



# **GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW**

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Garw Valley Life Centre  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

***Members Present:-***

Councillor G Davies (Chairman)

***Councillors:*** C G Andrews; D T Griffiths; Mrs D Griffiths; H Griffiths; W J Hillier; F Hughes; T M Jenkins; M Jones; M Thomas and G Walters.

***Police:*** None present

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and was chaired by Councillor G Davies.

***No.***                      ***Minute***

***95/15***                      ***Apologies for Absence***

The Members ***resolved*** to note the apology received from Cllr S Maclaren – work commitments.

***96/15***                      ***Declarations of Interest***

Cllr M Thomas – with all matters relating to BCBC

Cllrs F Hughes and D T Griffiths – Garw Valley Angling Association

***97/15***                      ***Chairman's announcements***

The Chairman informed the Council that he will be attending the Poppy Appeal Band Concert on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October at the Garw Valley Leisure Centre.

The Members requested that the Clerk writes a letter of appreciation and thanking the members of the Royal British Legion who have put poppies up on every lamppost in the Garw Valley.

***98/15***                      ***Police Matters***

No Police present. Apologies had been received from PCSOs Rees and Wallen for the Bettws and Llangeinor wards. Statistics had been received ahead of the Meeting for these two wards and were circulated to the Members.

***99/15***                      ***Question and answer session regarding Christmas lighting***

Mr Steve Cottrell, Highways Direct Services Manager at BCBC, attended the Meeting for a question and answer session regarding Christmas lighting repairs. Mr Cottrell explained the procedures for testing and installing the Christmas lighting and the Members asked questions of him.

The Members thanked Mr Cottrell for attending and he left the Meeting.

**100/15**      **Information from Bettws Boys and Girls Club**

Mr Rob Williams attended and gave a presentation about the history to the Bettws Boys and Girls Club/Youth Club and the future direction for the Club.

The Members highlighted the need for the community buildings (the old school and Eco Lodge) to be kept as “community assets”.

The Members thanked Mr Williams for attending and he left the Meeting.

**101/15**      **Minutes of the September Ordinary Council Meeting**

Cllr Mrs T M Jenkins requested that her name is inserted in Minute 72/15 (at the top of page 2 of the Minutes of the September Ordinary Council Meeting) instead of “a Member”.

Cllr Mrs M Thomas requested that the same paragraph is altered to read “*A heated discussion took place and Cllr Mrs H Griffiths left the Meeting at 7.25pm*”.

***Resolved: that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 are amended for the above two points and will be re-issued for signature at the November Ordinary Meeting.***

**102/15**      **Matters arising from the July 2014 Full Council Minutes**

**72/15** – Llangeinor playscheme – the Clerk spoke with the Richard Price Centre regarding the summer playscheme. Unfortunately the Centre was let down last minute by volunteers and the playscheme did not take place. The Clerk requested the donation is returned to the Council – cheque received 26/9/14 and has been banked.

**76/15** - Bettws playscheme – the Clerk spoke with the Bettws Life Centre Manager regarding the playscheme. The Centre Manager said that the playscheme was very poorly attended this year despite it being advertised. The Manager hasn’t had the time to prepare a report for the Council on the playscheme to date due to staff shortages and recommends against the Council funding another playscheme next year.

**78/15 (31)** - Damaged stonework, Pontycymmer steps (leading up to the Co-op) – Cllr Reg Jenkins made a Members Referral to BCBC and they have confirmed that the steps are not owned or maintained by BCBC and BCBC have stated that “it appears that these have been sold to the Co-operative”. BCBC will not contact the Co-op on behalf of Cllr Jenkins.

**79/15(27)** - Bro Ogwr Exhibition – the slides from the presentation given at the exhibition are available from the Clerk on request. Electronic copy sent to Members with email access.

**79/15 (28)** – Bridgend Keepers Project – the log has been installed near the interpretation board on the Darren Fawr mountainside and is waiting to be carved.

**87/15** - The Strand Park steps – the Clerk has spoken with and written to Mr John Clarke to thank him and his team for the prompt action taken to repair the steps and to inform him that some of the tarmac laid has sunk. Mr Clarke was aware of this and the tarmac is due to be topped up soon.

