

CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER ~ GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** held on
Wednesday 25th June 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*, M James, A McCarthy, C Moss (Chair), T Parry*,
H Pritchard and J Pritchard.

Clerk: C Mortimer

* denotes remote attendance

In Attendance: PC1930 Evans of Gwent Police.

Chair Cllr Catrin Moss welcomed everyone to the meeting

38. Apologies – were received from Cllr W Matthews due to family commitments and Cllr A Wood due to illness.

39. 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 Roger Bevan declared an interest in Minute no.53 (ii) – Disability Can Do

Cllr Alan Angel declared an interest in Minute no. 60 – Planning

40. Decarbonisation/Green Projects – Heather Richardson

Members received and noted correspondence from CCBC's Heather Richardson in relation to PV installations on schools and public buildings.

Chair Cllr Catrin Moss invited PC Evans to present an update on police matters in St Cattwg's, Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach wards.

41. Police Update for St Cattwg Appendix 1, Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach Wards Appendix 2

Members received and noted written reports (Appendices 1 and 2). A verbal update was also delivered by PC Evans, followed by a brief question and answer session.

Chair Cllr Catrin Moss thanked PC Evans for his attendance and comprehensive update. PC Evans subsequently left the meeting.

42. Public Participation – there were no members of the public present.

43. Retired Chair

(i)Annual Report – deferred.

44. Chair's Announcements

Chair Cllr Catrin Moss reported that she along with Cllrs Judith Pritchard and Teresa Parry had attended an intergenerational project involving Ysbyty Ystrad FM and Hengoed Primary School. The play, "Memory Ain't What It Used To Be" was a collaboration that highlighted the power of story telling and song in bridging generational divides.

Chair also thanked the Clerk for organising our presentation awards at The Rolling Jack, Islwyn Bowling Centre. It was a lovely occasion, attended by approximately 90 local volunteers and enjoyed by all.

45. **Minutes**
Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 21st May 2025 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.
46. **Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising.
47. **Finance to 12th June 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.
(iii) Bank Statements
 Bank statement no's 72,86 and 120 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record. (St no.21 was presented and approved in May)
(iv) Expenditure
 RESOLVED: Council ratified the urgent expenditure for additional lamp post brackets and half basket from Amberol.
48. **Full Audit Year Ended 31st March 2025**
 (i) Internal Auditors Report was received and noted.

 (ii) Accompanying documents such as Financial Statement, Bank Reconciliation and Explanation of Variances were received and noted.

 (iii) Annual Return for Year Ended 31st March 2025.
 RESOLVED: Council received and approved the Annual Return and Governance Statement including disclosure note outlining the advice from Audit Wales to prepare the accounts on a receipts and payments basis for 2024/25 and going forward.
 The Clerk/RFO and Chair duly signed the return.

Cllr Teresa Parry lost connectivity and was no longer present at the meeting.

 (iv) Notice of appointment of the date for the exercise of electors' rights, which was displayed and published from 16th June, with the right to inspect accounts and records commencing on 01 July 2025 and ending on 28 July 2025 was received, noted and viewed on the notice board and published on our website.

Cllr Teresa Parry's IT issues were resolved, and she returned to the meeting.
49. **Normal Minimum Pension Age (NMPA) changes**
 (i) Members received and noted that the UK Government is increasing the NMPA on the 6th April 2028 from 55 to 57. This increase is applicable across all pension schemes (except the schemes specifically referenced as exemption on the above gov.ukweb page).
The LGPS will be affected by the change.
50. **Business Items deferred from the Annual Meeting:**

CCBC Community Centre Management Committees – this item was deferred whilst members make further attempts to assist in sorting this out.
 Gelligaer Community Centre
 Penybryn Village Hall
51. **Financial Assistance/Grants 2025/26**
(i) Cascade Crafters Application no. 7
 RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund the sum of £400 to Cascade Crafters
(ii) Tredomen Allotment Association Application no. 8
 RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund the sum of £350 to Tredomen Allotment Association

(iii) Ystrad Mynach Male Voice Choir Application no. 9

RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund the sum of £500 to Ystrad Mynach Male voice Choir

(iv) Eisteddfod yr Urdd Bro'r Wenynen, Gwent 2027 Application no.10

RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund £500 to the local appeal committee for 2025/26 and pledged to further support Eisteddfod yr Urdd's local appeal committee in 2026 if requested to do so.

52. Eco Officer Update

(i) Eco Officer Monthly Report for May 2025 was received and noted

(ii) New project proposal no.10 – planting with plan in the Wild Patch, Ystrad Mynach was received and noted. Cllr Catrin Moss to discuss the proposal with the volunteers and to report back to council.

