



Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting Wednesday 29th July 2026

Present in person: Councillors C Bissex-Foster; R Carroll; P Collins; J Davies; M Ingram-Jones; H Llewellyn.

Present online: none

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams (Town Clerk); Mr G Wadley (Deputy Clerk).

Meeting Chairperson: Councillor R Carroll

To receive Apologies for Absence.

Councillor C Andrews (medical); Councillor Y Price (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.

1. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the last meeting 24th June 2026.

Councillor M Ingram-Jones moved, Councillor J Davies seconded.

Resolved to approve and sign the minutes.

2. To review and approve bank reconciliations for 30th June 2026 and the payment list to date.

The meeting reviewed the bank reconciliation on screen with the clerk verbally reporting.

Members noted all to be in order and instructed the chair to sign the reconciliation in the presence of the meeting. Cash in Hand per cashbook £224,588.06.

The payments list was reviewed on screen. No questions received from Members.

Resolved to approve the payment list with expenditure noted as £34,450.84 inv vat.

3. To hear from the clerk regarding the following:

3.1 HMRC updated mileage rates & expenses policy edits.

Members were made aware that HMRC has recently increased mileage rates to 55p per mile with 5p per passenger.

3.2 Resolution required regarding the Trunk or Treat Community event donation.

The clerk advised that while the Community Activities and Environment Committee had resolved at its initial meeting to support the event, no financial decision was made or recorded. Town Council has previously donated £500 to support the event. Members were requested to provide instruction to the clerk.

Resolved to provide a donation of £500.

Local Government Act 1972 s137 expenditure.

4. To consider applications to the Community Grant Programme from:

4.1 Aberbargoed Buds Football Club

Resolved to award a grant of £500.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

4.2 AFC Bargoed

Resolved to award a grant of £500

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

4.3 WalknTalk Mental Health Group

Resolved to award a grant of £500

Local Government Act 1972 s.137 expenditure.

5 To receive verbal confirmation of internal scrutiny of Quarter One Accounting records. Councillor Collins reported all to be in order following his comprehensive review of all the documentation and online records relating to quarter one. Councillor Collins explained that Scribe is proving to be effective and records have been continuously improved to make the scrutiny easier to manage.

Members had no questions regarding Quarter One.

6 To carry out a Quarter One review of expenditure against the budget for 2026-27.

The clerk displayed the budget on screen for Members examination.

A healthy discussion took place regarding administrative costs being kept to the absolute minimum wherever possible, and expenditure noted to be minimal in quarter one.

7. To consider additional budget requirements for 2027-28, look at timelines and discuss consultation for example:

- Professional consultancy services

- HR Insurance, Reserve and Benefits

- Payment Services administration

- Project Costs to include Cost of Living Initiatives

- Civic Budget to include provision for town centre competition prizes, premise refreshments, civic contingencies.

The clerk spoke about how the Town Council is developing and in light of recent changes in Employment legislation and the resolution to work on developing a Community Hub there will be additional requirements for the budget. Members were asked to advise officers of any additional budget lines they may consider necessary, and to review the timelines proposed for budget calculation work.

The meeting debated costs involved in developing a community hub. The clerk advised that the business of the agenda did not include the calculation of figures, only identification of additional budget lines.

A member suggested possibly a separate Community Hub budget line. The meeting concluded that at this point in time professional consultancy services would suffice.

There were mixed views on consultation, and the meeting concluded that the full council should debate this item upon completion of the draft budget.

Timelines to be amended to include a special P&R Committee meeting 9th November 2026 for budget calculation purposes, and to reflect a mid-December notification of the council tax base rate for 2027-28.

8. To note the following planning applications:

26/0448/HH – 18 Rockleigh Avenue Aberbargoed CF819BQ – side extension

26/0457/HH – 56 Heolddu Road, Bargoed CF818RQ – first floor extension

No objections or comments received from Members – Town Council response included a request that neighbours views encouraged.

The Chair thanked Members closed the meeting at 16.29pm.