**89/15** – V2C will not give permission for the Council to plant daffodil bulbs along the grass verges of Heol Pandy, Llangeinor due to the problems this will cause for the grass cutters.

The contract that V2C has for the grass cutting states that the first cut must be made between the middle and end of March.

**92/15** – the Clerk has written to the Garw Valley Life Centre as requested to thank them for the excellent playscheme. Mr Dean Protheroe would like to attend the November Ordinary Council Meeting to provide a presentation to the Council about the playscheme.

With the consent of the Chairman, the Clerk reported the following additional item relating to the September Ordinary Meeting. The information had been received after the Minutes had been circulated and was provided for information purposes only (the three clear days' notice as defined in Sch 12 para 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 could not be adhered to due to the timing of receipt of these items):

**78/15 (23)** – ornamental stonework feature, Bettws (top site) – the Clerk had received notification from V2C that contractors will be cutting the grass around the stonework. Next year, this will be done at the same time as the grass verges are cut.

### **103/15**            **Finance & Accounts**

- a) The reconciliation of the Council's Bank Accounts as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 was confirmed
- b) The Meeting received and adopted the list of payments and receipts from 9<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Total payments £4,794.77  
Total receipts £7,470.00

- c) The Meeting received the Receipts & Payments Account from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- d) The Members discussed the request from the Richard Price Centre for financial assistance of £1,026 towards the cost of hosting a pantomime  
**Resolved: this item is left on the table**
- e) The Council considered the Clerk's request to cover the cost of re-submission of the necessary CiLCA modules  
**Resolved: this item is left on the table**
- f) The Council discussed the quotation from One Voice Wales to review the Council's Health and Safety documentation – see Minute 104/15 (9) for further information.  
**Resolved: the Council unanimously voted against accepting the quotation as the Council is legally not required to have Health and Safety documentation.**

### **104/15**            **Clerk's Report**

- 1. VAT Refund – the Clerk has submitted a claim to HMRC for £1,864.86 for the four months' ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The refund had not been received at the time of the Meeting.

2. Fisheries project – Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are undertaking a fisheries project to place gravels in the river below Pontycymmer Lake.
3. Countryside grants – the Clerk has spoken with Mr Jeremy Liley about the availability of countryside grants as the time is approaching to start thing about the precept for 2015/16. Mr Liley said that there is nothing currently available but will keep the Clerk informed.
4. Replacement of damaged bins, Bettws – the Clerk has spoken with Mr John Clarke at BCBC and he is aware of the damaged bins near St David’s Church and the Oddfellows Inn. Mr Clarke is awaiting delivery of new bins and will replace the damaged ones on receipt. The new bins will be different in design as the existing bins were installed as part of a regeneration scheme and are a non-standard design.
5. Parking problems outside Stowcroft, Bettws – BCBC has recently reinstated the bollards between Stowcroft and the Eco Lodge (opposite St David’s Church). However, cars are still parking behind the bollards. Therefore, further measures may need to be considered necessary to eradicate this problem – see Minute 114/15.
6. Outstanding highways issues in Bettws – the Clerk sent an email to Mr Tim Cox regarding the resurfacing of the pavement from Waun Fach to Heol Glannant (Minute 121/13) and the request for a grit bin on Heol y Felin near the play park (Minute 102/14). The Clerk has received an email dated 7/10/14 stating that an instruction has been issued to repair the footway. In addition, BCBC had installed the grit bin in Heol y Felin but not by the railings of the play park as requested by the Community Council. BCBC will not put grit bins near play parks (that they are paying for) due to problems in the past with vandalism/being set alight and therefore placed it on a grass verge outside a property. Due to the resident not wanting the grit bin outside her property, the grit bin has been taken away. If the Community Council wishes to purchase a grit bin through BCBC for a one-off cost of £250 which BCBC will refill as required, the grit bin can go at the site requested by the Community Council.
7. Bridgend Community Transport – the Clerk has received a request from Bridgend Community Transport to attend a Full Council Meeting to inform the Members of the scheme – see Minute 116/15.
8. CiLCA – the Clerk needs to re-submit three (possibly four) out of the 24 modules at a cost of £80. The Clerk is requesting that the Council meets the cost of this re-submission – see Minute 103/15 (e). For information, there are only 9 CiLCA qualified Clerks in Wales.
9. Health & Safety Review – the Council’s H&S policies are due for review. One Voice Wales (OVW) who originally prepared the policies has quoted £700 to undertake this review.  
 As the Council has less than five employees, there is no requirement to have a written risk assessment or health and safety policy (Health and Safety Executive website). The Clerk raised this with OVW and the H&S Consultant commented:  
*“Regarding less than five staff, legislatively they do not need a H & S Policy but its good practice to have one. However with regard to risk assessments, the law states that they have to do risk assessments but they do not have to record them. My advice to anyone with less than 5 staff is that they should ignore that piece of legislation and record all their risk assessments, in order to be able to prove they have completed same and also to be able to provide a defence to any PI claim which may arise.”* – see Minute 103/15 (f).

