

Blaengwrach Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Blaengwrach

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 18th June 2026 at the Welfare Hall, Heol Y Felin, Cwmgwrach and via Zoom, commencing at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillors R Williams (Chair), A Doherty, P Rudd, J Bulman, D Jones and M Mortimore.

Council Employees Present: Clerk/RFO Linda Evans

Members of the Public Present: None

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.

39/26 Apologies: Councillors C Edwards, A Hipsley, and RA Williams had sent their apologies. Councillor Hayley Davies had also sent her apologies.

40/26 Declarations of Interest: Councillor P Rudd declared an interest while providing contact details to the Clerk for a second quote for a painter and decorator (Finance 48/26) he confirmed he had no family or business connection with the individual. **RESOLVED.**

41/26 County Councillor's Report: Nothing to report from Councillor H Davies, Councillor R Williams passed on a concern from a resident regarding a broken fence at the bottom of Empire Avenue, near the garage and KFC. As this does not fall under the community council's jurisdiction, it may be the responsibility of NPTCBC or Highways. **RESOLVED**

42/26 Public Observations on Matters Arising and Agenda Items:

There were no public observations at this meeting. Linda Birch will attend a later meeting to discuss her business plans, and has been contacted by Councillor P Rudd regarding rooms to hire. **RESOLVED**

43/26 To Approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting held on 21st May 2026.

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of both meetings constitute a true and accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**

44/26 Matters Arising from the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting held on 21st May 2026

- **AGM 20/26 Nomination(s) and Appointment for Vice Chair of the Council** – Councillor M Mortimore was nominated and seconded, Councillor M Mortimore accepted the appointment of Vice Chair. **RESOLVED**
- **Minute 158/25 Future Development and Removal of Damaged Park Equipment** - The contractor who met with the Clerk in April declined the work. The Clerk has since contacted an alternative company, J Bayliss, who provided a detailed and comprehensive quote. The quote includes options for three days at £2,150 or four days at £2,510, inclusive of materials and labour, depending on the project duration. The members reviewed the quote, approved it, and instructed the Clerk to arrange for the work to commence. Head Teacher has agreed for the children to partake in a workshop for the park development, an opportunity to engage with other park users would be at the 1st August Party in the Park event. Members will discuss this proposal further in the July Meeting and come up with ideas for the engagement idea.
- **Minute 33/26 b) Tango Swing Damage and Replacement:** A quote of £1,197.40 (excl. VAT) for the Tango Swing replacement was approved. The insurance company will cover the costs, subject to a £100 excess. While members expressed regret regarding the impact of this incident on the community, they agreed to proceed with the replacement and insurance claim. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk is to arrange for the work to be carried out and submit the insurance claim upon completion.
- **36/26 Finance 4)** The Head Teacher supports the idea of engaging with the older generation and has no objection to the council inviting members of the SFTB to attend the pantomime show. It was agreed that the morning show would be the most suitable option. Clerk will contact the group with the invitation. **RESOLVED**

45/26 Agenda Items:

- a) **Receive Internal Auditor Report and Accept and Approve the Annual Return for 2025/26** - The internal audit report was reviewed, confirming all actions had been completed. The internal auditor commended the accounts for their high standard. The members thanked the Clerk/RFO for their hard work and congratulated them on achieving their CILCA qualification in May. The Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2026 was then reviewed, approved, and signed by the Clerk/RFO and the Chair of the Council. **RESOLVED**
- b) **Notice of Vacancy for the Council:** The notice has been prepared and will be published on July 6, 2026, upon the Clerk's return from leave. It will be posted on the council website, Facebook page, and two village notice boards. The Clerk explained the post-notice procedure. **RESOLVED.**
- c) **Waste Collection – Party in the Park:** To improve upon last year's waste management, the Clerk has contacted the NPTCBC Waste Department for assistance. The council also discussed the option of hiring a private skip. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will obtain quotes from private waste removal companies—with the possibility of 2 skips, one for the park area and one near the hall—to be presented for discussion at the July meeting.
- d) **Replacement of Equipment:** Due to the current strimmer being unusable and the 20-year-old sit-on lawnmower requiring frequent repairs, members decided to replace both. The council approved the purchase

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of a new strimmer/brush cutter from Celtic Mowers for £540 + VAT, to be funded from this year's budget. Regarding the sit-on lawnmower, members requested an additional quote to compare against the one provided by Celtic Mowers. The mower replacement will be funded from reserves. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk will proceed with ordering the strimmer and sourcing a further quote for the sit-on lawnmower.

46/26 Planning: There were no planning applications at this meeting

47/26 Crime and Policing: RESOLVED The paper was noted.

48/26 Finance

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

1. Clerks Report - Monthly P&R 22/05/2026 to 18/06/2026

Payments Made	22/05/2026 to 18/06/2026	Amounts
Nest	Staff Pension Scheme (5 Weeks)	£88.00
Council Employee	Monthly Wages	£3133.55
HMRC	Tax and NI 06/05/26 to 05/06/26	£630.68
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	£37.50
Zoom.Com	Online meeting platform	£16.79
Utility Warehouse Ltd	Electricity @ Welfare Hall	£233.85
British Gas	Hall Heating	£230.54
EE Ltd.,	Hall Wi-Fi	£46.80
Scribe	Monthly Fee - Management System	£84.00
Amazon	Key Safe and Light Bulbs for Hall	£72.44
Zurich Municipal	Council Insurance	£3,206.90
L Collins	Reimbursement - Petrol	£40.85
Coding Cottages	Council Webpage - yearly subscription	£175.00
Tesco Mobile	Top Up	£10.00
Post Office Counters	Postage Stamps	£14.40
Ridgeway Associates Ltd	Internal Auditor Fees	£325.00
	Total Payments	<u>£8,968.80</u>

Income Received	22/05/2026 to 18/06/2026	
SRCC Stores Ltd	Monthly Rental of Shed in the Park	£35.00
TSB Bank	Monthly Interest on "Reserve" Saver	£78.61
Celtic Archers	Hall Hire May	£140.00
Empower	Singing for the Brain Hall Hire April	£63.00
Glynneath Judo	Hall Hire May	£28.00
Glynneath VIEW	Yoga - Hall Hire May	£56.00
Cwmgwrach OAP Group	Hall Hire April	£140.00
A Lewis Funeral Director	1 x Burial - New Crem Plot	£250.00
Sion Lee's Danzfit	Zumba Hall Hire April	£56.00
NPTCBC	Flying Start	£105.00
NPTCBC	Hall Hire - Election	£100.00
Pen y Cymoedd Comm	Hall Hire	£42.00
	Total Receipts	<u>£1,093.61</u>

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Account Balances

General Account	£5,752.84
Reserve/Saver Account	£54,103.18
18/06/2026 Total	<u>£59,856.02</u>

2. Clerk informed the Members of the increase in standing charges and tariff – Hall Electricity Provider Utility Warehouse, RESOLVED and Noted
3. The Council received a quote for the painting of the Hall, and requested further time to find another quoted. RESOLVED the Clerk was given contact details of a decorator who is interested in providing a quote.

49/26 Correspondence & Section 137 Request:.. None received

50/25 Set Date, Time & Proposed Agenda Items for the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on **Thursday 16th July 2026 with the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting at 5.30 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.

The Meeting ended at 7.30 pm

Accepted as a true record

Signed:

Councillor – Chairperson