

CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER ~ GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ORDINARY Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 26th March 2025 7.00pm at Gelligaer Community Council Office
in a MULTI-LOCATIONAL format in accordance with the provisions of the
Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.**

PRESENT

Councillors:

A Angel, R Bevan, G Bruford*, R Callison*, W Matthews, A McCarthy, C Moss (Vice Chair), H Pritchard (Chair), J Pritchard, T Parry* and A Wood.

Clerk: C Mortimer

* denotes remote attendance

In Attendance: Ms Nadine Cushion, Head Teacher of Glyngaer Primary school, Mr Rob Thomas and Mr Dean Summers, Volunteers at RecRock

Ms Eluned Lewis, Community Investment Manager, Bute Energy

Ms Jessica Moreton, Associate Land Manager, Bute Energy

Mr Richard Lawrence, Community Investment Health Lead, Bute Energy.

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard welcomed everyone to the meeting.

217. Apologies – were received from Cllr Martyn James due to sickness.

218. Declarations of Interest

Councillors and Officers were reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Clerk.

Cllr Haydn Pritchard declared an interest in minute no. 231 (iii) - Cascade Youth Club Financial Assistance Application No. 29

Cllr Teresa Parry declared an interest in minute no. 231 (xi) - Cascade Carvers Financial Assistance No. 37

Cllr Alan Angel declared an interest in minute no. 241 - Planning

219. Public Participation - members of the public are requested to speak with the clerk a week before the meeting, to ensure the item is included on the agenda.

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard invited Ms Nadine Cushing to address the members.

(i) Community Memorial Garden – Glygaer Primary School

Following a brief introduction Ms Nadine Cushion, Head Teacher at Glyngaer Primary School discussed plans to establish a memorial garden in the school grounds, providing a dedicated space for remembrance, reflection and community well-being. This initiative aims to address the lack of an outdoor memorial space in the villages of Gelligaer, Penybryn, Glyngaer and Penpedairheol (Cascade). Armistice Services can be held here and opened to the wider community.

The pupils have been consulted in relation to the design and local craftspeople have offered their labour free of charge to deliver the project.

Members received an overview of the project and estimated costings of £5k.

Members decided to discuss the project later in the meeting, under the Project item.

Ms Nadine Cushion was thanked for her attendance, and she subsequently left the meeting.

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard invited Mr Rob Thomas to address the members.

(ii) RecRock Presentation

Mr Robert Thomas delivered an interesting PowerPoint presentation providing members with an insight into RecRock's work, initiatives and developments and what it meant to the people accessing the group.

(ii) Members received and noted their application request to the sum of £1,800 and decided to discuss it further under the Projects item on the agenda .

Members thanked Mr Rob Thomas and Dean Summers for their attendance and they subsequently left the meeting.

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard invited members of Bute Energy to address members on the next item.

220. Bute Energy - Twyn Hywel Wind Farm

Following a brief introduction, it was explained that Bute Energy was formed with a vision to create a more sustainable world, now and for future generations. They are bringing forward plans for a family of energy parks across Wales to generate clean energy and create healthier, wealthier communities.

Twyn Hywel is the first of their energy parks to be given the green light by Welsh Government. The Minister Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning approved their application for a Development of National Significance in November 2024.

The application was given approval to include 14 wind turbines generating 92.4MW of clean, green energy, enough to power the equivalent of 81,000 households a year.

As a key stakeholder, Bute wanted to ensure that we are kept updated throughout the project's development. They're keen to have ongoing conversations about the project, potential partnerships and opportunities to support community initiatives, and their supply chain opportunities.

Before they start construction in 2026, they will be undertaking several site surveys to meet the requirements of their planning conditions.

The first phase of work happening on site will be ground investigations. These will enable Bute to ensure they fully understand ground conditions across the site, including looking at chemical and soil properties, geology, hydrology and water management.

They don't anticipate any significant disruption during these works. The public footpaths will remain open throughout the ground investigation works, however minor temporary re-routing may be required around specific areas.

The ground investigation works started on 31 March 2025 and are expected to last 8-10 weeks. Contractors, Terra Firma Wales, will be on site undertaking studies during this period.

