

ST BRIDES MINOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF ST BRIDES MINOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14th APRIL 2025 AT SARN LIFELONG LEARNING CENTRE AND VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Bernard Tiltman (Chair) C Booton I Curzon E Davies (via zoom) Y Walton-Davies (from 6.07 pm) P Deenik M John D McConnell T Miles S Morgan T Nicholls T Thomas (via zoom from 6.44 pm) M Williams
Apologies:	None
Clerk & RFO:	Ann Harris
Public:	2 representatives of SW Police

Minute No: 181/24-25

The Chair informed members that as resolved in minute 180/24-25 the Group Manager Business Support at BCBC had been invited to the meeting, but unfortunately could not attend as the date is after his retirement date and there is no current successor to his post to invite.

182/24-25 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Name	Minute Number	Declaration	Speak/Vote
Emma Davies	None relevant 197/24-25	Employee Awen Cultural Trust Community Governor Bryncethin Primary School	No/No No/No
Yvonne W-Davies	193/24-25	Member Coity Higher Community Council Coity Wallia Commoner	No/No Yes/No
Paul Deenik	187/24-25	Ynysawdre Community Council Chair	No/No
Shaun Morgan	None relevant None relevant None relevant	Tenant Allotment Gardens Bryncethin Bryncethin Community Centre and Bryncethin RFC	No/No No/No
Mark John	All relevant incl. 187/24-25	All BCBC Matters Member Ynysawdre CC	No/No No/No
Terry Nicholls	187/24-25	Ynysawdre Community Council	No/No
Tim Thomas	All relevant 187/24-25	All BCBC Matters Ynysawdre CC	No/No No/No
Martin Williams	All relevant 193/24-25 190/24-25	All BCBC Matters Vice-Chair Coity Higher Community Council Member BCBC Standards Committee	No/No No/No Yes/No

183/24-25 ITEM 3 PUBLIC TO SPEAK

There were no members of the public in attendance apart from the 2 representatives of S W Police who spoke on item 6 crime figures.

184/24-25 ITEM 4 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2025 MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 2025 ordinary and extraordinary meetings had been distributed with the meeting papers.

Resolved: The Minutes were accepted and approved as being a true and accurate record and the Chair signed the minutes.

185/24-25 ITEM 5 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH 2025 MEETINGS

Nothing from the Extraordinary meeting:

Ordinary Meeting:

Minute 167/24-25 Consider Matters Arising from the February 2025 Meeting

Vale View: the Clerk had received correspondence from the landowner's representative to say that an error had been made and that they wished to retain the land shown in green on a map they provided. This was discussed and a unanimous agreement made.

Bench Daleside: No objections were received and the Clerk has provided the information to the Highways Department at BCBC to obtain a licence. The bench will be installed as soon as it's received.

Project Suggestions for BCBC's T&CC Fund 25/26: it was disappointing to hear the news that neither of the council's applications had been successful. The Clerk had requested further information from the CAT Officer who said that the council would receive an official letter followed by a discussion. Councillor T Miles will request authority to conduct a consultation with the children who attend the play scheme during the Easter period to include in a funding application to Awards for All.

Diversion of Footpath 55: Councillor S Morgan had attended a site meeting with representatives of the Rights of Way department and Cenin. Councillor Morgan updated members.

T&CC Forum Feedback: a letter from BCBC's CEO had been sent out to all councillors via email, it states that the planned Forum meeting is cancelled and a review will take place once the electoral review has been completed.

Minute 171/24-25 Feedback from SBM Hosted Chairs & Clerks Meeting 26/2/25

The draft letter ref. an SLA has been sent out to all T&CC councils for comments along with the notes of the meeting.

Minute 172/24-25 Deferred Financial Requests 2024/25

Following a donation to Gateway Church towards its Easter Egg Hunt, the Clerk had not received a copy of the poster showing that the council had contributed to it or to put on the website.

Minute 173/24-25 Grass Cutting 25/26

The new grass cutting contractor had started. The cutting schedule for the cemetery has been chased twice by the Clerk but no response has been received. Councillor M John had made a referral

and the response was that the email had not been received by any of the 3 addressees. The contractor has been unable to cut the footpath behind Williams Crescent due to fly tipping and a fallen garden fence. Rights of Way have been notified and will inspect.

Minute 176/24-25 Borough Council Updates/Ward Reports

The resolution to write to BCBC's CEO regarding the behaviour of officers and councillors and during the Hybont planning meeting had been carried out. However only feedback from one councillor had been received, so the information received was not as strong as it could have been.

Minute 177/24-25 Clerk's Report

One Voice Wales had responded to the Clerk's request for information on double taxation and the Clerk shared the information with councillors.

