



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN A PRIVATE FUNCTION ROOM AT
THE *ODDFELLOWS PUBLIC HOUSE ON MONDAY 15TH OCTOBER AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor R Shaw

Councillors:

G Andrews
S Dendy
H Griffiths
C Lloyd
R Jones
R Stirman
M Thomas
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors M Jones and M Thomas

Absent but no apologies received:
Councillor R Clatworthy

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15TH OCTOBER 2018

*the keyholder did not attend to open up Bettws Life Centre for the meeting so in order to avoid cancelling the meeting it was held at the Oddfellows public house, Bettws.

55/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Item	Interest
Ms S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member BCBC
Mr R Shaw	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Llangeinor AFC	Member BCBC Member
Mrs R Stirman	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member BCBC

56/19 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH WALES POLICE

PCSO Jenkins gave an update on progress and issues over the past month. The Clerk tabled a graph and narrative of the August 2018 figures.

Resolved: The information was noted.

57/19 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2018 ORDINARY MEETING

Resolved: The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record with this, the Chair duly signed the Minute Book. However, the Clerk was asked to check the information in Minute no 43/19 'A discussion followed around the numbers attending from Bettws, value for money, consideration of holding a scheme in Bettws using the Life Centre for inside activities and the School for outside.'

58/19 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2018 ORDINARY MINUTES

Minute 50/19 - Daffodil Bulb Planting Blaengarw

The school were waiting for Councillor Dendy to contact them to arrange a date for planting.

Resolved: The information was noted.

59/19 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES AND WARD REPORTS

- Bettws - Councillor C Lloyd

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15TH OCTOBER 2018

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- Blaengarw - Councillor S Dendy
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- Llangeinor - Councillor R Stirman
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- Pontycymer - Councillor H Griffiths

Resolved: The updates and information given were noted. Councillors Dendy and Andrews would look into what bins needed replacing in Blaengarw and feedback to the Clerk.

60/19 AGENDA ITEMS

Item 7: To consider Maintenance Costs for Reed Cutting and Pond Weed Removal

The Clerk had obtained a quotation totalling £31,300 from an NRW recommended company and tabled copies for Members. This included removal of the weed and reeds from the site. An alternative option is for the weed and reeds to be left along the side of the banks of the lakes to decompose over the winter months and this would reduce the cost to £12,100.

Item 8: To consider project ideas for the 2019/20 Precept

Members would consider this further and feedback any ideas to the Clerk for further discussion at the Finance Committee meeting. One ideas was to have more floral displays in the valley.

Item 9: To receive an Events Committee Update

Councillor Dendy, Chair of the Events Committee gave an update which included feedback on the Teddy Bears' Picnic held in the summer. The Committee made the following recommendations to the Full Council:

- To purchase a marquee to be used by all wards at all events so if it rains the event can still be held
- To approve that the Clerk purchased the shields and awards recommended for the Community and Schools awards
- To hold separate Halloween Treasure Hunts in all 4 wards at a cost of £180. £100 to purchase the items which could be used in future years and £80 for gift token prizes i.e. 2 for each ward
- To hold Christmas events in Bettws, Blaengarw and Pontycymer. In addition to have four wooden remembrance trees made which would be on display in each community so that residents could hang remembrance baubles on them.
- To look at possible sites in each ward to plant a living Christmas tree for future use.

Item 10: To receive a Strategy Committee Update

Councillor Shaw, Chair of the Strategy Committee gave an update on the Terms of Reference set at the first Committee Meeting and made the following recommendations to the Full Council:

- To work to a 3 year plan based on a tourist offer in the valley - history, cycling, walking, children, photography etc. and engage with local services and businesses and to adopt a whole council approach to the plan.
- Year 1: Concentrate on footpaths, footpath maps and leaflets, improve the Visitor Centre and opening and improve signposting
- Year 2: Extend the cycle routes and install wooden platforms around both lakes
- Year 3: Make the valley a destination
- To consider Community Asset Transfers for all the play areas and community areas but not to interfere with sports grounds
- To hold public consultations meeting in November in all 4 wards before setting the precept
- Items to be considered for precept:
 - Toilet facilities Parc Calon Lan
 - Signage
 - Footpath leaflets and printing
 - Bike stand for Parc Calon Lan

Item 11: To appoint a Bettws Ward representative to the Finance Committee

Following Councillor Davies' resignation there is now a vacancy for a representative from the Bettws Ward. Councillor R Jones was nominated and seconded.

