

Blaengwrach Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Blaengwrach

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 17th September 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, C Edwards, M Mortimore, D Jones and R A Williams

Council Employees Present: Clerk/RFO Linda Evans

Members of the Public Present: PCSO J Thomas

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.

Chair's Announcement: Following their recent marriage in August, the Chair's surname has changed to Griffiths. All future meeting minutes will reflect this change.

69/26 Apologies: Councillors A Doherty and A Hipsley had sent their apologies. County Borough Councillor H Davies also sent their apologies

The Chair proposed moving the Crime and Policing item on the agenda to immediately follow apologies, accommodating PCSO Thomas in case they were called away on duty. Agreed and **RESOLVED**.

70/26 Crime and Policing - The councillors introduced themselves to PCSO Thomas, a newly assigned PCSO covering the Blaengwrach and Cwmgwrach area, and expressed their gratitude for his attendance. PCSO Thomas presented a prepared crime data report, which showed encouraging trends for the area, Members discussed several local issues, including electric scooters, off-road bikes, and High Street parking. The Chair and members thanked PCSO Thomas for his informative presentation and noted their reassurance regarding the day and night coverage provided in the area, expressing hope for his continued attendance at future meetings.

71/26 Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

72/26 County Councillor's Report: Councillor H Davies had sent her apologies and there were no updates for the Meeting.

73/26 Public Observations on Matters Arising and Agenda Items: There were no public observations at this meeting.

74/26 To Approve the Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting and Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 16th July 2026. It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meetings constitute a true and accurate record of the meetings. **RESOLVED**

75/26 Matters Arising from the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 16th July 2026.

- Finance Item 48/26 (3) - Hall Painting Quote: Following the council's instructions, NB Decorating Services were engaged for the project. Payments for work carried out to date have been tracked against the agreed quote and settled. Members expressed satisfaction with the progress and quality of work, noting the contractors' flexibility around room hire bookings. Initial feedback from hall hirers has also been positive, highlighting a significant improvement. **RESOLVED**
- Agenda Item 63/26 (a) - Upgrading Hall Shutters: The Clerk met with the provider, and is awaiting a quotation. This covers fobs for the front door and stoppers to secure the fire escape doors in place. **NOTED**
- Agenda Item 63/26 (b) - Community Dog Waste Dispensers: The Clerk accessed digital resources from Keep Wales Tidy and liaised with NPTCBC contact, who directed them to the Caru Cymru campaign toolkit. Free bags will be provided as part of the autumn dog fouling campaign. All agreed to wait for the free dog bags and then refill the dispensers. **RESOLVED**

76/26 Agenda Items:

- a. RoSPA Report Review: Members reviewed the complete report along with the Clerk's action plan, detailing items referred to Wicksteed for repair and those to be adjusted and monitored by the Groundsperson. The MUGA fencing requires replacement as missing components cannot be replaced. Members noted surface shrinkage in certain areas of the children's play area; this will be monitored. Members queried whether the shrinkage could be filled or requires full replacement. ACTION: Clerk to inquire with Wicksteed. A replacement Tango swing and replacement swing hinges have been ordered. **RESOLVED**
- b. Survey Findings: All members received the survey results collected from residents and park users during Party in the Park and at the hall over the following week, including suggestions for replacing removed equipment. The Chair presented the report and response papers for discussion. Current priority areas are the paths and lighting. The Clerk posted a tender for this work but received no responses, and is now attempting to list the tender on the Welsh Government's Sell 2 Wales website to

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obtain quotes. Survey data will inform future projects and budgeting. Survey report will be posted along with the draft minutes. **RESOLVED**

- c. Council Vacancy: One application was received from Councillor H Davies. Members voted unanimously to co-opt Councillor H Davies onto the council. The Clerk will inform Councillor Davies and arrange the required declarations. **RESOLVED**

77/26 Planning Applications: None.