Bute were keen to be moving forward with their Community Benefit Fund. The Fund will invest around £693,000 every year into local communities nearest the energy park. Bute's Community Investment Team have been building relationships with local communities, schools and charities to understand how the fund can work best.

Bute stated that they are committed to retaining as much of the investment in the area as possible.

In relation to the carbon footprint associated with manufacturing and transporting the turbines from Europe it was explained that offsetting this environmental impact would require between one and four years of turbine operation to reach a neutral baseline.

Chair Haydn Pritchard thanked the officers for attending the meeting with an informative update. Ms Eluned Lewis, Ms Jessica Moreton and Mr Richard Lawrence subsequently left the meeting

- 221. Police Update for St Cattwg, Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach Wards** – to receive and Reports Appendix A for St Cattwg's Ward and Appendix B for Hengoed & Ystrad Mynach Wards were received and noted.
- 222. Retired Chair's Annual Report – deferred**
- 223. Chair's Announcements**
Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard announced that he had joined pupils of Glyngaer Primary School at the BikePark Wales in Merthyr Tydfil, where they took part in an eco-conscious outdoor experience. As part of Trash Free Trail Day, the children were encouraged to litter-pick along the trail before enjoying their bike rides. Coast & Country were also present to document the event, capturing the day's activities on film. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, with an important social and environmental message.
- 224. Minutes**
Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 19th February 2025 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record following an amendment to the Rhos Farm item.
- Members wanted to thank the clerk, and it be recorded, for her work and response to the LDP (Local Development Plan) consultation.
- 225. Matters Arising.**
- Members noted and approved the Clerk exercising her delegated powers to liaise with members and respond to CCBC's Planning Department on the following planning applications, due our meeting date falling outside the statutory 21 day deadline for comments:**
- Case Ref: 25/0128/NCC
Location: 6 Station Road Glan-y-nant Blackwood NP12 3XL GRID REFERENCE - 315091(E) 197531(N)
Proposal: Remove condition 07 of planning consent 24/0658/HH (Demolish existing single storey rear annexe and dilapidated masonry store, remove two trees, erect two storey rear extension with hardstanding plus associated external works
RESOLVED: Gelligaer Community Council have no objections to the removal of condition 7 on the proviso that two new trees are planted, of a scale more suitable to a small garden as detailed in the planning application.
- Case Ref. 25/0105/HH Site Area: 420m²
Location: 13 Cae Canol Hengoed CF82 7RU (UPRN 000043078885)
Proposal: Demolish existing single storey garage & construct a two storey extension
Case Officer: Joshua Burrows (01443 864427 : burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Hengoed
Map Ref: 315173 (E) 195282 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council
Expected Decision Level: Delegated
RESOLVED: Gelligaer Community Council supports the ward member calling in this application if Planning Officers find there is a loss of privacy to the properties in Beechfield Avenue.
- Minute No. 212 - Standards Committee Appointment**
Members are to note that at a recent Community & Town Council Liaison meeting on Tuesday 18th March 2025, representative members voted on an appointment to the Standards Committee without having received and examined the resumes submitted by two candidates.

Minute No.214 - SLCC Membership Renewal 2025-26

Based on the Clerk's combined gross salary, membership renewal cost was to the sum of £300 and not £240 as per the minute.

Council ratification is required to cover the additional cost.

226. Finance to 19th March 2025

(i) Balance of Funds

'Balance of Funds' document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(ii) Reconciliation

Reconciliation document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(ii) Bank Statements

Bank statement no's 69,70, 84,85 & 117 were received. Approved and signed as an accurate record.

227. Completion of Audit Year Ended 31st March 2024

Council received and noted the following documents:

(i) Annual Return and Auditors Opinion.

(ii) Clerk's Report

(iii) Notice of Completion of Audit, which will be displayed on our notice board for a minimum of 14 days and uploaded onto our website alongside the Annual Return.

228. Insurance Schedule 2025-2026

Council received and noted Insurance Schedule for 2025-26

RESOLVED: Council agreed to adopting a 3 year Long Term Agreement (LTA) including Insurance Premium Tax (IPT).

229. Service Level Agreement (SLA) between GCC and KWT

Council received and noted a newly drawn-up SLA for our Eco officer, applicable from 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026

RESOLVED: Council agreed the signing of the SLA between Keep Wales Tidy and Gelligaer Community Council for 2025/26.