10. Clerk's attendance on the OVW training course – OVW cancelled the course as there were insufficient delegates registered.
11. Vandalism to Plant! site – there has been significant vandalism to the recently restocked Plant! site affected by the landslide. The tree guards and canes have been ripped off nearly all of the saplings and used to hit the young trees. The Council's Land Agent has been informed. The Warden has carried out remedial works.
12. Christmas lighting – please see the separate Reports for September and October on this subject – See Minute 118/15.
13. The Clerk and the Warden will be on annual leave from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**105/15**            **Correspondence**

1. BCBC (Children's Directorate) – proposal to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Garw in the form of an enlargement. Consultation closes on 20<sup>th</sup> October.
2. BCBC (Rights of Way) – informing of improvement works to the wooden foot-bridge at the end of the Community Route in Blaengarw.
3. BCBC (Rights of Way) – informing that they have checked and passed the Agency Agreement Claim and a payment of £3,200 will be made – payment was received on 20/10/14.
4. BCBC (Highways) – informing of a temporary closure of the lane next at the side of 18 Ivor Street to 27 Albany Road from 20/10/14 to 14/12/14
5. BCBC – informing of the Learner Travel Review Consultation.
6. BCBC – informing of the preparation of the Local Transport Plan and requesting suggestions of a venue to hold a consultative meeting.
7. Mr Neville Williams – invitation for the Clerk and Members to the Community Carol Concert on 17/12/14 at 7pm in the Richard Price Centre.
8. One Voice Wales (OVW) – forwarding their consultation response to the Welsh Government White Paper: Devolution, Democracy and Delivery – Reforming Local Government. Available from the Clerk.
9. OVW – forwarding “The Law of Consultation” guidance. Available from the Clerk.
10. OVW – forwarding the Larger Local Councils Committee Agenda for 15/10/14, the Minutes from the same Committee's Meeting on 16/4/14 and the Chief Executive's Report for the National Executive Committee.
11. Planning Aid Wales – invitation to a Community Planning seminar on 18/11/14. A copy has been sent to every Member.

12. Welsh Government – informing that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has published their draft Annual Report on their website. Notification has been sent to every Member.

*Items 1 to 12 are noted.*

With the consent of the Chairman, the Clerk reported the following correspondence which had been received after the Minutes had been circulated and was provided for information purposes only (the three clear days' notice as defined in Sch 12 para 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 could not be adhered to due to the timing of receipt of these items):

13. BCBC Mayor – invitation to all Members to the Poppy Appeal Concert to be held on 8/11/14.

14. BCBC Mayoral Services – Remembrance Day Parade instructions

15. Valley and Vale – invitation to the “Hear our Voice” event on 6/11/14 at the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay.

