



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE ODDFELLOWS, BETTWS
ON MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2019 6.00 PM

Present: Councillor S Dendy (Chair)

Councillors: G Andrews
R Clatworthy
C Gillard-Sage
H Griffiths
C Lloyd
G Lloyd
R Stirman (from 6.20 pm)
M Trowbridge
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors M Jones, R Jones and M Thomas

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO
PCSO S Bargery

67/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
R Clatworthy	Events Committee - WEXA	Committee Member WEXA
S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
C Gillard-Sage	Craig Barber Memorial	Personal
R Stirman	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member

68/20 TO RECEIVE ANDREA BOYCE, BCBC, TO GIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE MID TERM FINANCIAL CONSULTATION

The Chair welcomed Andrea Boyce to the meeting. The consultation had gone live on 9th September and would close at 5.00 pm on 3rd November. Copies of the consultation and cards with a QR code were tabled. Questions were asked and observations made on the consultation.

Resolved: The information was noted. Members would leave copies of the consultation in public places along with the return envelopes.

69/20 TO RECEIVE KARL PATERSON TO GIVE FEEDBACK ON THE SUMMER ACTIVITY SCHEME

The Chair welcomed Karl Paterson to the meeting. The scheme had been well attended and received. Attendance at the Llangeinor scheme had increased which was surprising given that an additional scheme had been held at Bettws. In conjunction with the café at Bettws Life Centre 190 breakfasts had also been provided at the Bettws scheme. Mr Paterson also highlighted the benefits of the improved relationship between the children and the PCSOs.

The attendance numbers were:

324 Bettws, 269 Llangeinor, 552 Pontycymer/Blaengarw

Mr Paterson requested the same funding for the Easter, half term and Summer scheme in 2020.

Resolved: The information was noted and Mr Paterson was thanked for his attendance and the work of the staff on the scheme. After Mr Paterson left the

meeting a discussion was held on the feedback and it was agreed to support this scheme again in 2020 and include the £8,510 needed in the precept budget. The Clerk was asked to write to the staff to express thanks for all their hard work.

70/20 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2019 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chair of the Meeting.

71/20 TO RECEIVE THE SOUTH WALES POLICE/CRIME FIGURES

PCSO S Bargery gave an update on progress and issues over the past month. The July 2019 figures were distributed by the Clerk. Many issues were raised including drugs, anti-social behaviour and off road bikes.

Resolved: The information was noted.

72/20 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2019 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 49/20 Natural Resources Wales:

At the September meeting NRW had given a presentation on the Upper Garw Habitat Creation Final Report and had tabled the document. At the time Members had agreed in principle to the work but asked for more time to read and digest the document. NRW are now asking for confirmation from the Community Council that they are happy for the work to go ahead.

Minute 50/20 South Wales Police:

The Warden had contacted the PCSO regarding off road motorbikes in the council's leased land.

Minute 51/20 Matters Arising Previous Meeting:

The Clerk had contacted all primary schools and all had agreed to help paint the bats for the Halloween Treasure Hunt.

Minute 52/20 Video Footage:

This had not been passed on to the Chair.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 21ST OCTOBER 2019

Minute 60/20 Finance & Accounts:

All actions had been carried out except for adding in a budget line for the dog waste bags as none had been purchased in the month before the meeting.

Minute 62/20 Clerk's Report:

The breakdown of the Community Grant from the Wind Farm had been uploaded onto the Chair's facebook page and would be presented at the November meeting.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to inform NRW that the Community Council was happy for the work on the Upper Garw Habitat to go ahead.

73/20 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES AND WARD REPORTS

- Bettws - Councillor C Lloyd
- Blaengarw - Councillor S Dendy
- Llangeinor - none given
- Pontycymer - Councillors Griffiths and Gillard-Sage

Resolved: The updates and information given were noted. The Clerk was asked to purchase and arrange the installation of a dog waste bin for the Bettws Ward on Heol Dewi Sant as agreed by the Bettws ward councillors at the meeting.

74/20 MEMORIAL REQUEST CRAIG BARBER

This item was not discussed as the resident who raised the item was not present.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to inform the resident that the item had been deferred to the November meeting.

75/20 FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS - REVIEW OF COUNTY ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The final recommendations of the review had now been received and circulated to Members. A selection of pages from the report relating to the Garw Valley had been included in the papers. A discussion followed about the changes in the final recommendations to the draft review and the presentation given by Councillor M Jones at the September meeting.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC to ask them to clarify the effects on the changes to the Community Council as these arrangements are being dealt with under a separate part of the legislation as part of a community review led by BCBC.

76/20 PROJECTS 2020/21 - FURTHER DISCUSSION

The Chair asked the Llangeinor and Bettws ward councillors for feedback on their meetings to discuss the projects they'd like to put forward, but neither ward had met.

Resolved: The information was noted.

77/20 ENVIRONMENT WALES ACT

Information on the Act had been sent out via email. There is now a statutory requirement for all Town and Community Councils to write and publish a plan before the end of 2019 and every 3 years going forward.

Resolved: The Clerk would meet with the Warden and Councillors Dendy and Stirman to write a draft.

