



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

MINUTES OF A PRECEPT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S HALL
ON FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY 2019 6.30 PM

Present: Councillor R Shaw

Councillors:

G Andrews (left the meeting at 8.30 pm)
S Dendy
H Griffiths
C Lloyd
M Jones
R Jones
C Gillard-Sage (left the meeting early)
R Stirman
M Thomas
G Walters

Apologies: Councillor R Clatworthy

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk

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The Chair welcomed Councillor Michelle Trowbridge to her first council meeting.

The Chair reminded members that it is inappropriate to discuss staff in an open meeting and whilst they are present.

89/19 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
Mr R Shaw	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member BCBC
Mrs R Stirman	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member BCBC

90/19 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2018 PRECEPT MEETING

The Minutes of the December 2018 Precept Meeting were approved.

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

91/19 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER 2018 PRECEPT MEETING MINUTES

There were no matters arising to be discussed.

92/19 TO DISCUSS AND DETERMINE THE 2019/20 PRECEPT REQUIREMENT

The draft precept prepared by the Finance Committee at its November 2018 meeting was discussed by Full Council. The budget was considered line by line and there were very robust discussions regarding some of the budget lines.

The following amendments were made to the proposed projects budget:

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- Reduce the footpaths budget line to £5,000
- Remove the budget line to replace the Pontycymer Square CCTV hub
- Remove the match funding allocated for a T&CC Fund application (resolved at the November Ordinary Meeting)
- Reduce the budget line for PC Lan Visitor Centre to £500 for improvements
- Remove the floral display budget. It was agreed that if wards want floral displays they can be funded from ward funds
- Remove the budget line for a new MTB bike trail in PC Lan
- Remove toilet facilities and leaflet printing from the budget line for the 3 year strategy
- Remove the budget line for completion of the BMX track
- Remove the budget line for Pantygog Steps (this is no longer an option)

The need for an Events Committee was also discussed and it was agreed that this committee would continue, but would meet before an Ordinary Meeting.

In addition, the need for a Strategy Committee was considered. This Committee was proposed and agreed at the full council meeting held in September 2018 following the Chair's report on the recommendations of the Independent Review Panel's report on the T&CC Sector in Wales. In view of the lack of funding to carry out its recommendations included in the agreed precept for 2019/20 the committee would now be dissolved.

It was agreed to invite Karl Patterson to a meeting in the next few months to see what the plan is for summer play schemes and what funding is needed so that further consideration can be given to the Community Council's contribution.

There was a request for a breakdown of PC Lan expenditure over the last year.

It was suggested that any travel expenses incurred by the Chair should be taken out of the Chair's honorarium. The Clerk reminded Members that a budget for councillor allowances, as set out in the Independent Remuneration Panel's Report, should be included in the budget for 2019/20, however no provision was included.

It was suggested than any money left over in ward funds at the end of the year should not be carried forward to the next year, but put into the general reserve.

At 8.08 pm the Clerk was asked to leave the meeting so that the salary budget line could be discussed and Councillor H Griffiths agreed to take the minutes.

There followed a discussion on the Clerk's role which led into the Finance Committee recommendations in relation to the official salary and working hours assessment carried out by One Voice Wales. Councillor Stirman who had analysed the assessment suggested 20 hours a week would be more appropriate. Councillor M Jones said no application from the Clerk to increase her hours had been received. There followed a robust discussion with several councillors taking part. The Council were unable to make a decision the subject was left unresolved.

Councillor Dendy then commented that the Clerks role and salary had not been reviewed since her employment commenced almost four years ago and this should be rectified.

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The Chair commented that the Staff Appointments Committee should meet asap to discuss this further. Councillor M Jones asked for letters/invoices and all necessary documentation in connection with the Clerk's assessment to be made available to him and the Chair agreed.

Resolved: The Clerk would invite Karl Patterson to a future meeting, the Clerk would provide a breakdown of the costs of PC Lan, the Chair would provide the information on the assessment,

93/19 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 21st January 2019 at 6.30 pm at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.**

Note:

The meeting was called to a close. As is the usual practice, the Clerk was not recalled into the meeting to work out the final precept figure, the annual increase or the percentage increase so that a final vote could be taken on the precept request amount, despite the deadline being no later than 7th January 2019.

The Clerk was informed by the Chair to include the figure for the usual working hours in the salary budget line and to request a precept of £111,000 as all other budget lines had been discussed and agreed. The Clerk expressed her concern to the Chair that she had not been called back into the meeting to agree a final precept figure.