*Items 13 to 15 are noted*

**106/15      Planning Matters**

- i) P/14/557/FUL – application for a single storey extension to provide a shower room at 6 Heol y Felin, Bettws – *no objections*
- ii) P/14/631/FUL – application to construct a domestic garage at 1 South View, off Lower Adare Street, Pontycymmer – *no objections*
- iii) P/14/597/FUL – application for a 3 bedroom two storey dwelling at plot 5, Stable Lane (off New Street), Pantygog – *objections on the grounds of highways safety and previous planning applications conditions relating to highways issues for this site have not been adhered to.*

**107/15      Blaengarw Play Development Group Ltd**

***Resolved: The two Borough Councillors, Cllr M Jones and Cllr Mrs M Thomas are going to hold exploratory talks with BCBC (Legal Department) to find out BCBC's position on this issue. This will be reported back to the Full Council.***

**108/15      To discuss the presentation of Council plaques to the two bronze Commonwealth Games medallists**

***Resolved: plaques are to be presented to the two medallists in recognition of their outstanding achievements.***

**109/15      To discuss the operation of the traffic calming measures in Lluest**

Prior to the Meeting, the Clerk had spoken with BCBC who had informed her that a new sign is on order and should be installed within 8 weeks. No resolution was passed on this matter.

***110/15      To discuss the street lighting by the Doctors' Surgery, Pontycymmer***

All four street lights in the car park are not working.

***Resolved: the Clerk is to request that BCBC investigates and repairs the lights.***

***111/15      To discuss the location of the Llangeinor boundary signs***

The location of the Llangeinor boundary sign was discussed but no resolution was passed on this matter.

***112/15      To discuss extending the membership of the Finance Committee***

***Resolved: two Members from each ward should sit on the Finance Committee.***

Bettws: Cllrs Mrs D Griffiths and M Jones

Llangeinor: Cllrs G Davies and S Maclaren

Pontycymmer: Cllrs Mrs H Griffiths and W Hillier

Blaengarw: Cllrs C G Andrews and Mrs M Thomas

Chairperson: Cllr Mrs D Griffiths

Cllr Mrs M Thomas proposed the terms of reference for the Committee should be "A full review of the Council's operational and financial status to determine how to deal with the financial issues that we will face in determining the precept for 2015". With all Members present in agreement, it was:-

***Resolved: that the proposed terms of reference were accepted and adopted***

Cllrs M Jones and Mrs M Thomas are to approach BCBC to arrange the meeting of the Finance Committee.

***113/15      To discuss the letter received from Bridgend Valleys Railway Company Ltd***

***Resolved: the Council is willing to provide a letter of support at the required time.***

***114/15      To discuss the parking problems outside Stowcroft, Bettws***

***Resolved: the Council is to request that three extra bollards are installed at this site to eliminate the parking problems currently being experienced.***

***115/15      To discuss the holding of Council Meetings at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall***

***Resolved: all Members were in favour of using the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall for the next three months' of Meetings (after the three months had finished in Pontycymmer).***

***116/15      To discuss the request from the Bridgend Community Transport Scheme to present at a Council Meeting***

***Resolved: The Council were unanimously in favour of receiving a presentation from the Bridgend Community Transport Scheme and the Clerk is to make the necessary arrangements.***

***117/15            To discuss the request from Blaengarw Primary School to use the Growing Spaces area***

***Resolved: all Members were in favour of allowing Blaengarw Primary School to use the Growing Spaces area.***

***118/15            Items for the November Meeting***

1. Daffodil bulbs along the grass verges of Heol Pandy, Llangeinor (GD)
2. Clearance of pathway from Bettws Club to Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws (DG)
3. Bridleways and pathways (HG)
4. Lollipop person on Blaengarw Square (MT)

The Chairman agreed that the Council could finalise the Christmas lighting requirement for Pontycymmer as requested by the Clerk in her Report – Minute 104/15 (12).

***Resolved: the double Christmas tree feature is to go up in Pantygog again this Christmas. Lighting harnesses are to be purchased and used to dress the existing tree at the entrance to Pontycymmer at a cost of £1,181.61. The lights are to remain on the tree throughout the year. Cllr Mrs T M Jenkins requested that it is minuted that she opposes the expenditure on Christmas lighting.***

***119/15            Date of the next Meeting***

***Resolved: That the Council will next meet at 7pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at the Garw Valley Leisure Centre, Pontycymmer***

With business concluded the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.50pm

***Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_***