78/26 Clerk Financial Report:

1. Clerks Report - Monthly P&R 17/07/2026 to 17/09/2026 - 2 Months Transactions

Payments Made	17/07/2026 - 17/09/2026	Amounts
Nest	Staff Pension Scheme (9 Weeks)	£158.40
Staff Wages x 3	2 Months	£5878.59
HMRC	Tax and NI 06/07/26 to 05/09/26	£707.78
NPTCBC	General Rates - Cemetery	£30.00
NPTCBC	General Rates - Hall	£834.00
Welsh Water	Water Rates for Welfare Hall	£301.00
Welsh Water	Water Rates for Cemetery	£75.00
Zoom.Com	Online meeting platform	£33.58
Utility Warehouse Ltd	Electricity @ Welfare Hall	£494.86
British Gas	Hall Heating	£58.31
EE Ltd.,	Hall Wi-Fi	£93.60
Scribe	Monthly Fee - Management System	£168.00
Tesco Mobile	Monthly Top-Up	£20.00
Audit Wales	Audit Fees 2024-25 Full Audit	£9.80
L Collins	Reimbursement - Petrol	£37.04
Celtic Mowers Ltd	Sit On Lawnmower	£4,860.00
SLCC	Clerks Yearly Subscription Fees	£200.00
Cotton & Sons	Hall Supplies - Toilet Roll, Hand Towels etc.,	£160.49
Hartson Fire Ltd.,	Fire Extinguisher - Service and Inspection	£60.00
NB Decorating Services	Paint Supplies - Rambart	£232.82
NB Decorating Services	Hall Painting - first stage	£1,400.00
ICO	Annual Fee	£47.00
	Total Payments	<u>£15,860.27</u>

Income Received	17/07/2026 - 17/09/2026	
SRCC Stores Ltd	Monthly Rental of Shed in the Park	£70.00
TSB Bank	Monthly Interest on "Reserve" Saver	£129.65
Glynneath Judo	Hall Hire July and August	£98.00
Cwmgrach OAP Group	Hall Hire June and July	£224.00
A L Funeral Director	2 x Burial Plot - New Crem	£500.00
S L Danzfitt	Zumba Hall Hire May, June and July	£154.00
NPTCBC	Stay and Play - June and July Hire	£126.00
NPTCBC	Flying Start - June and July	£119.00
Celic Archers	July and Aug Hall Hire	£252.00
A E - Lark Yoga	June and July Hall Hire	£84.00
Empower Inspire	SftB - Hall Hire June, July and August	£189.00
Arts Academy	Hall Hire	£112.00

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S B	Hall Hire Private Pary	£86.00
NPTCBC	2nd Precept	£26,934.00
HMRC	VAT Return to 31st March 2026	£1,159.76
	Total Receipts	<u>£30,237.41</u>

Account Balances	17/09/2026	
General Account		£2,144.58
Reserve/Saver Account		£66,937.15
	17/09/2026 Total	<u>£69,081.73</u>

2. Invoice James Bayliss - Removal of Park Equipment - £2500.00 - Approved - RESOLVED

Agenda error noted; the Q1 budget has been approved at the July Meeting.

79/26 Correspondence:

- Letter to Member Councils – Community Boundary Reviews: Circulated to all councillors and noted. **RESOLVED**
 - Period Dignity Wales: Approved for items to be stored at the hall. The clerk will make the arrangements. **RESOLVED**
- Letter from W J D: Outside council remit; refer to Borough Council. NRW to be copied re burning concerns. Clerk to acknowledge, confirm referral to NPT/NRW, and provide updates. **RESOLVED**

80/26 Date and Time of Next Meetings:

15th October — F&A Meeting at 5:30 pm, Ordinary Meeting at 6:30 pm. Agenda items include: Clerk's salary review, and public relations regarding the volunteer litter picker.

Councillor P Rudd provided a brief report on the following matters: Coal Tip Working Site: Work remains ongoing at the site, though progress is taking longer than initially anticipated. Forestry House Ownership: Following a change in ownership, he has received an open day invite scheduled for the end of the month

End of Meeting 8.05 pm

Accepted as a true record

Signed:

Councillor – Chairperson