

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 19th November 2025

Present in person: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carrol; C Andrews; Y Price; J McCarthy; P Collins; D IngramJones; J Davies.

Present remotely: Councillors S Hamer-Thomas; C Bissex-Foster.

Chairperson: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

Also Present: PCSO Bateman; PCSO McKean; Mrs. H Williams (Town Clerk / RFO)

To welcome officers from Gwent Police and review the recent monthly report.

Statistics were reviewed with Members noting a reduction in crime and an increase of one on anti-social behaviour. Patterns of note include vehicle break ins/thefts – the officers reported that the neighbourhood team would be actively patrolling in the area along with the Community Action Team for the next three months targeting vehicle crime. Officers recommended the public invest in Farraday pouches which are a low cost way to secure keys.

Targeted activity: Cannabis seized from an address in Bargoed. Vehicle failed to stop for Roads Policing Team in the Aberbargoed area. Community action team in the Aberbargoed area conducting stop checks and also arrested another male in the Aberbargoed area for Class A drug supply.

Question from a Member:

How do the stats compare from the Autumn 2024?

Officers will report back next month on this.

The neighbourhood alerts system was mentioned to the meeting. The clerk was instructed to circulate the link to all Councillors.

Question from a Member:

Was the Land-rover theft in Gilfach also a keyless car crime? Yes.

Officers left the meeting 18.19pm

To receive Apologies for Absence.

Councillor R Price (family); Councillor M IngramJones (university); Councillor Bissex (hospital).

Councillor Bissex-Foster advised of late arrival.

To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.
No declarations made.

Press and Public Participation Session.

No enquiries received by the Clerk.

1. To review and approve DRAFT Unapproved Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 15th October 2025

Resolved to approve as a true record, Councillor Andrews moved, Councillor Davies seconded.

2. To receive draft unapproved minutes from the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting 23rd October 2025 and Special Meeting 5th November 2025 along with recommendations in respect of: Deputy Mayor, in his capacity as committee chair, reviewed the minutes with Members drawing attention to the following:

- (i) Edits to the town council financial regulations – min ref 23102025-9

Resolved to approve both edits.

- (ii) 2026 Events Programme with CCBC – min ref 5112025-02

Resolved to approve the full recommendations of the committee and instruct the clerk to liaise with the CCBC events team as soon as possible.

- (iii) Draft 2026-27 budget planning recommendations – min ref 5112025-03.

Resolved to approve the full recommendations of the committee in respect of budget planning for 2026-27.

3. To discuss a policy decision in regards to the payment of attendance allowances to Members in the 2026-2027 financial year.

Councillor Bissex-Foster joined the meeting 18.30pm.

Members held a healthy debate on Members Attendance Allowances. Some Members expressed concerns about precept; others recognised the importance of full inclusion in the budget and the right of each Member to make their own decision regarding accepting or refusing the allowance. A Member advised a lack of clarity about how to claim allowances, and another Member reminded the meeting of the continual reminders from the clerk that allowances will be automatically paid to all Members unless they specifically contact the clerk in writing to advise of refusing allowances.

Resolved to include £30 attendance allowance per full council meeting per Member in the 2026-27 budget calculations.

4. To consider a application for grant funding from an Aberbargoed ward resident.

Members advised the clerk to liaise with the resident and encourage an application to the CCBC grants to the voluntary sector fund.

Resolved to award a donation of £100 towards the participation costs.

5. To receive draft unapproved minutes from the Engagement & Wellbeing Committee Meeting 30th October 2025 along with verbal updates from the Chair in respect of:

Councillor Andrews, as vice chair, fed back to the meeting as follows:

- (i) selection box deliveries

Gratitude was extended to Councillors Collins and Carroll for supporting the clerk with ensuring the fire station received 500 selection boxes; and delivering to four of the six primary schools. Councillor Y Price was thanked for delivering to Ysgol Bro Sannan. Councillor D IngramJones will liaise with the clerk and Councillor Collins to deliver to St Gwladys Bargoed Primary School.

- (ii) event tickets

Members were requested to engage with primary schools to promote the Sleigh Spotters event and to promote the over 60s event widely as both events are lacking in ticket requests to date.

- (iii) community centre decorating

Unfortunately unless Members agree to volunteer there will be no Christmas decorations at the Community Centre for the sleigh spotters event due to a lack of volunteers at the centre. Councillors Bissex-Foster, Llewellyn, Carroll, Collins to assist.