Resolved: The Finance Committee would investigate whether provision could be made in this year's budget to cover the cost of the lake maintenance and Councillor Dendy would investigate whether funds could be obtained from RES. All recommendations by the Events and Strategy Committees were agreed and approved. Councillor R Jones was elected to represent Bettws on the Finance Committee.

61/19 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1. The accounts submitted totalling £10,728.47 for October were read and approved. The balance carried forward to November 2018 was £89,743.44 (which included £5,000 from BCBC towards the bus stops in Bettws)

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15TH OCTOBER 2018

2. Insurance

The Council's insurance was due for renewal and the Clerk had obtained a quotation for £2,235 which is guaranteed for the next 3 years and is an annual saving of £441. This reduced annual fee included increased provision for fidelity guaranteed to cover the increased precept amount and includes an increase for additional equipment.

3. Councillor Allowances 2017/18

The Councillor Allowances paid in 2017/18 have been sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel and published on the website.

Resolved: That the action and information given by the Clerk was approved. The Receipts and Payments for October 2018 were authorised and accepted. Other information was noted and the Clerk was authorised to go ahead with the new insurance quotation.

62/19 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair updated Members on the meetings/events he'd attended and tabled a full report.

63/19 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE ON PARC CALON LAN

Quad Insurance

This is due for renewal in November and the Clerk had obtained a quote which is £10 less than last year's fee.

Plant!

Have delivered a new interpretation board to the Clerk and have offered to pay for a new housing board for it. In addition the Clerk asked them if they'd consider replenishing the trees in the Plant! site behind the Co-op and purchasing two kissing gates for the park. They've confirmed that if the Clerk obtains quotes for the trees and gates they will cover the cost.

Upper Garw Valley

NRW have provided an update on the Upper Garw habitat creation project. They have now formally appointed a consultant who will be starting work on the scoping study imminently. This will be looking at the detailed feasibility of some of the wetland creation options that have been discussed with the Community Council and will also include a long term management proposal for the lakes. Hopefully the outputs of the study will be available towards the end of February and NRW have asked if they could then arrange to come and talk to the Community Council to present the findings and discuss the next steps.

CCTV Pontycymer

The Clerk has chased this up with the Bridgend Camera Unit and the delay has been in them getting their ICT Team to make a decision as to where to put the kit for the camera. The current situation is not ideal to relay the images from the camera back to CCSU as it is viewed on a separate monitor and recording system.

So to move this forward with a more substantial and reliable solution, they have contacted BT requesting a quote for the cost of installing a BT fibre optic cable, this way the cameras can be added to the existing CCTV system and will be displayed on the monitor wall and is capable of being monitored 24/7/365. This will be a more expensive solution, but in the long run will be a more cost effective and efficient move. Unfortunately, they will not be able to reconnect the camera to any other Council buildings in the area as there are no other Ethernet connection ports in any other Council buildings in the area.

They've enquired with BT to the cost of installing a BT fibre optic cable and the cost would be £8500.00 for 100MB fibre circuit & the annual rental would be £1080.00 on a 5 year term or £1200.00 on a 12 month term.

OVW Training

Councillor Dendy is booked on the Chaining Skills Course, Grant Applications Training, Introduction to Community Engagement and Devolution of Service/CAT and the Clerk is booked on the Information Management Course.

Code of Conduct Training BCBC

Councillor Walters is booked on this training which is free of charge.

Community Warden

The Clerk updated Members and updated them on the contingency plans that are in place and other works which have been organised in the Warden's absence.

Resolved: All information and action by the Clerk was noted, authorised and approved. The Clerk was given authority to go ahead with the new insurance quotation, get the quotes for Plant! And to speak to the Manager of the Co-op regarding the CCTV camera and the possibility of linking into their Ethernet connection port.

64/19 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved: The items of Correspondence were noted, the Clerk drew attention to the consultations, surveys and invitations for this month as well as the thank you letter received from Ffaldau Primary School for the alarm donation and the letter from Bettws OAP requesting a donation to their Christmas lunch. No other action was requested on any items of correspondence. The Bettws Councillors were asked to

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 15TH OCTOBER 2018

find out how many people would be attending the Christmas lunch and what the cost per head is to ensure that if they make a donation from their Bettws village funds that it complies with Section 137 (4) (a) regulations which is the appropriate sum (£7.86) for T&CCs for 2018/19 per head.

65/19 PLANNING MATTERS

1. All applications, decisions and appeals information was noted.

Resolved: No objections were raised to any of the planning applications.

66/19 ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2018 ORDINARY MEETING

Resolved: The agenda would be kept open for items received during the month.

66/19 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Bettws Life Centre on Monday 19th November 2018 at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm