

# Blaengwrach Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Blaengwrach

**Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at the Welfare Hall, Heol Y Felin, Cwmgrach and via Zoom, commencing at 6.17 after the Annual General Meeting**

Present: Councillors R Williams (Chair), P Rudd, J Bulman and A Hipsley

Council Employees Present: Clerk/RFO Linda Evans

Members of the Public Present: Councillor H Davies

**27/26 Apologies:** Councillors C Edwards, D Jones, M Mortimore and A Doherty had sent her apologies.

The meeting started at 6.17 pm directly after the Annual General Meeting of the Council.

**28/26 Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

### **29/26 County Councillor`s Report:**

An update was given by Councillor H Davies regarding the bench at Church Crescent, which has not yet been replaced. However, she hopes the replacement costs will be covered by the NPTCBC National Investment Plan, a fund currently being utilised to upgrade all old bus shelters and benches. Members will be kept informed as this bench is heavily quite popular with residents. While it was noted that a vehicle had reversed into the bench, it was also mentioned that no likely witness will come forward.

### **30/26 Public Observations on Matters Arising and Agenda Items:**

There were no public observations at this meeting.

### **31/26 To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes from the meeting held on April 16, 2026 be approved, subject to a correction regarding the date on the draft minutes, which was incorrectly listed as April 15, 2026.

Additionally, the matter of upgrading the Hall shutters will be included on the agenda for a future meeting when Councillor C Edwards is in attendance.

### **32/26 Matters Arising from the Ordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Minute 158/25: Future Development and Removal of Damaged Park Equipment** Regarding the removal of damaged equipment, a quote has not yet been received from the contractor the Clerk met with in April. The Clerk intends to seek assistance from an alternative company.

A productive meeting was held with Pen y Cymoedd to look at various funding opportunities. Additionally, the Clerk contacted NPTCBC concerning the Selar Fund, which currently holds approximately £3,200.

RESOLVED The following next steps were identified for the Clerk to complete:

- Preparing a tender for new lighting and pathways.
- Initiating engagement with local park users.
- Organising a workshop with the school to gather development ideas.

### **33/26 Agenda Items:**

- a) At the outset of the Annual General Meeting, a minute of silence, reflection and prayer was observed in recognition of Councillor A. Edwards. RESOLVED
- b) Tango Swing Damage and Replacement: The Clerk presented an accident report, risk assessment, and a formal report based on CCTV footage of the incident. The total cost for a replacement swing, including installation, is estimated at £1197.40 plus VAT. To explore recovery of these costs, the Clerk has initiated contact with the insurance provider. Members deliberated on whether the incident, along with a similar occurrence at Glynneath Park the following week, indicates a social media trend or genuine accident. Concerns were raised regarding parental responsibility and whether such acts, if intentional, should be classified as vandalism. Although the parents of the involved youth have not been contacted, the Clerk will coordinate with Glynneath Town Council to align on their response to the damage in their area. RESOLVED
- c) Civility and Respect Pledge 2026 – One Voice Wales - Civility and Respect Pledge 2026: The council members reviewed the pledge favourably and the document was formally signed by the Chair on behalf of the council. RESOLVED the Clerk will return the signed declaration to One Voice Wales.

**34/26 Planning:** There were no planning applications at this meeting

### **35/26 Crime and Policing**

**RESOLVED** The Local Police Website shows 19 Crimes reported for March 2026 Blaengwrach and Glynneath West location. There is a general consensus that crime statistics are increasing, In the past local PCSOs

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showed an interest in attending council meetings, would they wish to attend a future meeting? The Clerk will enquire. Councillor P. Rudd reported witnessing a police patrol car pursuing off-road motorbikes through Heol y Graig. The pursuit continued toward the forest tracks; however, while the motorcycles were able to bypass the barrier, the police vehicle was unable to follow. It was noted that the riders were not wearing helmets and the bikes had no visible registration.

### 36/26 Finance

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

Clerks Report - Monthly P&R 16th January 17/04/2026 to 21/05/2026

Payments Made	17/04/2026 to 21/05/2026	Amounts
Nest	Staff Pension Scheme	£88.00
Leighton Collins	Grounds-Man`s Wages	£3126.89
HMRC	Tax and NI 06/03/26 to 05/04/26	£379.45
NPTCBC	General Rates - Cemetery	£15.00
NPTCBC	General Rates - Hall	£417.00
Welsh Water	Water Rates for Welfare Hall	£190.50
Welsh Water	Water Rates for Cemetery	£32.00
Welsh Water	Water Meter reading Cemetery	£41.25
Zoom.Com	Online meeting platform x2	£33.58
Utility Warehouse Ltd	Electricity @ Welfare Hall	£269.56
British Gas	Hall Heating	£301.42
EE Ltd.,	Hall Wi-Fi x2	£96.60
Scribe	Monthly Fee - Management System	£84.00
Amazon	Strimmer Line x2	£25.98
Amazon	Emergency Light Bulbs x4	£15.98
NPTCBC	6 Month Trade Waste	£577.01
L Collins	Reimbursement - Petrol	£32.50
Viking	Hall Supplies - Toilet Rolls/Disinfectant etc.,	£128.85
SLCC	Clerks Journal - Publication for CILCA	£47.50
Bloom and Wild	Sympathy Flowers - Chairs Allowance	£45.50
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>£5,948.57</u></b>
Income Received	17/04/2026 to 21/05/2026	
SRCC Stores Ltd	Monthly Rental of Shed in the Park	£35.00
TSB Bank	Monthly Interest on "Reserve" Saver	£57.43
NPTCBC	1st Precept Payment	£26,934.00
Blaengwrach School	School Disco	£28.00
Celtic Archers	Hall Hire April	£140.00
Empower	Singing for the Brain Hall Hire April	£105.00
Glynneath Judo	Hall Hire March and April	£112.00
Glynneath VIEW	Yoga - Hall Hire April	£28.00
Cwmgwrach OAP Group	Hall Hire March	£112.00
A Lewis Funeral Director	1 x Burial - New Plot Full Burial	£500.00
TGP Cymru	Meeting - Hall Hire March	£42.00
Arts Academy	Hall Hire March	£112.00
A Evans	Hall Hire - Private Function	£66.00

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Sion Lee's Danzfit	Zumba Hall Hire March	£56.00
	Total Receipts	<b><u>£28,327.43</u></b>
Account Balances		
General Account		£2,211.74
Reserve/Saver Account		£65,024.57
	Total Account Balances as at 21/05/2026	
	£	<b><u>£67,236.31</u></b>

2. Zurich Insurance Quote - £3206.60 Approved for payment. RESOLVED

3. Webpage Changes - Coding Cottage Limited £200 + set up fee less £50.00 Approved for payment. RESOLVED

4. Garry Sage Quote - Christmas Panto - 2 shows £1250. Quote approved – Clerk to discuss with the school the possibility of a cross generation showing with members of the Singing for the Brain invited along. RESOLVED

### 37/26 Correspondence & Section 137 Request:

- a) **Standards Committee Observation of Council Meetings:** The Clerk presented an email from Craig Griffiths regarding the NPT Standards Committee's interest in observing Town and Community Council meetings. The committee aims to gain a better understanding of local council operations and offer support where appropriate. Following their request for meeting schedules through May of next year, the Clerk has provided the necessary dates. Members will be notified in advance when a representative from the Standards Committee is scheduled to attend. Noted and RESOLVED

### 38/26 Set Date, Time & Proposed Agenda Items for the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026 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 7.00 pm

Accepted as a true record

Signed:

Councillor – Chairperson