78/20 EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The following recommendations were made:

- To hold School Community Awards in 2020
- To hold a ghost story event/s in 2020 for Halloween
- To invite Councillor Shaw to the Pontycymer Christmas event
- To ask Councillor Andrews to book the WEXA for the interior part of the Blaengarw Christmas event
- To include the same amount for Events in the precept budget for 2020/21 of £1,500
- To consider an event in 2020 to celebrate the centenary year of the death of the person who wrote Calon Lan
- To add a Sports Award to run alongside the Annual Community Award

Councillor Stirman raised her concerns that there were now two Pontycymer representatives on the Events Committee. This was discussed and a vote was taken.

For information: The two representatives had been agreed by the Full Council at the Annual Meeting in May 2019 (minute 7A/20). The Committee is not a decision making committee it merely recommends and runs events on behalf of the Community Council.

Resolved: All recommendations were agreed. Councillor R Stirman abstained from the vote, all other councillors voted in favour of the two councillors remaining on the committee and going forward if there are issues with an additional councillor representing the Pontycymer ward it would be brought to the attention of the Full Council.

79/20 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1. Payments October 2019:

The Clerk requested authority to pay the £4,446.15 of payments for October as detailed on the October papers. It was noted that the balance carried forward to November is £104,331.89.

2. Income:

Income of £97.11 for the Teddy Bears' Picnic and the Visitor Centre opening.

3. External Audit:

The External Audit had been received and 1 issue was reported regarding the gift to an individual under S137. There were no issues raised about the finances or the administrative items checked which were the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and the Terms of Reference used for committees.

Resolved: The October payments were approved and authority given to make the payments. The information and updates given were noted. The external audit was accepted.

80/20 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended the Royal British Legion Concert in Pontycymer; it was well attended.

81/20 CLERK'S REPORT including update from the Warden, the draft policy for the Warden Work and the use of Parc Calon Lan/Warden by external organisation

Parc Calon Lan:

The Clerk tabled a list of work undertaken by the Community Warden in the month.

Issues:

Pathways around the monument in Parc Calon Lan which had been badly damaged after the torrential rain and had partly washed away.

The condition of 3 of the wooden bridges are a concern as the footplanks need replacing. Some maintenance had been carried out, but they now need urgent attention.

Draft Policy for Warden Work:

A draft policy was presented to Members and discussed. A proposal was made to adopt the policy with the Special Circumstances section amended to include the maintenance schedule already agreed with the Warden to be the exceptions.

The Use of Parc Calon Lan/Warden by External Organisations:

Councillor Stirman requested some information on the Warden working with external organisations such as the Mountain School, which the Clerk provided.

Clerk's Report:

IRPW

The Clerk informed Members that details of the councillor allowances paid in 2018/19 have now been published on the council's website and sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Daffodil Planting

Daffodil planting had been completed in Blaengarw and Pontycymer. Llangeinor and Bettws' planting was in hand and the Warden has two sacks to plant, 1 in PC Lan and the other on the waste land in Lluest.

Planters

The Clerk informed Members that there is a new planter in Lluest and the two in Shwt and Bettws have been planted with winter bedding.

Llangeinor Meetings

A discussion on the venue for the November and December meetings took place. These were due to be held in Llangeinor, but the football club is closed on a Monday therefore there is a charge of £35 for opening the venue for a meeting.

The Clerk reminded Members that the council's standing orders state that some meetings are held in Llangeinor and that the purpose of holding the meetings in different venues is to give local residents the opportunity of attending.

Portacabin Blaengarw

The Clerk requested an update on access to the portacabin. The Chair would make enquiries and feedback to the next meeting.

Clerks Training BCBC - Governance and Administrative Protocols

This had been cancelled due to lack of numbers and will be rescheduled in the new year.

Clerks Meeting BCBC

The Clerk had been invited to the next BCBC Clerks' meeting and informed Members of the items on the agenda.

Resolved: The information was noted. A vote was taken on the PC Lan pathways and bridges and Councillor Trowbridge abstained from the vote. All other councillors present voted and agreed to include provision for the replacement of the footpaths in Parc Calon Lan and the cost of repairing the bridges out of general funds in the precept budget and that these should be a priority.

The proposal to adopt the policy regarding the Warden's work accepted and adopted, with the Special Circumstances section amended which would be reviewed on an annual basis. The Clerk was asked to circulate a copy of the maintenance schedule for everyone as an aide memoire. Councillor Stirman abstained from the vote.

It was agreed that the Warden could work with other primary schools in the valley and that any school needing the Warden's assistance or the use of PC Lan should liaise with the Clerk.

It was agreed that the November and December meetings would be held at Llangeinor AFC and the room hire paid out of general funds.

82/20 CORRESPONDENCE

With the permission of the Chair the Clerk added several items of correspondence which were received after the meeting's papers had been distributed.

The items of Correspondence were noted, the Clerk drew attention to the next Green Volunteer Network meeting to be held in January 2020 which the Warden will attend, the cancellation of the T&CC Forum meeting and the OVW Bridgend/Vale/Cardiff area committee meeting date.

Resolved: The highlighted items were noted. Councillor Shaw's apologies were noted.

83/20 PLANNING MATTERS

The planning requests, decisions and appeals had been included in the meeting papers.

Resolved: There were no observations made.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 21ST OCTOBER 2019

84/20 ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2019 ORDINARY MEETING

No items were suggested therefore the agenda would be kept open and items given to the Clerk.

86/20 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at 6.30 pm on Monday 18th November 2019 at Llangeinor AFC.

The meeting closed at 8.46pm