



**GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE ODDFELLOWS, BETTWS**  
**ON MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor S Dendy (Chair)

Councillors: R Clatworthy (from 6.25pm)  
H Griffiths  
M Jones  
R Jones (left the meeting at 7.09 pm)  
C Lloyd  
G Lloyd  
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, M Thomas,  
and R Stirman

No Apologies: Councillors C Gillard-Sage and  
M Trowbridge

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk  
PCSO A Jenkins & Sgt H Evans

47/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member

48/20 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2019 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes were presented for approval.

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

Note: It was agreed to change the agenda and bring the item on the Upper Garw Valley Scheme forward.

49/20 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM NRW AND BCBC TO GIVE AN UPDATE ON THE UPPER GARW VALLEY SCHEME

Leila Thornton of Natural Resources Wales reminded Members of the background to the feasibility study and tabled an Upper Garw Habitat Creation final report. It was explained that not all the work would be implemented as there is not enough funds. NRW were looking at a sustainable solution to manage the sediment to stop it getting to the lakes and asked the Community Council for approval to go ahead with the work detailed in the report.

**Resolved:** It was agreed to give the go ahead in principle following the presentation, as the large document had been tabled at the meeting and Members had not been given enough time to read it. The Clerk was asked to email the Llynfi Afan contact details to Rob Jones of BCBC.

50/20 TO RECEIVE THE SOUTH WALES POLICE/CRIME FIGURES

PCSO A Jenkins gave an update on progress and issues over the past month. The May and June 2019 figures were distributed by the Clerk. Many issues were raised including issues with off-road motorbikes in and around PC Lan and the damaged caused and concerns re the Bowls Club in Pontycymer.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. It was agreed that the Warden would meet with the PCSO re the off-road bikes.

Note: Councillor R Jones left the meeting at 7.09 pm. Councillor G Lloyd left the meeting at 6.55 and returned at 6.59 pm.

**51/20 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2019 ORDINARY MEETING**

**Minute 39/20 Events Committee Report**

It was noted that the Llangeinor Ward did not wish to hold a Christmas event this year and that it had not been possible to arrange a bat walk for Halloween as it is too late in the season for bats as they are entering into hibernation. The arrangements for the Halloween Treasure Hunt were discussed.

It was noted that the School Community Awards, Visitor Centre opening throughout the summer and the Teddy Bears' Picnic had been successful and the new gazebo very useful.

**Minute 42/20 Clerk's Report**

The Chair and Clerk had attended a Special T&CC Forum Meeting at BCBC where a presentation on the Mid Term Financial Strategy Consultation had been given. Officers had offered to attend Community Council meetings to give presentations and there were 3 options as to the type and length of presentation, which were discussed.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the short presentation on the MTFs Consultation to be given at the October meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact the school Heads to ask if the schools would collaborate with the council in painting some wooden bats.

**52/20 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES AND WARD REPORTS**

There were no Borough Council updates.

- Bettws - Councillor M Jones
- Blaengarw - Councillor S Dendy
- Llangeinor - Councillor G Lloyd
- Pontycymer - Councillor H Griffiths

**Resolved:** The updates and information given were noted. The video footage mentioned in the Pontycymer report would be passed on to the Chair. It was noted that the next Friends of the Garw Valley meeting would take place at 6.00 pm on 21<sup>st</sup> September in the Half Way. Councillor Shaw's thanks to Councillor Dendy for attending the community pathway clearing was passed on by the Clerk.

**53/20 BETTWS WARD MERGER WITH LLANGYNYWD LOWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Councillor M Jones informed Members that the Bettws Ward would be leaving the Garw Valley Community Council effective 2021. The Bettws Ward would be linking in to Llangynwyd Lower Community Council. The change had been agreed with BCBC

**Resolved: The information was noted.**

**54/20 PROJECTS 2020/21**

The Chair had asked Members to bring their individual requests for projects for consideration for inclusion in the budget for 2020/21 and the following were suggested and discussed:

- Cleaning of the lakes including reed management
- Improve the Plant! Site behind the Co-op
- Complete the BMX site
- Edge the Community Path with yellow/solar lighting

**Resolved: The above were noted for further discussion before precept setting. The Bettws and Llangeinor ward councillors would meet to discuss their projects. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda for the October meeting.**

**55/20 PLANNING AID WALES/LDP CONSULTATIONS**

The Clerk reminded Members that events were taking place in the borough this month, the one earmarked for the Garw Valley Members would be held on 30<sup>th</sup> September at Ynysawdre Parish Hall from 6.00 - 9.00 pm. To attend Members would need to let the Clerk know so that they could be registered.

**Resolved: The information was noted.**

**56/20 APPROVAL OF AMENDED STANDING ORDERS**

**Resolved: The amendments were approved and adopted.**

**57/20 COMMUNITY PATH**

Councillor M Jones highlighted issues with this path around the Bradford Cottage area and asked the Clerk to request a risk assessment by BCBC.

**Resolved: The request was noted and agreed.**

**58/20 PONTYCYMER LAKE**

This had already been discussed - see minute 49/20 and 54/20.

