



Draft Unapproved Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 15th April 2026

Present in person: Councillors; R Carroll; C Andrews; P Collins; M IngramJones; C Bissex Foster; J Davies; Y Price.

Present remotely: Councillors S Hamer Thomas; R Price; J McCarthy.

Chairperson: Councillor; R Carroll (Deputy Mayor)

Also Present: PCSO N Bateman; PCSO H Schurer; Mrs. H Williams (Town Clerk / RFO); Mr C Gapper (Deputy Clerk)

Police Report

PCSO Bateman reviewed the monthly report and highlighted several incidents within the Bargoed and Gilfach area. Recent community activity including attendance at local town center initiatives was detailed during the month of March.

A member enquired about an issue relating to an off-road biking incident, with a spike having been experienced in Gilfach. The officer was not able to report issues of a decrease in other areas however several reports have been received from around the old fire station site.

A member asked about reports on issues with dogs in Bargoed Park. Requests have been received for additional signage within the park about keeping dogs on leads. The officer explained it is important to identify the dog owner and the dog. Residents should be encouraged to report all dog issues to Gwent Police via telephoning 101 to obtain an incident number. Signage would not be a Police responsibility.

A member made a general enquiry about a homeless man in the town and whether he had moved location.

Police Officers left the meeting at 18:11.

To receive Apologies for Absence.

Councillor H Llewellyn (Leave); D IngramJones (Leave);

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 receive, review and approve the draft unapproved minutes of the full council meeting held on 18th March 2026.

Resolved – to approve the minutes as a true record of business, Councillor P Collins moved and Councillor J Davies seconded. The Deputy Mayor signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

2. To consider a town council response to Caerphilly County Borough Council for submission to the Surveillance Camera Commissioner in respect of continued license for CCTV in Aberbargoed.

Meeting Minutes

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Resolved - To approve the response drafted and send to Caerphilly. Detailed response below:

“Bargoed Town Council support the continuation of CCTV in the Aberbargoed area as this assists in detecting crime and anti-social behaviour. Continuing to operate CCTV in this area has shown to be a deterrent to individuals especially in and around Aberbargoed Park where anti-social behaviour has been reduced since the installation. CCTV has been effective but monthly police reports still highlight significant crime and anti-social behaviour in this area.”

3. To hear from the Engagement & Wellbeing Committee Chair following the committee meeting of 13th April 2026. Members are requested to consider any recommendations and provide instruction to the Clerk as necessary.

Noted: Meeting was unable to go ahead due to unforeseen circumstances. It will be reconvened Monday 20th April 2026 at 5.30pm.

4. To receive a committee report from the HR & Staffing Committee working group along with verbal updates from delegated Members regarding the recruitment of a new staff member and consider a proposed revised budget for the 2026-27 financial year. Members are required to provide a budget resolution along with instruction on recruitment activity.

Clerk reviewed the proposed revised budget within the meeting and discussed the work of the HR Committee and delegated Members.

Resolved: To approve the revised budget of £298,387.70 and recruit the new officer as soon as possible.

5. To consider the following:

5.1 Democracy and Boundary Commission Final Report on Caerphilly County Electoral Wards. Documents Noted

5.2 Spring 2026 Newsletter from Caerphilly People First. Documents Noted

5.3 Communication from Everyone Deserves a Christmas Campaign.

The Deputy Clerk advised of communication from the organizers who explained their Easter Campaign was unable to proceed. They requested a decision, if Members would be happy for funding to be allocated to the Christmas 2026 campaign or to receive a refund?

Resolved: To approve the reallocation of the donated £250 to support the Christmas Campaign. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to communicate with the organization.

5.4 Dates for Forces Fitness Fun Days on three days.

Resolved: To approve expenditure of £1,800 for three fun days – dated 27TH May 6TH August and 27TH August. **(Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19)**

5.5 Request for financial support from Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

Resolved: To make a donation of £100. **(Local Government Act 1972, s.145)**

5.6 Application to the Community Grants Programme from Bargoed & District Gardening Club. Members considered the application.

Resolved: To support the organization with a grant of £250 as it will enable some residents to attend an environmental activity that would not be possible without the trip. **(Environmental (Wales) Act 2016)**

6. To review and approve the Annual Report 2025-26, receive updated information from printing and translation services, authorize expenditure and clarify distribution arrangements.

Members reviewed the document on screen and congratulated the staff and councilors who worked on compiling the report.

Resolved: To accept the quotation from CSM Printers in Aberbargoed for 300 hard copies.

(Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 s.52.1 – Duty to produce an Annual Report)

Instruction to Deputy Clerk: Seek translation quotations with a budgeted expenditure of £300.

Resolved: To approve the narrative content of the report with the exception of the financial page which cannot be approved until after the accounting statements are approved by full council.

Digital copies are to be distributed to all stakeholders and grant recipient organizations. Members to distribute hard copies in their respective ward areas and at community events.

7. To receive a verbal report from the Deputy Clerk on the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee 15th April 2026.

Deputy Clerk report highlighting the main themes covered at the meeting, included a talk on Digital Solutions, Cybersecurity and Microsoft 365. Presentation slides to be forwarded with these minutes.

E-bulletins and E-newsletters will now be circulated to Member councils in place of email communications, providing relevant information and highlighting issues and demonstrating case studies. National conference and awards will take place together on 1ST July 2026. Innovative Practice Conference on 30TH September 2026. AGM will be on a separate date.

Best practice examples provided from several council members regarding a range of projects and schemes. This included community buildings being purchased in partnership with local authorities, several collaborative arrangements on various environmental projects, and grants being secured to enable the purchase and development of local amenities. Suggestion from members to share good practices, ideas and mistakes of projects ongoing in their community.

Good practice guidance on A.I., Insurance, Safeguarding, Martyn's Law and a Welsh version of the Servility & Respect pledge. Additional training with two new models on Managing Cultural Change and Digitization modules due to be released. Other events and webinars on A.I. and Asset Transfer will be released soon.

Speakers at future events included issues relating to the Cost-of-Living Crisis, Community Boundary Reviews and Martyn's Law. Information exchange for the smaller community forums being looked at.

8. To hear from the Clerk about:

8.1 The Events schedule – Members are required to consider and approve dates.

Resolved: To approve a revised date of 24th July 2026 for the Older Peoples Tea Party. Location to be decided pending information and costs.

8.2 Prize budget for 2026-27 Community Events/Activities. (10 activities)

Resolved: To approve a £1,300 budget for the year and delegate to the Deputy Clerk to manage sourcing the resources. **(Local Government Act 1972 s.145)**

8.3 Festive Lighting Workshop Wednesday 6th May 2026.
Councillor Y Price to accompany the Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

8.4 Minor Authority Representative at St Gwladys (Bargoed) Primary School.

Resolved: To defer the appointment until the casual vacancy is filled.

8.5 Casual Vacancy Bargoed Ward.

Deputy Clerk reported that the vacancy will not be filled by a by-election as electoral services received insufficient letters from the local electorate. Members are free to move to co-option. Five expressions of interest have been received.

Resolved: To request pen pictures from the five individuals and invite them to an informal chat on Wednesday 20th May 2026

8.6 Special meeting arrangements.

Potential date of Monday 27th April 2026 at 6pm.

8.7 Community Grant Scheme.

Deputy Clerk advised of circulating the new scheme via email to all grant recipients from the 2025 – 2026 year. Deputy clerk will contact several other organizations suggested by councillors. (Caerphilly Peoples First, Heolddu) along with other local organizations and grant recipients from previous years. Deputy Clerk advised that the new grant application form and policy has been updated and is available on the website.

8.8 Member administration reminders.

Members were reminded of the requirements should they not wish to accept allowances and updating their register of interests.

8.9 Bulbs to be ordered and any additional locations being considered for planting (CCBC permission may be required)

Resolved: To order 4 x 25kg bags of bulbs. Distribution as per last year via community groups and primary schools. No public domain ground to be used. (**Environmental Act 2016**)

8.10 Potential Family Event December 2026

Deferred: To the next meeting of full council.

8.11 St Gwladys Church Hall Information Request.

Deputy Clerk advised of issues relating to the lift being out of commission. Members were asked to forward any ideas for the church hall to seek funding to the Deputy Clerk.

8.12 Members Expressions of Interest for fulfilling the role of Mayor from Annual Meeting in May 2026.

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that there were two expressions of interest for Mayor, Councillor D Ingram-Jones and Councillor H Llewellyn.

With the permission of the chair Councillor Collins proposed a motion to suspend Standing Orders to allow a secret ballot to be conducted.

Resolved: To suspend standing orders.

Ballot forms were distributed to Members present in the room and those Members online were requested to send a private message to the Clerk.

Result of Members votes cast where:

Councillor D Ingram-Jones - Received 5 votes.

Councillor H Llewellyn - Received 5 votes.

Deputy Clerk explained in accordance with Standing Order 1.9 the meeting chairman has a casting vote in addition to an original vote.

Resolved: To select Councillor H Llewellyn.

This concluded business of the meeting.

The Chair thanked all present, and the meeting was closed at 19.40pm