

# Blaengwrach Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Blaengwrach

**Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Welfare Hall, Heol Y Felin, Cwmgwrach and via Zoom, commencing at 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillors R Williams (Chair), P Rudd, J Bulman, D Jones and R A Williams. Councillors M Mortimore, C Edwards and A Edwards joined the meeting online.

Council Employees Present: Clerk/RFO Linda Evans

Members of the Public Present: Councillor H Davies

**152/25 Apologies:** Councillors A Doherty and A Hipplesley had send their apologies.

The meeting started at 6.30 pm, with the Chair welcoming everyone to the meeting. The meeting is held as a multi-hybrid meeting in accordance with The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

**153/25 Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

**154/25 County Councillor's Report:**

- Councillor H Davies (Cllr HD) discussed a matter raised to her on several occasions regarding vehicles on Cedar Street. A number of these vehicles are currently untaxed and in a condition that is not roadworthy. Specifically, one vehicle has been clamped, and another is missing registration plates, leading to DVLA involvement. Additionally, one vehicle has significant damage with half of its front missing and is leaking oil onto the road. Cllr H D has contacted PCSOs to facilitate the removal of these vehicles from the area. RW inquired about the ownership of the vehicles. It was confirmed that they belong to residents of the street. Cllr H D will keep the members updated with any developments.
- A local resident contacted Cllr RAW to report that a vehicle had damaged the bench situated at the bottom of Church Crescent. The resident managed to record the vehicle's license plate number. As Cllr RAW does not have the resident's contact information, Cllr HD has agreed to attempt to get in touch with the individual using the provided details and look into the damage done. Cllr H D left the meeting.

**155/25 Public Observations on Matters Arising and Agenda Items:**

There were no public observations at this meeting.

**156/25 To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

It was proposed and approved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19/02/2026 constitute a true and accurate record of the meeting. RESOLVED

**157/25 Matters Arising from the Ordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Further to Minute 133/25 (d) Christmas Celebrations 2025 - Regarding the school pantomime booking for G Sage, a specific date and time are required as slots are currently available. It was noted that the performance can take place during school hours with the children in the hall. Proposed dates include the end of November, coinciding with the Christmas lights switch-on, or the first week of January upon the school's return from the holidays. Cllr C E will consult with the school and provide the Head Teacher's decision to the Clerk. RESOLVED

Further to minute 148/25 (5) NPTCBC Community Minor Projects Grant - The Council is considering an application for the NPTCBC Community Minor Projects Grant. This funding stream allows for a £14,000 grant every two years, provided the total project value is at least £20,000. The Clerk has reached out to Tracey Jones, the Director of Finance, to discuss the fund and is currently awaiting a response. Progress on this matter is currently on hold pending that reply. RESOLVED

Further to minute 148/25 (6) MUGA Nets Option 3, the buy netting by the meter was approved. Clerk to confirm measurements with Groundsperson and place order when needed. RESOLVED

**158/25 Agenda Items:**

**a) Memorial Bench – Resident MJ**

A potential location for a memorial bench has been identified in the area fronting the cemetery shed, where a small plot of land is available. In accordance with the *Cemetery Guidelines for Memorial Seats*, the following was noted:

- The installation of memorial seats is contingent upon the availability of an appropriate site and requires formal Council approval.
- Interested parties may contact the Council for further information regarding the purchase of a bench.

It was decided that the resident must agree to donate the total cost, covering the bench itself, all necessary fittings, and the associated labour. The Council agreed to the request provided these conditions are met by the resident. The Clerk is instructed to communicate this decision and the subsequent requirements to the resident. RESOLVED

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**b) Removal of Damaged Park Equipment and Future Development** -The Council discussed the removal of broken metal items within the park. The most cost-effective approach would be to allow a professional to remove the metal at no charge in exchange for the scrap value. However, the Council would likely incur costs for a mini-digger and skip if the footings also need to be removed. It was emphasised that all work must comply with current recycling and disposal legislation, and the Council must ensure any individual engaged for this task holds a valid scrap removal license.

Cllr PR confirmed he has contact details for a professional capable of both removal and landscaping who has the necessary equipment. The Council will investigate this option further.

Regarding the replacement of the equipment, it was proposed and seconded that the Council consult the primary users of the park—local young people—to gather expressions of interest on preferred replacements.

This community-led approach will focus on developing the top end of the park. Additionally, Cllr RAW highlighted the potential for future revenue of a 3G or 4G football and rugby pitch should this be an option for the development.

The Clerk was instructed to arrange a site visit from PYC to discuss potential project assistance and to create a survey to identify the most popular equipment ideas. **RESOLVED**

**c) One Voice Wales (OVW) Membership** - The Council considered the annual membership for One Voice Wales. The fee is £226, calculated at a rate of 45p for each of the 503 chargeable dwellings. The membership was approved. **RESOLVED**

**159/25 Planning:** There were no planning applications at this meeting

### **160/25 Crime and Policing**

**RESOLVED** The Local Police Website shows 16 Crimes reported for January 2026 Blaengwrach and Glynneath West location. The paper was noted.

### **161/25 Finance**

1. **RESOLVED** the following payments were scrutinised and approved:

Clerks Report - Monthly P&R 20th February 2026 to 19th March 2026

Payments Made	20/02/2026 to 19/03/2026	Amounts
Nest	Staff Pension Scheme (4 Weeks)	£67.76
Council Employees	Salaries (4 Weeks)	£2714.41
HMRC	Tax and NI 06/01/26 to 05/02/26	£340.60
Welsh Water	Water Rates for Welfare Hall	£190.50
Welsh Water	Water Rates for Cemetery	£32.00
Centergreat	Christmas Lights	£2,628.00
Utility Warehouse Ltd	Electricity @ Welfare Hall	£249.10
British Gas	Hall Usage	£489.72
EE Ltd.,	Hall Wi-Fi	£43.20
N Evans	Replace timer - outside lights hall	£40.00
TLC Swansea	Timer Switch	£18.60
Clean to the Core	Gutter Clearing - Hall	£432.00
Rambart	Paint, rollers, brushes etc., - Hall	£254.75
Cotton & Sons	Cleaning Materials and PPE - Park	£112.05
L Collins Reimbursement	Asda - Petrol - Lawnmover/strimmer	£2.99
L Collins Reimbursement	Tumbleweed - Brush	£2.99
L Collins Reimbursement	Screwfix Spray Back pack	£37.07
L Collins Reimbursement	Screwfix Outside Tap	£7.99
Zoom . Com	Online Meeting Platform	£16.79
	Total Expenditure	<b><u>£7,680.52</u></b>

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Income Received	20/02/2026 to 19/03/2026	
SRCC Stores Ltd	Monthly Rental of Shed in the Park	£35.00
TSB Bank	Monthly Interest on "Reserve" Saver	£59.22
Celtic Archers	Hall Hire Feb	£140.00
Empower	Singing for the Brain Hall Hire Feb	£84.00
Glynneath VIEW	Yoga - Hall Hire Feb	£56.00
Arts Academy	Hall Hire Feb	£224.00
NPTCBC	Cwmgwrach School - Dec Hall Hire	£112.00
Sion Lee's Danzfit	Zumba Hall Hire Nov	£70.00
HMRC	VAT Return	£1,485.01
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>£2,265.23</u></b>
Account Balances		
General Account		£1,361.93
Reserve/Saver Account		£49,407.07
	<b>Total Account Balances as at 19/03/2026</b>	<b><u>£50,769.00</u></b>

2. Mark Evans has agreed to carry out the internal audit for the Council 2025/26 Financial Year - Approved

3. Invoice for JD Water Consultants was for a biannual inspection and report £195 + VAT total cost of £390 + VAT – Invoice to be paid - RESOLVED

4. Estate Agents - quote for valuation report £500 + VAT – wait to see if the Welsh Government or/and Charity Commission request a full valuation. Zurick – Council Insurance Company may also carry out a valuation if needed.

5. Powered Weed and Moss Brush - hire for one day - Brandon Hire Station approx £100 – approved.

**162/25 Correspondence & Section 137 Request: None**

**163/25 Set Date, Time & Proposed Agenda Items for the next meeting.**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 with the F&A Committee Meeting starting at 5.30 pm followed by the Ordinary Meeting at 6.30 pm.** No Items so far were put forward for the meeting. Notices for the meetings will be posted at least three working days before they are due to take place.

Chair R Williams resolved to enter Closed Session to discuss Personal Issues on the Agenda:

The Meeting ended at 7.30 pm