The Clerk was asked if a full response had been received from the Leader at BCBC to the Chair's letter dated 29th January 2025? Only the part about the library services had received a response, though this had not answered the query.

Resolved: The information was accepted. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the land without the section marked in green, with the proviso that a contribution of £250 is made by the land owners to the council each year for the cost of cutting the grass. The Clerk was asked to let the Rights of Way Department know that they had no objection to a temporary diversion of footpath 55, however it must revert to its original definitive path when the project ends. Authority was given to Councillor T Miles to carry out the consultation. The Clerk was asked to chase up a full response from the Leader at BCBC.

186/24-25 ITEM 6 CRIME FIGURES MARCH 2025

PCSO Lauren Green read through and explained the crime figures. Questions were asked about police attendance at Brynmenyn shelter and the difficulty one councillor had obtaining an answer despite ringing 101 11 times in a row; the line eventually flat lined.

The SW Listens scheme was also discussed and councillors were asked to contact PCSO Green if they wished to sign up to it.

Resolved: The information was noted.

187/24-25 ITEM 7 DEFIBRILLATOR

Information had been emailed to councillors and included in the meeting papers on the background to a request for a defibrillator at Pandy Park.

Resolved: Following a discussion it was resolved that Councillor Thomas would find out more information and report back at the May meeting.

188/24-25 ITEM 8 BRYNCETHIN MEMORIAL HALL CAR PARK LEASE

The Chair and Clerk had met with the new solicitor. It was agreed at the meeting that the solicitor would write to the land owner's solicitor to ask to bring the matter to a conclusion and to agree a definition be added into the lease of the reinstatement of the land so that each party has clarity on what will be required at its termination. Photos of the land before and after the car park had been laid to tarmac had also been forwarded to the land owner's solicitor to show that previously the land was formerly bare pasture land and not agricultural land. In addition the solicitor would ask for a minor amendment to point (d) with the addition of the word 'material' prior to the word breach.

Resolved: The information was accepted and approved.

189/24-25 ITEM 9 REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN CONSULTATION

Councillor Walton-Davies ran through the points within the consultation. It was agreed that individual and a council response was needed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that a letter voicing the council's concerns would be sent to the email consultation address and copied to Ken Skates and Huw Irranca-Davies. Councillor T Thomas agreed to draft a letter and send it to the Clerk to include in the next meeting papers on 6th May 2025.

190/24-25 ITEM 10 STANDARDS COMMITTEE BEST PRACTICE

Included in the meeting papers was a list of what the Standards Committee look for as best practice when they sit in on T&CC meetings. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Standing Orders would be updated to include that councillors announce themselves at the start of each meeting so that they can be identified by any members of the public in attendance.

191/24-25 ITEM 11 VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY 8th MAY 2025

The council has previously agreed to light the lamp lights of peace in each ward, in addition the gardener will plant red, white and blue flowers in the planters. Large poppies will also be displayed in the wards.

The Clerk reminded members that there is a UK wide request to sing I Vow To The My Country as the lamps and beacons are lit and to encourage residents to eat Fish and Chips as a collective 'tribute' to the amazing and brave fishermen and farmers who kept the nation fed during this time.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Llansantffraid Church to ring its bells at 6.30 on 8th May 2025, part of a UK wide plan.

192/24-25 ITEM 12 IRPW ANNUAL REPORT 2025

A copy of the report had been sent out to councillors via email and a copy of the T&CC section had been included in the papers.

Resolved: There were no changes to the determinations and it was agreed that the council's Allowances Policy covers the requirements stated including how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves mid-year. It was noted that there is no longer a requirement to publish the names of councillors who take the allowances, only the total amount of each allowance paid.

193/24-25 ITEM 13 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1.Payments

The Clerk requested authority to make the payments listed for March 2025 totaling £5,628.52. The unaudited balance carried forward to April 2025 is £40,774.60.

2.Income

£1,034 in income from the council's agency agreement for Rights of Way maintenance for 24/25 had been received.

3.Balance Carried Forward to 25/26

The Clerk explained the balance carried forward against the forecasted balance carried forward and highlighted the need to earmark money for the 2 defibrillator cabinets, the remainder of the DP Law fees for the lease on Bryncethin Memorial Hall car park. She also explained the higher than expected amount of VAT reclaim for 24/25 and the underspend and overspends on some of the budget lines.

Resolved: The information was noted and accepted and authority given to make the payments listed for March 2025.

194/24-25 ITEM 14 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair's report had been covered in Minute 185/24-25 - meeting with solicitor ref. land at Vale View.

195/24-25 ITEM 15 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor Ian Curzon: raised concerns about open gates at Sarn Centre during out of hours and children accessing the play group equipment.

