



Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 18th March 2026

Present in person: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carroll; P Collins; D IngramJones; M IngramJones; J Davies; C Andrews.

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

Chairperson: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

Also Present: PCSO L McKean; PC Daniel Evans; Mrs. H Williams (Town Clerk / RFO); Mr C Gapper (Deputy Clerk)

Police Report was reviewed by Members. It was noted by the chair that there was a slight increase in crime in Bargoed but a drop in Gilfach. Crime figures were similar to data from January / February 2025. No trends but a slight increase in ASB. A significant increase was noted in Bargoed around Morrisons Car Park, resulting in increased patrols, shrubbery removed and cameras now in operation to deter individuals. Bargoed Police are liaising with British Transport Police regarding an influx of youths from Caerphilly using public transport causing issues in the town center. Currently in the process of identifying individuals from CCTV. Increase in Bargoed Library incidents as a result.

Positive impact in Aberbargoed regarding safeguarding and crime prevention. Engagement with local primary schools is ongoing with PCSO in the community attending. Various crime prevention initiatives ongoing including the 6 Nations initiative which started on the 03/02/26 which has had some positive results.

School Wars incident, police are currently working with the school and safeguarding. Letters sent to parents.

Police will have a stall at the Spring Fair on Saturday 21ST March 2026. Police Officers left the meeting at 18:15.

To receive Apologies for Absence.
Councillor Y Price (Family)

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 February 2026.

Resolved – to approve the minutes as a true record of business. The Mayor signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

2. To note the final published report of the Democracy and Boundary Commission for the 2026-27 financial year and confirm the Members Allowance resolutions and amendments to the Expenses Policy relating to the increase to financial loss compensation as detailed in determination 6/2026.

Members noted the content of the final report of the Democracy and Boundary Commission for 2026-

Meeting Minutes

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

27 instructing the clerk to update the expenses policy with relevant financial loss compensation details as per determination 6/2026.

In respect of Member Allowances for the 2026-2027 financial year, the full council **Resolved** as follows:

Mayor's Allowance	£1,500	Deputy Mayor Allowance	£500
2 Senior Role Payments	£500 respectively	Financial Loss Compensation	£500 budget
Travel and Subsistence	£500 budget		

Members Care Costs £500 to be added to the budget for inclusion in the reserves at year end
Attendance Allowance £30 per Member per Full Council Meeting Attendance.

3. To hear from the HR & Staffing Committee Working group who visited a local council to discuss larger council structure, growth and resource management. Members to consider recommendations and provide instruction to the Committee for next steps.

Councillors Andrews, Carroll and Collins fed back to the meeting. Members thanked Pontypridd Town Council for their support and their time in what proved to be a very positive, enlightening visit. Members discussed growth strategies, asset management, business development and resource implications. Key learning from the visit is that Bargoed Town Council would be wise to focus on capacity building of the staff team prior to embarking on business development activities and/or community asset transfers.

Members spoke about the issue of growth and future strategic planning at some length, with Members who attended a recent CCBC event on Community Asset Transfer agreeing that this is a positive way forward.

Resolved – to instruct the working group to continue its work and prepare a job description for an officer to focus on community activities and engagement, and to follow this up with a second description for a post focusing on business development and asset management.

Resolved – to instruct the Policy & Resources Committee to review budget availability once the job description is produced and advertise the first post without delay.

4. To note the draft unapproved minutes of the Engagement and Wellbeing committee meeting 23rd February 2026 and hear from the subsequent working group meeting. Members are requested to consider the two recommendations of the working group and provide instruction to both the committee and the clerk.

Councillors Ingram Jones and McCarthy provided verbal feedback from the working group. Councillor McCarthy explained the synopsis of how a community cinema works, which he has produced for the public, and Members recommended that consultation is carried out to ascertain the level of interest across the local community.

The working group also recommended that a specialist should be invited to speak to Full Council to provide an overview of what it takes to deliver a community cinema, the pitfalls, the considerations and lessons he has learned.

Resolved – to carry out a consultation exercise on a community cinema project, and to instruct Councillor McCarthy to liaise with the Clerk regarding an invitation to Dr James Rendell.

5. To hear from the Clerk and consider the following:

5.1 Communication from the Everyone deserves a Christmas campaign with a request for financial support for the Easter campaign.

Resolved: £250 donation authorized.

5.2 Application to the Small Grants Programme from East View Allotment Association.

Resolved: £250 grant authorized.

5.4 Any edits required to the Community Grant-making Policy and Application Form.

Council reviewed the Draft Community Grant making policy. Members spoke about two highlighted areas pertaining to some local community organizations and edited the qualifying criteria accordingly.

The Clerk reminded Members that when distributing the policy and application documents continue to draw attention to the terms and conditions, specifically feedback and images after providing a grant. Correct bank details be provided when submitting applications from the organization itself and the people it will benefit as a result.

Resolved- to adopt the new Community Grants Policy with effect from April 2026, the Small Grants Scheme to be retired.

5.5 Feedback received from the Town Centre Management Team regarding benches and the noticeboard on Lowri Plaza.

Two new benches at Cross Street, Bargoed to be provided from SPF funding. The two old benches are in storage and Members have been asked for suggestions of new locations.

Keys to Lowri Plaza received from CCBC officer. Magnets donated to assist with future poster deployment.

Deferred- New location for benches to be confirmed possibly in another location.

5.6 Member input into the development of an Event Strategy – the clerk requests consultation consideration to be included in discussions.

The Engagement Committee chair detailed the content of the request she circulated via email for Members input into the development of an Events Strategy. The Clerk reminded Members of their obligations to actively participate in Town Council business.

The meeting requested that full council receive a follow-up email with the link to the relevant document for collation of comments.

5.7 Items of administration for the new financial year including photographs, register of interests, personal administration.

The Clerk provided Members with a reminder of their obligations in relation to continuous updates to their register of interests and that should any Members wish to refuse mandatory Members Allowances they must advise the clerk in writing of this for the new financial year.

The Deputy Clerk took a photograph of the meeting in readiness for the annual report.

The Clerk also reminded Members that if they wanted to continue to produce the same caliber of annual reports as previously they must feed in both activity narratives and images all year.

6. To receive feedback from the delegated Members who attended the deferred meeting of the Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee meeting of 24th February 2026.

Councillor Llewellyn provided a verbal report outlining the business of the recent Community Councils Liaison Committee meeting 24th February 2026 advising two main items of business were discussed. The concern surrounding the impact of the community boundary changes across the County Borough in respect of those community councils who are either merging or taking on new communities, and the lack of information or support for TUPE related issues to date.

Second item related to the committee standing resolute in their nomination for the vacant position on the CCBC Standards Committee, which is to be fed back to the authority.

7. To note the following:

7.1 Thank You Letter from Wales Air Ambulance following the £500 donation in October 2025.

Noted.

7.2 One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting Draft Minutes 28 January 2026.

Noted.

8. To consider an invitation from the Chair of the Rhymney Valley Foodbank to attend the launch of an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the County Borough of Caerphilly.

Information was provided to the meeting along with additional feedback received by the Clerk. A Member will be attending in a different capacity and Members of Full Council requested feedback afterwards.

9. To consider communication from Alcoholics Anonymous requesting attendance at Town Council.
Resolved – to invite the engagement officer to a future meeting of Full Council

This concluded business of the meeting.

The Mayor thanked all present and the meeting was closed at 19.26pm