- (iv) hamper presentation arrangements

Prize giving will take place 3pm Friday 5th December at the town hall. Any Members available are welcome to attend.

Councillor Andrews reminded Members that the consultation sheets for the town council priorities have been prepared by the clerk to be used at both Christmas events and also the Winter Fair – Members should collect them from town hall and use Bargoed library to consult the public.

6. To note the consultations as follows:

- (i) Welsh Government Consultation on Changes to the Local Government Election Rules in Wales. **Noted.**
- (ii) Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru draft proposals for the future electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Caerphilly.

Resolved to instruct the clerk to provide a response to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru that Bargoed Town Council feels the electoral ward of Gilfach should be merged with the Community ward of Park thereby reducing the size of the electorate of the Aberbargoed and Bargoed ward and preserving the names of both the Gilfach ward and the Aberbargoed and Bargoed ward.

7. To note the CCBC communications in respect of:

- (i) consultation on the renewal of Public Spaces Protection Orders. **Noted**
- (ii) 30mph exceptions **Noted**
- (iii) town centre audit update October 2025 **Noted**

8. To receive items from the Clerk in respect of:

- i. Christmas hampers at Rhymney Valley Foodbank.

No further support required with packing of hampers. Distribution details will be provided by email.

- ii. Recommendation to update the bank signatories.

Resolved to remove Councillor Bissex and add Councillors D and M IngramJones to both bank accounts with immediate effect.

- iii. Report submitted about rat infestation and feedback from residents.

The clerk advised of supporting a resident who had run into issues navigating CCBC website to submit a report of rat infestation surrounding the giant daffodil artwork in Hanbury Road carpark.

- iv. YYFM visit.

Resolved to instruct the clerk to liaise with YYFM to arranged a Wednesday PM visit in the middle of January 2026.

- v. A request for the donation of selection boxes to support the Gwent Police Community Engagement Event taking their mobile police van out with their Santa on 13th December 2025.

Resolved to donate 100 selection boxes

- vi. Good Directions Clock Maintenance

Members noted the date of 26th November 2025.

- vii. Heolddu PTFA request for a donation in support of self-care products for teenagers as part of their Christmas Hamper Appeal.

Members instructed the clerk to advise they are unable to provide a financial donation to a school account but would be happy to consider an application from a local voluntary organisation on behalf of the project.

Meeting Minutes

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

viii. Feedback on daffodil bulbs

The clerk advised of inability to source supplies. Members would like to plan this activity in June 2026.

ix. Hefin David Memorial Bench financial contribution

Resolved to award £100 donation.

x. Parent Network Letter **Noted**

xi. Draft Minutes of the One Voice Wales Area Committee 15th October 2025. **Noted**

xii. Gwent Employer News October 2025 and feedback from Councillor Collins who attended the briefing on behalf of the clerk. **Noted.** The clerk thanked Councillor Collins for attending.

xiii. Feedback from ACAT on their community scarecrow trail along with a request for consideration of a financial contribution to support their Christmas event 26th November 2025.

Resolved to approve a £250 small grant on the production of a completed application form – instruction to the Policy and Resources committee to ratify the decision.

9. To discuss a vacancy for a minor authority representative to the governing body at Ysgol Gymraeg Gilfach Bargoed and consider a suggestion from the school.

Resolved to appoint Councillor McCarthy as minor authority representative.

10. To hear from Members about the recent site meeting at Aberbargoed Common near Lewis Street. – site meeting postponed to 2nd December 2025 due to storm.

11. To consider amending the small grants programme to increase the upper limit on grants from its current £250 limit with effect from April 2026.

Resolved to amend the grants policy to a maximum of £500 and amend the name to a Community Grants Programme with effect from April 2025.

12. To receive feedback from the Mayor following attendance at the Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee Meeting and AGM 21st October 2025.

The Mayor fed back that there were two main issues being considered by the liaison committee which were taken forward to the joint meeting – the Charter agreement and the festive lighting. Both have created difficulties for several town and community councils.

Members spoke about the liaison committee and aspects relating to a lack of respect and questionable behaviour of some Members. The Mayor was reminded by the meeting that as a Bargoed Town Council appointed representative he should be mindful that nothing should be signed without being presented to the council beforehand.

The Mayor spoke about the broad spectrum of size of town and community councils in the county borough, and the encouragement from Welsh Government for the range of skills and experience to be employed by the liaison committee working together to share best practice.

The meeting was closed at 19.57pm