(iii) New signage & Information board

RESOLVED: Council agreed to funding a large information board at this location to include details of wildlife and plant pollinators. Smaller signs are required for all areas planted up by the community council.

53. Projects 2025/26

(i) Project Summary 2025/26 was deferred.

Cllr Roger Bevan declared an interest in the next item and left the meeting, this playing no part in the ensuing discussions.

(ii) Disability Can Do Project CB1

RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund £1,500 to Disability CanDo for 2025/26

Cllr Roger Bevan returned to the meeting.

(iii) Ystrad Mynach WC – Mural Project CIL 7

Following much discussion around keeping and differences in opinion in keeping the wall white, an historical mural and a flower mural, members unanimously voted in favour of a flower mural.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the estimate of between £700-£750 for a mural to the front of the toilets depicting a wild flower garden. Members requested to view the completed draft of the artwork before the mural installation begins.

(iv) Painting inside Public Conveniences, Ystrad Mynach Project CIL 8

Members received and noted two quotations.

RESOLVED: Council awarded the contract to Contractor B, having submitted the lowest quotation of £1,954.

It was further agreed that confirmation must be obtained that damp-proof paint will be used for the works. Contractor B will also be required to deduct the cost associated with painting the front external wall, as this area is designated for a mural installation.

(v) Office Building

Members received two quotes for a new alarm system but deferred the item. Clerk to request further details on the make and model of WiFi alarms.

(vi) TYB Village Hall Defibrillator Project New 1

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the cabinet and defibrillator from the Defib Store and installation costs (as per the installation costs for o/s The Harp)

(vii) Ystrad Mynach & Cascade Air Cadets Project CB2

RESOLVED: Council ratified a pledge to the sum of £2,429 for the IT equipment requested following the receipt of further clarification.

Addendum: Clerk confirmed that the organisation is a charity and confirmed that the MOD only funds the building and the maintenance of the building.

(viii) Potential New Projects:

(a) RBL Soldier Silhouette – Tiryberth Memorial Project CB3

RESOLVED: Council agreed to renewing the soldier silhouette at an estimated cost of £500, if it is beyond repair, and to request that CCBC clean and grub out the path on the approach to the memorial.

(b) Ystrad Mynach Library Garden Project CIL9

Members agreed to support transforming the outside area to enhance the wellbeing and enjoyment of library users. Cllr Catrin Moss to speak with CCBC in relation to scope and permissions and to our Eco Officer Andrew King regarding Keep Wales Tidy packages.

(c) Greenhill Primary School – wildlife camera for hedgehog box Project ER4

RESOLVED: Council agreed to gift a wildlife camera to Greenhill Primary School to complement the hedgehog house previously provided. The camera will enable pupils to observe their new hedgehog visitor in its natural habitat without causing disturbance.

(d) Holy Trinity Graveyard/Cemetery Ystrad Mynach Project CB4

RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund £300 towards grass cutting the graveyard.

54. Biodiversity Review – deferred.

55. Dust Monitor – deferred.

56. Training for 2025/26

- (i) Planning Aid Wales and OVW training was received and noted
- (ii) Updated training plan was received and noted.

57. Cleaners Contract – deferred.

58. CCBC Consultation - Expanding Specialist Resource Base Provision

Members received and made the following observations in relation Caerphilly County Borough Council's proposal to expand specialist resource base provision across the County to address the demand for specialist provision and ensure more complex Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and ASD needs for pupils across the Council can be met ensuring compliance with the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act (2018). (The consultation period will run from 2nd June 2025 to 13th July 2025).

Gelligaer Community Council acknowledges Caerphilly County Borough Council's commitment to improving provision for children with additional learning needs (ALN), and we welcome the intention to expand specialist resource bases (SRBs) across the borough. However, we would like to raise two key considerations regarding the proposed development at Idris Davies 3-18 School.

1. Specialist Staffing Requirements

To ensure the success of these SRBs, it is essential that the teaching staff appointed are not only qualified but also specialists in their respective fields. Children with complex needs and autism spectrum disorders require tailored support from educators who have deep expertise and experience in ALN. Without this, there is a risk that the provision may not fully meet the individual development plans (IDPs) of the pupils, potentially undermining the goals of inclusion and support.

2. Impact on School Structure and Culture

The proposal to introduce three SRB classes at Idris Davies over two years—with a capacity of up to 30 pupils—raises questions about the potential impact on the school's existing format. Idris Davies operates as a 3-18 school, and its current structure is carefully balanced to support a wide age range. Adding multiple specialist classes could alter the dynamics of the school, affecting timetabling, resource allocation, and the overall learning environment. It is important to consider whether this expansion might disrupt the cohesion and functioning of the school as it stands.

We urge the Council to ensure that any expansion is accompanied by robust planning around staffing, training, and integration, and that the views of the school's leadership, staff, and families are central to the decision-making process. The goal must be to enhance provision without compromising the integrity of the existing educational setting”.

59. Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales – Final Recommendations Report (pages 17- 28)

(i) Members received and noted Final Recommendations Report.

Cllr Alan Angel declared an interest in the next item and left the meeting, thus playing no part in the ensuing discussions.

60. Planning Applications

The following applications were received and discussed:

Comments or enquiries must be emailed to planadmin@caerphilly.gov.uk within 21 days of receipt of the email date.

Case Ref. 25/0314/RET Site Area: 339m² Location: 48 Lansbury Avenue Cefn Hengoed Hengoed CF82 7HD (UPRN 000043020099)

Proposal: Retain existing mobility scooter garage to front of property Case Officer: Josie Millson (01443 864708 : milsoj@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Hengoed Map Ref: 314596 (E) 195826 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

RESOLVED: Objection on the grounds of:

- (i) The development significantly reduces natural light available to a neighbouring property and negatively impacts on the visual enjoyment of the adjoining property.
- (ii) A structure this size and scale is disproportionate to the stated purpose of storing a disability scooter
- (iii) Its bulk and height are overbearing and out of keeping with surrounding properties.
- (iv) Retaining the development may well set a precedent for inappropriate structures in the area.

Case Ref. 25/0347/HH Site Area: 411m² Location: 13 Cae Canol Hengoed CF82 7RU (UPRN 000043078885)

Proposal: Erect single storey extension to rear of garage and convert garage to create single bedroom annexe 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: No objection

Case Ref. 25/0347/HH Site Area: 411m² Location: 13 Cae Canol Hengoed CF82 7RU (UPRN 000043078885)

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RESOLVED: No Objection

Case Ref. 25/0387/NOTR Site Area: 656m² Location: Bridge Between The Square and Gwerthonor Road Glan-y-nant (UPRN 000043084331)

Proposal: Request prior approval for alteration of bridge Case Officer: Elizabeth Rowley (01443 864776 : rowlee@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: St Cattwg Map Ref: 315200 (E) 197744 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

RESOLVED: No objection

Case Ref. 25/0342/NCC Site Area: 10205180m² Location: Mynydd Eglwysilan Common Bwlch Carnygelli Road Llanfabon (UPRN 000043174175)
Proposal: Vary condition 2 of 23/0427/DNS (Construct and operate up to 14 wind turbines and associated infrastructure including: hardstanding areas to include turbine foundations, crane hardstanding and laydown/storage area with associated micro-siting allowances; electrical substation and control building with underground power cables; new access route connecting onto the A472; onsite access tracks, with pipeline and watercourse crossings; borrow pit(s); anemometer mast; temporary construction and storage compound with associated lay down areas near to the Site entrance; Habitat Management Area; and offsite works to facilitate the movement of abnormal loads such as the construction of over-run areas and temporary modifications to street furniture) to amend the approved plans to increase the rotor diameter of the wind turbines, increase the height of the on-site transformer, and enlarge the grid connection corridor
Case Officer: Anthony Pyne (01443 864523 : pynea@caerphilly.gov.uk
Ward: Nelson Map Ref: 312021 (E) 192615 (N)
Community Council: Nelson Community Council
Expected Decision Level: Delegate

RESOLVED: Objection on the following grounds:

(i) Impact on Wildlife and Ecology

The proposed increase in turbine size may pose a greater threat to local bird and bat populations, particularly migratory species.

No updated Environmental Impact Assessment appears to have been submitted to reflect the increased rotor sweep and height.

(ii) Visual Impact

The increased turbine height will significantly alter the landscape character, especially in an area valued for its rural views and open skies.

The visual intrusion will be felt across a wider radius than originally assessed affecting a few streets in Abertridwr and Senghennydd.

(iii) Noise Pollution

Larger turbines typically generate higher amplitude modulation and low-frequency noise, which can travel further and disturb nearby residents.

No updated Noise Impact Assessment has been provided to demonstrate compliance with acceptable thresholds.

(iv) Lack of Public Consultation

The variation of Condition 2 is a material change that should have triggered wider public consultation. It should not have been confined for comment from Nelson CC but widened to include Gelligaer Community Council, Llanbradach & Pwllypant Community Council and Aber Valley Community Council.

Many residents will be unaware of the proposed changes and will not have had a fair opportunity to comment.

61. Next meeting Date – Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 30th July 2025 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed: _____ Chair Date: 30th July 2025.