

CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER ~ GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING held on
Wednesday 25th March 2026 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:

Cllr W Matthews (Vice Chair), Cllr R Bevan, Cllr T Parry, Cllr H Pritchard,
Cllr J Pritchard, Cllr A McCarthy, Cllr A Wood, Cllr A Angel, Cllr M James, Cllr G
Bruford

Clerk: In the clerk's absence, Cllr H Pritchard took the minutes.

In Attendance: Mrs Nicola Quarry of Shappelles and PCSO Bateman of Gwent
Police

* denotes remote attendance.

Vice Chair Cllr Wyndham Matthews welcomed everyone to the meeting.

183. Apologies

Apologies were received from C Moss (Chair).

184. 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 A Angel declared an interest in the Planning items on the agenda Minute No. 205

185. Public Participation

The meeting was attended by Mrs Nicola Quarry of Shappelles Under 10 Formation Dance Team and spoke to members about funding.

Mrs Nicola Quarry was thanked for her attendance and subsequently left the meeting.

186. Police Update for St Cattwg, Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach Wards

CSO Bateman attended the meeting and discussed the updates with the committee. During the update several key local initiatives, operations and community concerns were discussed:

- (i) **Community and School Engagement.** The Police launched the Safer Six Nations initiative and a no excuse for abuse campaign aimed at deterring abuse towards taxi operatives. PCSOs also visited local schools and officers conducted foot patrols and held joint events at local Morrison's supermarket to hand out crime prevention items.

- (ii) **Traffic and Vehicle Operations.** The Police partnered with South Wales Fire and Rescue to pull over and educate drivers, primarily focussing on the wearing of seatbelts.
- (iii) **Crime and Antisocial Behaviour.** The update addressed the increase in antisocial behaviour in Ystrad Mynach. They also discussed the ongoing issue of children riding e-scooters on pavements and cycle tracks.
- (iv) **Reporting Community Intelligence.** The officer advised on the best ways for the public to report intelligence such as drug dealing. Residents can attend Police surgeries or use Facebook Messenger app.
- (v) **Car Boot Sale Disruption.** There was a lengthy discussion about the car boot sale on the New Road in Tiryberth and the disruption that it caused the previous Sunday.
- (vi) **Spring Fayre.** Members requested a presence at the upcoming Spring Fayre in Ystrad Mynach.

PCSO Bateman was thanked for her attendance and update and she subsequently left the meeting.

187. Chair's Announcements

As Chair Cllr Catrin Moss was absent there were no Chair's Announcements.

188. Minutes

- (i) **The Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 18th February 2026** were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.
- (ii) **The CONFIDENTIAL ITEM Minuted of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18th February 2026** was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

189. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the corrected Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18th February 2026.

190. Finance:

- (i) **Balance of Funds**
The 'Balance of Funds' document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.
- (ii) **Reconciliation**
The Reconciliation document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.
- (iii) **Bank Statements**
Bank Statements numbers 80,81, 94, 95, 23, 128 and 129 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(iv) Chairs Civic Allowance

RESOLVED: The Chair Civic expenditure report was received and ratified as an accurate record.

(v) Defibrillator Spend

RESOLVED: Urgent expenditure on Defibrillators pads for Ystrad Mynach and Gelligaer was ratified as an accurate record.

(vi) Communication from Unity Trust Banks

Members received and noted correspondence in relation to FSCS increasing to £120k from £85K.

191. Zurich Insurance Renewal

RESOLVED: Members noted and agreed the payment of the insurance policy for GCC that is due as at 1 April 2026. Total cost for the year is £1,239.02 (this is the 2nd year of a 3 year agreement)

192. Vacancy in Hengoed Ward

Members noted that the advert has gone live on the GCC website and will remain in place until 31st March 2026.

193. Financial Assistance/Grants 2025/26

(i) 1st Ystrad Mynach Scouts Application no 26

RESOLVED: Members agreed to grant £500.

(ii) Greenhill Primary PTA. Application no. 27

RESOLVED: Members agreed to grant £350.

(iii) Shapelles Under 10 Formation Dance Team.

This will be put to the Chair for consideration of a donation from the Chair's Fund.

(iv) Gelligaer Allotment Association Application no.28

RESOLVED: Members agreed to grant £350.

(v) Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir. Application no.29

RESOLVED: Members agreed to grant £500.

(vi) YYFM Application No. 30

RESOLVED: Members agreed to grant the full amount for the production of the book by YYFM up to a maximum of £1400.

(vii) Hengoed Primary PTA Application No.32

RESOLVED: Members agreed £350

Financial Assistance/Grants 2026/27

(viii) Glyngaer Primary PTA Application No.1

RESOLVED: Members agreed to grant £350.

(ix) Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Application No.2

RESOLVED: Members agreed to grant £250.

194. Business Items deferred from the Annual Meeting:

CCBC Community Centre Management Committees.

