removal Both Lakes: the recommendation to full council is that the work is carried out ASAP before the birds start nesting in March. The cost would be covered by using £6,500 from the earmarked projects budget and £5,600 from the contingency fund.

- The recommendation to full council was to accept the Conclusion of Audit.

- The recommendation to full council was to award the £270 increment to the Clerk.

Resolved: It was agreed to put Councillor Allowances Policy on the February 2019 agenda. It was agreed to put PC Lan on the February agenda and to invite representatives of RES to the March meeting to discuss possible funding.

Note: The Clerk returned to the meeting.

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112/19 ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2019 ORDINARY MEETING

- Pontycymer Cemetery (HG)

In addition to the item above, any items agreed in the above minutes.

113/19 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 18th March 2019 at 6.30 pm at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.**

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm