

Blaengwrach Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Blaengwrach

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 15th April 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 and D Jones. Councillors C Edwards and A Edwards joined the meeting online.

Council Employees Present: Clerk/RFO Linda Evans

Members of the Public Present: None

07/26 Apologies: Councillors A Doherty, A Hipsley, M Mortimore and RA Williams had sent their apologies. Councillor Hayley Davies had also sent her 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.

08/26 Declarations of Interest: Regarding Matters Arising from the meeting on Thursday, 19th March: Cllr P. Rudd declared a personal interest. He noted that the individual who will be providing a quote for removing the damaged park equipment had previously carried out work for him. He confirmed there are no other connections to disclose.

09/26 County Councillor's Report:

- County Borough Councillor Hayley Davies provided a written update in her absence regarding the damaged bench at the bottom of Church Crescent. The bench has been removed, and while she is investigating replacement options, there is currently no confirmed news on a new installation. Councillor RW questioned whether the individual responsible for the damage would be contributing to the replacement costs. It was noted that the bench may be well-used and it would be good to have it reinstated. The Clerk is tasked with contacting Cllr H Davies to present the inquiry and will subsequently update the members on any progress made. RESOLVED

10/26 Public Observations on Matters Arising and Agenda Items:

There were no public observations at this meeting.

11/26 To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th March 2026

It was proposed and approved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19/03/2026 constitute a true and accurate record of the meeting. RESOLVED

12/26 Matters Arising from the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th March 2026

- In reference to minute 148/25 (5), the Clerk reported that the application form and eligibility requirements for the fund have been received. The proposed project involves upgrading paths and external lighting, but estimates for costs and the identification of contractors are necessary before moving forward. Members discussed the specific lighting requirements; they should be vandal-proof and recessed into the pavement. Consequently, the Clerk was directed to initiate a tender process, starting with local contractors to assess available options. RESOLVED.
- Minute 158/25 Update (Future Development & Removal of Damaged Park Equipment): After meeting with a groundwork company last week, the Clerk is expecting a formal quote for equipment removal and site security via foundation extraction. The proposed contractor is fully insured and adheres to all regulations regarding waste disposal. Furthermore, the Clerk has held talks with PYC concerning future development and is set to attend their community engagement session at the Welfare Hall in May. RESOLVED
- Councillor P. Rudd provided an update regarding the Coal Tip Safety Work, noting that several small vans have arrived at the site. He observed that large vehicles have not been utilised and work was expected to resume once weather conditions improve. He confirmed there has been none of the noise experienced last year, and he has not yet had a chance to speak with the workers. RESOLVED

13/26 Agenda Items:

- a. The Annual Statement for 2025/26 was approved and signed by the Chair. Regarding the Selar fund, it was noted that only a small balance remains; the Clerk will inquire what the exact amount left is available. RESOLVED
- b. Installation of a Key Safe: Following a written report from the Clerk detailing coverage difficulties during the caretaker's holiday, members debated the use of a key safe. The Clerk explained that current arrangements required opening the hall excessively early or disrupting personal plans meant a significant risk with the hall being left unlocked for periods of time. While unsociable hours are compensated, the 7-day-a-week commitment is challenging for the Caretaker. Council discussed using a key safe as an exception rather than the norm for reliable users. It was asked if during holiday cover, relying on the Clerk or Groundsperson for extra hours is practicable, but should there be a better solution, such as a relief caretaker? Modernising shutters with fob controls and automatic doors, will be added to a future agenda, and remote control of the heating

Blaengwrach Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Blaengwrach

would also be a benefit. The installation of a key safe was approved. The Clerk is instructed to proceed, ensuring it contains keys for the front and side fire escape doors, and that fire door shutters are opened prior to daily use, and hall users are not expected to close fire door shutters when they leave. RESOLVED

14/26 Planning: There were no planning applications at this meeting

15/26 Crime and Policing

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

16/26 Finance

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

Clerks Report - Monthly P&R 20th March 2026 to 16th April 2026

Payments Made	20/03/2026 to 16/04/2026	Amounts
Nest	Staff Pension Scheme (4 Weeks)	£69.08
Council Wages	Groundsperson, Caretaker and Clerk/RFO (4 Weeks)	£2769.60
HMRC	Tax and NI 06/03/26 to 05/04/26	£350.74
Welsh Water	Water Rates for Welfare Hall	£190.50
Welsh Water	Water Rates for Cemetery	£32.00
NPTCBC	General Rates - Hall	£413.60
NPTCBC	General Rates - Cemetery	£15.60
Npower	Witch Light - 01/04/25 to 31/03/2026	£52.11
Utility Warehouse Ltd	Electricity @ Welfare Hall	£236.62
British Gas	Hall Usage - Heating	£395.69
EE Ltd.,	Hall Wi-Fi	£43.20
Scribe	Monthly Fee - Online System(Finance,Bookings)	£84.00
One Voice Wales	Yearly Subscription	£226.00
T G Jones	2 x Files and Dividers	£14.00
J&D Water Consultants	Water and Legionella Risk Assessment	£468.00
Small Plant & Machinery	Repair and service lawnmowers and strimmer	£567.00
Tesco	Mobile Phone and Top Up	£79.00
Starboard Systems	Scribe - One off set up Fees	£896.40
Currys	Printer and Paper	£206.98
	Total Expenditure	<u>£7,110.12</u>
Income Received	20/03/2026 to 16/04/2026	
SRCC Stores Ltd	Monthly Rental of Shed in the Park	£35.00
TSB Bank	Monthly Interest on "Reserve" Saver	£66.07
Celtic Archers	Hall Hire March	£140.00
Empower	Singing for the Brain Hall Hire March	£63.00
Glynneath VIEW	Yoga - Hall Hire March	£42.00
NPTCBC	Flying Start Hall Hire March	£28.00
Sion Lee's Danzfit	Zumba Hall Hire Jan and Feb	£98.00
Cwmgwrach Judo Club	Hall Hire Dec and Feb	£70.00
Cwmgwrach OAP Group	Hall Hire Feb	£112.00
NPTCBC Team Teulu	Hall Hire Feb	£63.00

Blaengwrach Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Blaengwrach

Alun H Lewis Funeral Dir	1 x New Crem Plot & 1 x Existing Crem	£400.00
	Total Income	<u>£1,117.07</u>

Account Balances		
General Account		£1,886.81
Reserve/Saver Account		£42,967.14
	Total Account Balances as at 16/04/2026	
	£	<u>£44,853.95</u>

2. With the recommendation of the F&A Committee the Quarter 4 and End of Year Budget were approved.
RESOLVED

17/26 Correspondence & Section 137 Request:

1. Section 137 Funding Request: The council reviewed a request from Kids Cancer Charity but determined it is currently unable to provide a donation. Reconsideration may occur if a direct community benefit is demonstrated. Members suggested potential support through a raffle at the upcoming pantomime and noted that the air ambulance is another highly deserving organisation the council wishes to support. RESOLVED

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

The next meeting of the Council will be held on **Thursday 21st May 2026 with the Council Annual General Meeting at 6.00 pm followed by the Ordinary Meeting at 6.30 pm**. Upgrade to Hall Shutters will be added to the agenda for the next 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 7.12 pm

Accepted as a true record

Signed:

Councillor – Chairperson