Penybryn Village Hall – a meeting will be arranged by Cllr Matthews for April 2026.

195. Eco Officer Update

(i) **Communication from Keep Wales Tidy** regarding continued biodiversity work and charges to the Biodiversity Officer Post for 2026/27. Members received and agreed the continued employment and related increased charges for the Biodiversity Office post for year 2026/27. Daily rate has risen from £350 + VAT to £375 + VAT. A total increase of £1560.

(ii) **Project update.** Received and noted by members.

196. Projects 2025/26

(i) **Project Summary 2025/26** – received and noted.

(ii) **Cascade Methodist Church** – The church is requesting a grant towards the cost of a new kitchen. The overall cost is £8,300. They have been advised to request a grant of up to £5,000 from the Welsh Church Fund and are requesting a grant from GCC for the remainder of the amount. This will be up to £3,300. A second estimate for the work is required as only one was presented. Cllr J Pritchard will contact the church committee to request this. The GCC Clerk confirmed that a minimum of 2 quotes are required for this application. **Deferred until next meeting.**

(iii) **Presentation Awards Event 16th May 2026**

Cllrs J Pritchard and T Parry agreed to take on the administration of the event. Cllr W Matthews will assist with the physical arrangements for the event.

(iv) **Removal of Catenary Christmas Wires.**

RESOLVED: Members ratified the quotation to the sum of £350 from Elsbury Plant for these wires to be removed as instructed by CCBC.

197. Dust Monitor - Deferred.

Cllr H Pritchard to speak with Mark Roberts and confirm where the dust monitor currently is kept.

198. Training for 2025/26

Members received and noted:

(i) Training Modules and Dates from OVW including financial training for new clerk and the Chair. It was agreed that Cllr H Pritchard would also attend the financial training.

(ii) Training Plan.

199. Cleaners Contract/Agreement

(i) Members received and discussed renewed contract. Members discussed and agreed to renew the current contract for one year.

200. Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of Caerphilly.

Members received and noted report from the Democratic and Boundary Commission

201. Wales in Bloom 2026

Members agreed participation in Wales in Bloom for 2026/27. Cllr H Pritchard to make sure entry is submitted before close of play on 31st March 2026.

202. Electricity Contract Renewal

Members ratified the decision to appoint the energy supplier for the coming year.

203. Appointments Process

Members received and noted the timeline and agreed the spend and process for the appointment of a new clerk that has been advised by OVW. Role to remain at 23 hours per week. It was agreed that the interview panel would consist of 3 members. The panel will consist of Cllr C Moss, Cllr T Parry and Cllr A Wood. It was agreed to delay the AGM and appointment of a new Chair until the process had been completed.

- Job will go live 20th April.
- Closing date for application 8th May.
- Interviews will take place Thursday 4th and Friday 5th June.
- Emergency Meeting to ratify chosen candidate Friday 5th June.

204. Any Other Business

(i) **Spring Fayre Saturday 28th March.**

(ii) **Members Register of Interests.** Declarations need to be completed and signed by all members. Cllr H Pritchard will print off blank copies and these will be available to members to collect from the office.

205. Planning Applications

- (i) **Case Ref. 25/0866/LBC** Site Area: 32564m² Location: Land At Penallta Powerhall Winding Wheel Lane Penallta (UPRN 000043085849)
Proposal: Construct 60 No. new dwellings in the existing building, 133 No. new dwellings elsewhere on the site and 400m² of commercial area under the existing winding wheels.
Resolved: No objection.
- (ii) **Case Ref. 26/0146/FULL** Site Area: 438m² Location: Site Area: 438m² PREMIER Unit A 18 Bedwlwyn Road Ystrad Mynach Hengoed CF82 7AD (UPRN 000043019737) Proposal: Convert first floor to create 4 flats and 2 A1 units.
Resolved: Community Council to submit an objection on grounds of overdevelopment of the site, parking and safety concerns (Cllr T Parry to draft and submit).

- (iii) **Case Ref. 26/0094/OUT** Site Area: 935m² Location: Land At Grid Ref 314436 195130 Penallta Villas Ystrad Mynach (UPRN 000043180812)
Proposal: Erect a four-bedroom detached dwelling with off-street parking and a detached garage.
Resolved: No objection.
- (iv) **Case Ref. 26/0109/RET** Site Area: 27489m² Location: Land At Grid Ref 315276 196004 New Road Tir-y-berth (UPRN 000043178878) Proposal: Retain the change of use of the land for Boot Sales from April to October, including changes to the access/egress point with the highway.
Community Council to raise an objection to the arrangements for parking and marshalling at the site (Cllr H Pritchard to draft and submit).

206. Next meeting Date – Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 7pm was noted.

207. In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, a council resolution is required to exclude the press and public due to the confidential and personal nature of the next item. There were no press or public in attendance.

208. Confidential Item – Staffing/Governance Matter

Members discussed a confidential item regard staffing and governance.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: _____ Chair Date: 29th April 2026.