230. Independent Remuneration Report 2025/26 (pages 12-15,23-24 for C&TC's)

RESOLVED: Members received, noted and approved that there were no further changes to the payments and benefits paid to elected members and therefore members may want all Determinations from 2024/25 be applied in 2025/26, including those covering:

- Payments for undertaking senior roles
- Contributions towards costs of care and personal assistance
- Reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs
- Compensation for financial loss
- Attendance allowance and
- Co-opted member

Please see table for ease of reference:

Type of payment	Requirement 2025/26 GCC electorate: 13,983 (Feb 2025 Electoral Services) (Electorate 10,000 -13,999)	Agreed for 2025/26
Group 2		
Extra Costs/Basic Payment	Mandatory for all Members	£156 plus one-off payment of £52 for consumables
Senior Role Payment	Mandatory £500 for 1 member; optional for up to 7	<i>£500 mandatory payment to Chair</i>

Mayor or Chair	Optional up to £1,500	<i>Implement the above for the Chair (Senior Role)</i>
Deputy Mayor or Vice Chair	Optional up to £500	<i>£100 to Vice Chair</i>
Care (children/elderly)	Mandatory	Must produce receipts
Attendance Allowance		
Financial Loss	Optional	Disapproved
Travel, Overnight	Optional	Disapproved
Subsistence	Optional	Agreed

In summary members adopted the same as last year for 2025/26:

(i) Extra Costs/ Basic Payment

A one off payment of £156 plus £52

Additional consumables costs over £52 can be claimed with receipts throughout the year.

(ii) Mandatory Senior Role Payment of £500

Chair to be paid £500 as the Senior Rol. No other members to be in receipt of it.

It does appear that the Mandatory Senior Role Payment of £500 plus the Basic Mandatory payment of £156 exceeds the threshold of £6 per week and is therefore taxable – the clerk will establish the appropriate procedure to pay the tax.

(iii) Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair

Vice Chair to be paid the sum of £100 for 2025/26.

(iv) Other Costs – as per the table above

Care Attendance Allowance – Mandatory with receipts.

Financial Loss – disapproved.

Travel Overnight – disapproved.

Subsistence – approved.

(v) Chair's Civic Allowance - £1,500

Members received and noted correspondence from One Voice Wales in relation to the Chair's Civic Allowance expenditure.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that the Chair's Civic Allowance expenditure of £1,500 is to be presented to council bi-annually, October and April.

231. Financial Assistance/Grants 2024/25

- (i) 1st Ystrad Mynach Scout Group Application No. 27
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £500

- (ii) SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association) Application No. 28
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £300

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard declared an interest in the next item and left the chamber this playing no part in the ensuing discussions.

Vice Chair Cllr Catrin Moss chaired the item.

- (iii) Cascade Youth Club Application No. 29
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £1,500

Cllr Haydn Pritchard returned to the meeting and chaired the meeting

- (iv) Boys & Girls Club Ystrad Mynach Application No. 30
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £1,500
- (v) Ysgol Penalltau PTA Application No. 31
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £350
- (vi) Ystrad Mynach Primary School PTA Application No. 32
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £350
- (vii) Glyngaer Primary School PTA Application No. 33
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £350
- (viii) Greenhill Primary School PTA Application No. 34
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £350
- (ix) Derwendeg Primary PTA Application No. 35
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £350

Cllr Teresa Parry declared an interest in the next item and left the remote meeting

- (x) Cascade Carvers Application No. 36
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £400

Cllr Teresa Parry returned to the meeting.

- (xi) Cefn Hengoed Allotment Association Application No. 37
RESOLVED: Council agreed to pledge the sum of £350
- (xii) Greenhill Allotment Association Application No. 38
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £350
- (xiii) SLDA (Sophia Leong Dance academy) Parent Group Application No. 39
RESOLVED: Council agreed to pledge the sum of £400 on the proviso the parent group represented all children attending the classes.

232. Business deferred from Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meetings:

CCBC Community Centre Management – deferred further information required.

