

## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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

Present remotely: None

Chairperson: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

Also Present: Mrs. H Williams (Town Clerk / RFO)

Members observed a minute silence in respect of the recent passing of Mrs Gillian Jones (former town Councillor, Park ward) and instructed the Clerk to reach out to the family.

Police Report was reviewed by Members. The Clerk was instructed to request annual comparison statistics in each monthly report.

To receive Apologies for Absence.

Councillor R Price (family); Councillor S HamerThomas (away)

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 Extraordinary Full Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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

The clerk provided confirmation of liaison with the events officers as instructed along with information that the March event will be Easter themed.

2. To note the draft unapproved minutes of the committee meetings as follows:

(i) Policy and Resources 26th November 2025 - **Noted**

(ii) Engagement and Wellbeing 2nd December 2025 – Members are required to set a date for the Annual Report working group session. – **Minutes Noted** – Working group meeting set for 2pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 prior to the next committee meeting. The clerk was instructed to confirm a stall at the Easter town centre event 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026 for consultation purposes.

3. To hear from the Mayor and consider a donation to the Welsh Rugby Charitable Trust.

The Mayor reported attendance at a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier in the week, and having received an invitation from Bargoed Rugby Club to attend an event in February 2026. The mayor advised the club requested financial support from the town council with the event set up costs. Members instructed the Clerk to provide a grant application form.

Councillors J Bissex and C Bissex-Foster joined the meeting at 6.16pm

4. To delegate two Members to attend the RESP (Regional Energy Strategic Plans) forum with One Voice Wales – next forum meeting 10th February 2026 (online)

Cllrs Andrews and Bissex-Foster expressed an interest in attending, time dependent. Members requested information on whether the event is being recorded.

5. To hear from Cllr D Ingram-Jones regarding the UK government's 'Pride in Place' Programme funding and delegate the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee to form a working party to take forward Town Council involvement should the neighbourhood be approved by UK Government. Cllrs Ingram-Jones and Andrews provided Members with a synopsis of the UK Government Funding for which the neighbourhood of Aberbargoed, Bargoed and New Tredegar has been proposed by Caerphilly County Borough Council, detailing the potential availability of £20 million over ten years, subject to UK Government Approval.

Members spoke at length about the opportunities and their hope to be involved in the Neighbourhood Board which will potentially manage the funding. It is anticipated a decision will be reached by UK Government in January 2026.

The Clerk was instructed to bring the item back to the meeting agenda once further details obtained.

6. To receive items from the Clerk as follows:

(i) Recent support from Gilfach Fargoed & Park Federated Primary School – Members are required to contemplate family social events 2026 and provide instruction.

The Clerk reported use of the Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre to be problematic – **Resolved** alternative venues to be used for the near future.

A thank you was extended to the head of the federated primary school for support with ticket distribution, and extremely positive feedback was read to the meeting by Cllr Carroll.

The clerk advised Members of caution in respect of the six primary schools.

(ii) Christmas Tree Lights Aberbargoed – Members are required to consider expenditure

**Resolved** to authorise the purchase of 12 x 10mtr tree lights as previously purchased from LITE with power leads and transformers - £685 net expenditure plus £30 carriage authorised.

(iii) Festive lighting arrangements for 2026 – Members are required to provide instruction to the clerk regarding any additional equipment and the service contract specifications.

Members instructed the clerk to request consideration of power supply availability for tree lights on Lowri Plaza when CCBC install the electronic noticeboard.

The clerk advised of some installation restrictions throughout Bargoed Town due to increased bollards, and that Members should give consideration to Royale Square and the Pierhead and area slightly south into the town. The specification for 2026 and 2027 will be confirmed by end March 2026.

(iv) Bargoed Salvation Army Band – consideration of a donation from the Town Council.

**Resolved** to make a £50 donation

(v) Premises update – the clerk updated Members on recent communications with the head of the estates team advising confidence that the lease and invoicing situation will be up to date by the end of financial year; however the clerk reminded Members to be mindful of April 2026 being the start of year three.

(vi) Community Asset Transfer – invitation details shared with Members for 6pm at Ty Penallta Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for a promotional information sharing event. A calendar marker to be circulated to all Members. Cllrs Andrews, Carroll, Collins, Davies, Bissex-Foster, Llewellyn, McCarthy, Y Price confirmed availability to attend.

(vii) Members appetite for income generation activities and Town Council borrowing

Members spoke enthusiastically about future Town Council development noting the pressures on CCBC and the wave of change being felt by the local council sector. The clerk was instructed to undertake training on Community Asset Transfer; Town Council Borrowing and Business Development without delay.

(viii) St Gwladys Crypt storage of Town Council Assets – Members are required to provide instruction regarding redundant festive decorations.

**Resolved** to instruct Cllrs Y Price, Carroll and Collins to liaise with the Clerk in visiting the storage area and updating the Asset list with redundant decorations. The clerk to write to St Gwladys to confirm continued use of storage facilities as appropriate.

**Resolved** to approve £200 fee payment.

7. To discuss the potential for an annual Community Awards event, and confirm the full event schedule for 2026.

**Resolved** to instruct the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee to consider the development of an annual Community Awards Event and report back to full council in due course.

**Resolved** to plan and deliver the following community activities in 2026:

Joint Events with CCBC: Easter 21/3/26; May Fair 9/5/26; Music Festival 11/7/25; Winter Fair 14/11/26.

Activities to be contracted to the following community venues (if available):

St David's Day Over 60s Social 1/3/26 – Gilfach Workingmen's Club;

Half Term Family Social either 19/2 or 20/2/26 – Bargoed Labour Club;

Over 60s Summer Social 19/6/26 – Arthur Balfour Conservative & Workingmen's Club;

Halloween Themed Family Social 28/10/26 - Arthur Balfour Conservative & Workingmen's Club;

Festive Pantomime for Over 60s 4/12/26 – Gilfach Workingmen's Club.

Night Out Scheme to be considered for festive family event at a later date.

This concluded business of the meeting.

The Mayor thanked Members, wished all a Merry Christmas, and the meeting was closed at 19.19pm