

Draft Unapproved Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 16th July 2025

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carrol; P Collins; J Davies; J McCarthy; D Ingram-Jones; M Ingram-Jones; C Andrews; R Price; Y Price; J Bissex, C Bissex-Foster; S Hamer-Thomas
Also Present: Mr. T Oliver (Deputy Town Clerk); PCSO V Williams; PSCO B Harris; PCSO C Wilson

1. Gwent Police Report

The Council received the report from the Caerphilly North Neighbourhood Policing Team, covering activity and statistics for June 2025. Overall crime in the area decreased during the month, though reports of anti-social behaviour rose slightly. Key actions included drug and dangerous dog seizures, recovery of a stolen bike, and intervention with youths involved in ASB at Morrisons. Community engagement activities and safeguarding efforts were also highlighted. The Council noted the report.

The Mayor thanked the attending police officers for their contribution, and they left the meeting at this point.

2. To receive Apologies for Absence.

No apologies were received.

3. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda.

No declarations received.

4. Press and Public Participation Session.

One member of the public was present in the gallery. There were no press representatives and no public participation.

5. To review and approve DRAFT Unapproved Minutes of the following meetings:

- a) Full Council Meeting 18th June 2025
- b) Extraordinary Full Council Meeting 7th July 2025

Members reviewed the draft unapproved minutes of both meetings and unanimously approved them as a true and accurate record.

6. To note draft unapproved minutes of the following meetings:

- a) Policy & Resources Committee 26th June 2025
- b) Engagement & Wellbeing Committee 7th July 2025

Members noted the draft unapproved minutes of both meetings.

7. To receive a verbal report from the Mayor on civic activities.

The Mayor provided a verbal update on recent civic engagements, including attending a birthday celebration at Bargoed Community Centre, the Bargoed Summer Music Festival, and the opening of 'The Darts Dungeon' in Bargoed. The Mayor spoke positively about the events, highlighting the strong sense of community and the enthusiasm shown by residents and organisers alike.

8. To review and gather feedback on Bargoed Summer Music Festival.

Members reviewed the recent Bargoed Summer Music Festival and agreed it was a highly successful event, supported by excellent weather and strong community turnout. The Town Centre remained busy throughout the day, and no incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported. Councillors noted that the festival attracted a different demographic compared to the Spring and Winter Fairs, and welcomed the Council's ability to cater to a broader audience.

Positive feedback was received from members of the public, many of whom expressed how much they enjoyed the event. It was noted that a few stalls did not attend, and Members suggested encouraging more local bands to perform in future. The Deputy Clerk was asked to review how the events team plans to advertise the festival going forward.

9. To receive items from the Deputy Clerk:

a) Scarecrow Trail Update

The Deputy Clerk reported that planning for the Scarecrow Trail is ahead of schedule compared to last year. He thanked Members who delivered letters to Town Centre businesses inviting them to participate. He will also liaise with local primary schools to arrange dates for Councillors to host assemblies and encourage children and families to take part.

b) Summer Sports Scheme Update

Members were updated on the positive progress of the Summer Sports Scheme following the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting. The Deputy Clerk noted that free spaces are being taken up quickly and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

c) Engagement with Local Schools

Following the Engagement & Wellbeing Committee meeting, the Deputy Clerk asked Members who are school governors to seek permission from their schools for the Town Council to send regular newsletters. These could be shared with families via school social media or newsletters to help increase engagement with younger families. He also reported a positive increase in CTG attendance following recent school visits and is arranging further visits to promote CTG in September.

d) Promotion of Health & Wellbeing Sessions

e) Promotion of Skateboarding Lessons

f) Promotion of Dinosaur Event

The Deputy Clerk highlighted upcoming summer activities including health and wellbeing sessions, skateboarding lessons, and a dinosaur-themed event. These initiatives aim to support children and young people during the school holidays. Posters were distributed to Councillors, who were asked to promote the events on ward noticeboards and within their networks. The Deputy Clerk emphasised the Council's commitment to delivering positive community initiatives throughout the summer.

10. To finalise arrangements for the Over 60s Summer Afternoon Tea Party.

Members finalised arrangements for the Over 60s Summer Afternoon Tea Party. Those available to attend agreed to meet at the venue by 2:15 PM. The Council also confirmed plans for the free prize draws and the hosting of the event, ensuring all preparations were in place to support a welcoming and enjoyable afternoon for attendees.

11. To receive verbal feedback from Member delegates and the Deputy Clerk on the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference 2025.

Councillors J. McCarthy and Y. Price provided verbal feedback on the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference 2025. They highlighted key themes from the event, including the role of artificial intelligence in local government and developments in community asset transfer. Members found the topics informative and relevant to the Council's ongoing work.

12. To appoint six Members to form a sub-committee for quarterly engagement with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Members discussed the positive and developing working relationship between the Town Council and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. The following Councillors were appointed to form a sub-committee to support quarterly engagement:

- Cllr C. Bissex-Foster
- Cllr D. Ingram-Jones
- Cllr P. Collins
- Cllr S. Hamer-Thomas
- Cllr J. McCarthy
- Cllr M. Ingram-Jones

13. To receive a proposal from Councillor M Ingram-Jones (Chair of Engagement and Wellbeing Committee) on a community clean up initiative.

Councillor R. Price left the meeting at this point.

The Full Council received a proposal from Councillor M. Ingram-Jones regarding a community clean-up initiative, discussed by the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee as a way of marking the Town Council's 40th Anniversary. Members welcomed the proposal and agreed that Councillor Ingram-Jones would take the lead in arranging dates for the initiative.

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:10 PM.