- Gelligaer Community Centre
- Penybryn Village Hall

233. Eco Officer Update

- (i) Eco Officer Monthly Report for February 2025 was received and noted.
- (ii) **RESOLVED:** Project Proposal

234. Projects 2024/25

- (i) Project Summary 2024/25 was received and noted,
 - (ii) Ystrad Mynach Spring Fayre 29th March 2025
- Members were reminded of the arrangements for Saturday. Ystrad Mynach Air Cadets will occupy the hall with a flight simulator and other equipment and will help us on our stall too.

Fronting the stall	
Morning:	Afternoon:
C Mortimer	J Pritchard (chair required)
M McCarthy (to help set up at 8.15pm)	G Bruford
C Moss	W Matthews
R Bevan	A Angel
H Pritchard	D Cushing (addendum – apologies received from Cllr Cushing on the day due to sickness)

(iii) Community Champions Presentation 2025 11.00am – 1.30pm
Members received and noted quotes and dates from two venues (three in total)
RESOLVED: Council agreed to the Rolling Jack venue and menu based on value for money.

(iv) New project proposals:

(a) Defibrillator and case at Tiryberth Village Hall.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the purchase and installation of a defibrillator and box

(b) Community Memorial Garden – Glyngaer Primary School

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £5,000 towards the development and installation of a community memorial garden.

(c) RecRock

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £1,800 on the proviso that the classes are held within our area

(d) VE Day Celebrations Funding

Council agreed to contribute £100 to all school PTA's and constituted village and community centres and halls on receipt of an application/email request.

- Penybryn Village Hall – VE Day

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £100

- Glyngaer Primary School PTA – VE Day

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £100

235. Provision and Amendment to Traffic Order at New Road / Cardiff Road, Tiryberth

(i) Correspondence from Tony Godsall, CCBC's Highways was received and noted in relation to New Road / Cardiff Road, Tiryberth:

Representations have been made in relation to inappropriate parking of vehicles parking along New Road in Tiryberth, adjacent to New Road Motors / opposite Denman and Sons Builders Merchants which causes a potential road safety problem for free flowing traffic and vehicles using the right turn holding lane to turn into Denman and Sons Builders Merchants. The inappropriate parking also causes visibility issues for drivers exiting Pwll yr Allt. Having considered the comments received it is proposed that double yellow lines should be laid along New Road / Cardiff Road, Tiryberth to alleviate the issues raised.

RESOLVED: Council approved the proposed double yellow lines.

236. Biodiversity Report – deferred

237. Decarbonisation/Green Projects

238. Dust Monitor – deferred - verbal update

239. Training for 2024/25 (to be tabled)

- (i) Training dates were received and noted
- (ii) Training plan was received and noted.

Cllr Alan Angel declared an interest in the next item and left the meeting

240. Planning Applications

Members received & discussed the following planning applications. Comments or enquiries must be emailed to planadmin@caerphilly.gov.uk within 21 days of receipt of the email date.

Case Ref. 25/0130/HH Site Area: 399m² Location: Brynhyfryd 87 Penallta Road Ystrad Mynach Hengoed CF82 7GN (UPRN 000043020013) Proposal: Install 7kw Vaillant Air Source Heat Pump Case Officer: Ed Chappell (01443 866768 : chappe1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Ystrad Mynach Map Ref: 314384 (E) 195079 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

RESOLVED: No objection

Case Ref. 25/0135/HH Site Area: 2348m² Location: Ty-Tarw Llancaiach Fawr Farm Gelligaer Road Nelson Trelewis CF46 6ER (UPRN 000043175362) Proposal: Erect rear annex with interconnecting enclosed link Case Officer: Josie Millson (01443 864708 : milsoj@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: St Cattwg Map Ref: 311334 (E) 196677 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

RESOLVED: Objection on the grounds it's a separate building and the proposed ROW diversion is not satisfactory.

Case Ref. 25/0136/LBC Site Area: 2346m² Location: Ty-Tarw Llancaiach Fawr Farm Gelligaer Road Nelson Trelewis CF46 6ER (UPRN 000043175362) Proposal: Erect rear annex with interconnecting enclosed link Case Officer: Josie Millson (01443 864708 : milsoj@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: St Cattwg Map Ref: 311334 (E) 196677 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

RESOLVED: Objection on the grounds it's a separate building and the proposed ROW diversion is not satisfactory.

241. Next meeting Date: Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 23rd April 2025 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed: _____ **Chair**

Date: 23rd April 2025.