**59/20 POLICY FOR WARDEN WORK**

Councillor Clatworthy felt there was a need for a Warden work policy so that there are clear guidelines on which areas the Warden works ie does he work on land owned by other organisations ie BCBC, V2C, private land etc. to ensure the Warden is protected, knows the scope of his work and to be a good employer.

**Resolved: Councillor Clatworthy was asked to draft a policy for consideration.**

**60/20 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**1. Payments August and September 2019:**

The Clerk requested authority to pay the £5,919.53 of payments for August and the £16,638.02 of payments for September as detailed on the September papers.

**2. External Audit:**

The report had not yet been received but would need to be presented to Members before 30<sup>th</sup> September so there will be a need to call an Extraordinary Meeting.

**3. Financial Risk Management Document 2019/20:**

This was accepted and approved.

**4. Finance Committee Report**

There were no risks identified to the budget.

The following recommendations were made:

- Consideration to be given when setting the precept budget to - the possible financial implication re Bridgend bus station, additional equipment for the Warden and Clerk, reed cutting, possible transfer of all play area sites from BCBC, include provision for all councillor allowances, include costs for larger works identified on the risk assessment carried out on the council's leased land, look at replacement toilet options for the Visitor Centre
- To purchase a new weed sprayer for the Warden out of the current Parc Calon Lan machinery budget
- To purchase a laptop for the Clerk
- To update the Council's website making it easier to navigate and make it mobile compatible at a cost of £448. To change the website host to UGD to reduce the hosting cost from £170 a year to £75.
- To update 11.1.ii wording on the Financial Regulations as recommended by OVW
- To add in a dog waste bag budget line to the current budget and charge all bags to a central fund not from ward funds

**5. Financial Request for School Sports Kit:**

Councillor M Jones asked that this item be deferred.

**Resolved:** The August and September payments were approved and authority given to make the payments. The information and updates given were noted. All the Finance Committee recommendations were agreed and the Clerk was asked to action. The Financial Risk document for 2019/20 was accepted and approved. The Financial Request for School Sports Kit was deferred.

61/20 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended the Maesteg Town Mayor's Inauguration and a special Town and Community Council Forum meeting on behalf of the council this month.

62/20 CLERK'S REPORT

**Parc Calon Lan:**

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

Issues: the quad bike had broken down and was in for a repair and service, the toilet system in the Visitor Centre had broken down and had been repaired though a new system is needed. A stolen motorbike had been dumped in the lake and a spate of increased scrambler use around PC Lan was causing damage to trails, styles and fencing.

It was noted that a swing had been erected between two trees over the summer holidays on council leased land to the side of the Visitor Centre.

**Clerk's Report:**

**Lone Working Course:**

The Warden and Clerk had attended this one day course.

**Daffodil Bulbs:**

Asked the Bettws ward members to collect their bulbs asap.

**Planters Shwt and Bettws:**

The Clerk asked the Bettws ward members if they wanted the planters to be planted with winter bedding and if they wanted the Warden or a Gardener to carry out the work.

**Breakdown of Wind Turbine Community Funds:**

Councillor Thomas had asked the Clerk to request a breakdown of grants awarded for the next meeting.

**Apologies for Absence:**

The Clerk reminded Members that it is their responsibility to let the Clerk know in advance of a meeting if they are unable to attend as the Clerk needs to know if the meeting is going to be quorate. It is also courteous to inform the Chair and request that you leave a meeting early.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Warden was given authority to remove any temporary swings that are erected on leased land. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the Bettws and Shwt planters to be filled with winter bedding plants by the gardener. Councillor Dendy would provide a breakdown of the grants awarded by the next meeting.

63/20 CORRESPONDENCE

With the permission of the Chair the Clerk added 7 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 Environment Wales Act which requires all T&CCs to produce a report by the end of the year followed by reports every 3<sup>rd</sup> year after. The request re the cut back of trees overhanging gardens in Pontcymmer which would need an external contractor to carry out the work, the letter from Bridgend Town Council re Bridgend bus station and the invitation to the Chair and Consort to attend the Poppy Appeal Band Concert on 19<sup>th</sup> October, the email from a resident re the memorial and the invitation to all Members to attend an event being held by the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People.

**Resolved:** The highlighted items were noted. The Environment Wales Act would be included on the October agenda, the Clerk would obtain a quote to cut back the overhanging trees, the Clerk was asked to respond to the Bridgend Town Council letter saying they thought it was a matter that should be discussed at the T&CC Forum meeting, the Chair would accept the invitation to attend the Poppy Appeal Band Concert on 19<sup>th</sup> October and the Clerk would respond to the email regarding the monument saying that we'd like to find an amicable resolution.

46/20 PLANNING MATTERS

With the permission of the Chair the Clerk added 1 planning item which was received after the meeting's papers had been distributed.

**Resolved:** There were no observations made on any of the applications or decisions.

65/20 ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2019 ORDINARY MEETING

- Feedback from Karl Patterson on the Summer Activity Scheme
- BCBC presentation on the MTFs Consultation

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

To be kept open and items given to the Clerk.

66/20 **DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the **earlier time of 6.00 pm** to allow for the two presentations and would be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at the Oddfellows, Bettws.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm