

# Blaengwrach Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Blaengwrach

**Draft Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This was a Hybrid Meeting held at the Welfare Hall, Heol y Felin, Cwmgwrach and via Zoom at 5.30 pm**

**Present:** Councillors P Rudd (Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee), J Bulman, and M Mortimore

**Council Employees Present:** Clerk/RFO L Evans

Chair PR started the meeting. The meeting is held as a multi-hybrid meeting in accordance with The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 & the Council Standing Order 3 (b)

**Members of the Public Present:** No members of the public were present at this meeting

**119/25 Apologies for Absence:** All members of the F&A Committee were present.

**120/25 Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**121/25 To Receive the Public Observations on Agenda Items at this Meeting:** There were no public observations received at this meeting.

**122/25 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Minute 53/24 b) Council Bank Signatories – Item currently on hold RESOLVED

Minute 17/25 – Agenda Item b) Five Year Financial Plan - Members discussed the replacement of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) pitch. Funds should be available in the Reserves at the end of the financial year and should be specifically earmarked for this future project. Due to the total cost of a replacement funding will need to be sourced with the likelihood that the council will need to match fund.

The financial year assessment will be reviewed upon the completion of Q4. Additionally, the risk assessment amount, currently set at £10,000, requires review and should be increased by at least the current inflation percentage. RESOLVED to discuss at the meeting in April.

Priority should be given for replacement/improvement of the lights and paths.

**123/25 Agenda Items:**

- a) Quarterly Budget – Clerk presented the prepared documents for the meeting to examine: Quarterly Budget Summary Q3, 1<sup>st</sup> October to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, Bank Reconciliation along with Bank Statements. Items below and above budget were discussed and explained.

### **Cemetery:**

- Expenditure: There have been repairs and parts needed for the sit on lawnmower £45.00. The water meter has been read with an additional bill of £45.05 paid. The remainder of the expenditure was general and water rates. This quarter expenditure came well in budget forecast with a £61.54 underspend. Members discussed the water rate cost of the Cemetery, and concluded as it is classed as a business the rates are higher than a household. To reduce the wastage of water a self-closing tap should be installed. The Clerk will ask the Groundsperson if one can be installed. RESOLVED
- Income: Income exceeded budget prediction by £25.00

### **No Defined:**

- Expenditure: As predicted in Q2 expenditure has exceeded budget due to 6-month waste collection cost of £542 and the Panto £700. £1148.3 over budget. The Clerk has moved this expenditure to the Hall and Park cost centers.
- Income: £314.14 over budget due to the £500 Christmas Fund received from Aberpergwm Colliery this funding went towards the cost of the Panto.

### **Office/Administration**

- Expenditure: Well under budget with small amount spend on stationary and Zoom subscription.
- Income: No income normally for this cost centre.

### **Park and Open Spaces**

- Expenditure: Very low, there was a shared cost of the sit on lawn mower repair and parts £45.00.
- Income: consisted of the rent from the park lock up.

### **Staff Salaries/HMRC/Pension**

- Expenditure: Well within budget.
- Income: No income cost normally centre.

### **Welfare Hall**

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- Expenditure: Well within budget, due to the time of year the Gas bill has increased but this has been well covered.
- Income: Above budget prediction by £329.

## Section 137

No Section 137 payments were made this quarter. The 2026/27 Expenditure Limit was discussed by members, which is set at £11.60 per elector. The Clerk has provided a budget of £1,000.00 for the 2026/27 financial year, which will be subject to a full Council discussion. Members deemed this amount appropriate for the upcoming year and reviewed the guidelines for fund usage and the total amount permissible for awards.

Members reviewed the budget prediction for 2026/27 in preparation for the Ordinary Meeting.

**124/25 Set Date, Time, Venue and Proposed Agenda Items for the Next Finance and Audit Committee Meeting – Agenda Item 4th Quarter Budget on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026, at the Welfare Hall and Zoom, to commence at 5.30 pm. RESOLVED**

Meeting closed at 6.24 pm

Accepted as a true record

Signed: .....

Councillor: ..... Date: .....