Councillor Mark John: informed members of a water leak near Gwaun Gwaelod on the A4061 and continuing issues near the bottom of McArthur Glen.

Councillor Shaun Morgan: asked when footpath 3 will be re-opened; the Clerk had chased this up with Rights of Way and is still awaiting an answer.

Councillor Yvonne Walton-Davies: had been asked why the churchyard at Llansantffraid church is such a mess.

Councillor Tim Thomas: reported on anti-social behaviour off Adams Avenue. He'd investigated locking the gate and leafleting the area. He also raised concerns that there was still no play area at Parc Tyn y Coed. He informed members that the play area in Bryncethin will be refurbished after the school summer holidays and the park opposite the cemetery will be refurbished next month.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC to express the council's concerns about potential damage to the nursery's play equipment and injury to users who are tunnelling under the gate. The Clerk was asked to check on the governance around contributing funds to church property.

196/24-25 ITEM 16 CLERK'S REPORT

Internal Auditor 24/25: the Clerk explained that due to unforeseen circumstances the agreed internal auditor was no longer available and that she needed to find an alternative asap.

Coity Wallia Acts: the Clerk had been given a contact by the Open Spaces organization.

Reminder: the Clerk reminded councillors of their duty to give apologies to the Clerk, as Proper Officer of the council, if they are unable to attend a meeting, so that she can ensure that the meeting will be quorate and can go ahead. To be quorate 5 councillors need to be in attendance.

Resolved: All information was noted and the Clerk was asked to obtain an auditor asap to enable her to complete the audit paperwork in time for its deadlines. The Clerk was asked to find an alternative contact to summarise the Coity Wallia Acts.

NOTE: Councillor E Davies declared an interest in the item Bryncethin Primary School financial request and left the meeting for that discussion.

197/24-25 ITEM 17 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been forwarded by email to Members and with the Chair's permission several further items had been added as they were received after the meeting papers had been distributed.

The following were highlighted by the Clerk:

- One Voice Wales - motions for AGM (deadline 20th June)
- Llangollen International Eisteddfod - financial request
- Teenage Cancer Trust - financial request
- Dogs Trust - request to publish a poster
- Resident - correspondence ref. PAC Ty'r Isha, comments and additional comments ref. P/25/144/OUT
- Invite to attend Mynydd y Gaer Action Group meeting
- PEDW - acknowledgement of receipt of comments to application for consent to construct works on common land (Mynydd y Gaer Common)
- Bryncethin Primary School - sports kit funding request (full application included in the meeting papers)

Resolved: The items of correspondence were noted. The OVW Motions for AGM would be included on the May agenda. The two financial requests would be deferred to November 2024, the poster could be published on the website and in the council's noticeboards, the comments from residents were noted and it was unanimously agreed to donate £600 towards a sports kit for Bryncethin Primary School and to request that the council's logo is included somewhere on the kit.

Note: Councillor M John had left the meeting at 7.30 pm so did not take part in the next item.

198/24-25 ITEM 18 PLANNING MATTERS

3 planning request had been sent out in the month and 5 decisions and 0 appeals.

2 Planning Aid Wales event details had been sent out in the month.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to object to P/25/144/OUT and to ask for a council representative to speak at any site and planning meetings:

- The application's use of the incorrect act of parliament; it is using the 2006 Act but should be using the 1976 Act
- There are two BCBC representatives on the Board of Conservators and they have a duty to uphold the correct Act
- BCBC's LDP 2018 - 2033 states no industrial developments north of junction 36
- The application contradicts BCBC's Nature Emergency Plan
- It is not necessary to move footpath 1 as one side of the footpath will remain useable by the public. The other side is currently not useable as it exits onto the A4063 and continues on the opposite side of the road where it is impossible to cross.
- Disagree with a further road junction onto such a short stretch of the busy A4063. The existing junctions are controlled by traffic lights, necessary for highway safety and traffic flow
- The application does not specify its specific use as an employment unit
- There is no capacity for carbon sequestration
- The area acts as a natural soak away protecting lower lying areas from flooding during heavy rain. If the site is built and paved over it will cause rainwater to run off and flood those areas.

The council also asked the Clerk to object to P/24/746/FUL as there is no provision for off road parking.

199/24-25 ITEM 19 ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

The agenda will be kept open for any urgent items that may arise during the month.

- One Voice Wales Motions for 2025
- Regional Transport Plan Draft Letter (TT)
- Feedback on T&CC Grant Funding Applications

The next meeting of the St Brides Minor Community Council will take place on Monday 12th May 2025 at Sarn Lifelong Learning Centre and via zoom at 6.00 pm. The meeting will start with the Annual Meeting at 6.00 pm and will be followed immediately by the Ordinary Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm

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