

Draft Unapproved Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 22nd July 2026

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

Present remotely: Councillors S Hamer Thomas; R Price.

Chairperson: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

Also Present: PCSO Bateman and YM colleague; Mrs. H Williams (Town Clerk / RFO); Mr G Wadley (Deputy Clerk/Deputy RFO).

Police Report

PCSO Bateman advised that a new officer will shortly be attending monthly meetings as PCSO Lewis has recently joined the team.

Officers reviewed the stats with Members noting a slight increase in crime which has been attributed to leavers parties in the community, and also anti-social behaviour at Morrison's hot spot which has been identified as relating to Rhymney residents travelling down to the town. Referrals were made to the ASB service and an incident at the Lowri Plaza vicinity led to a Youth Offending Team referral.

Members asked the officers if they enjoyed the recent music event and what, if any, issues were encountered. Officers advised the event was extremely successful and well received, with no incidents during the event itself. However there were incidents later into the evening. Officers reported that the public had travelled from quite far afield to enjoy the event.

Targeted activity during the month included speed monitoring at Ruth Street with an average speed of 21.3mph recorded at 5pm.

A Member asked if officers feel residents understand that the default speed in the absence of signage is understood to be 20mph. This is not generally known.

Two drug warrants were recently actioned, and a sur-ran electric motorcycle located and seized.

The police report concluded at 18.08pm.

The mayor introduced visitors from Alcoholics anonymous and invited the two officers to stay for the presentation.

To receive visitors from South East Wales Alcoholics Anonymous and hear about the services they offer.

Two visitors distributed literature to Members for use in the community, and advised the group sessions are free for anyone to attend, with the only stipulation being a desire to stop drinking alcohol. The service is fully funded by donations.

Stats were shared with the meeting.

Councillor Bissex-Foster joined the meeting at this point. (18.13pm)

Visitors spoke about the fellowship, sharing personal experiences and the principle of abstinence.

Councillor Andrews joined the meeting at this point (18.15pm)

Alcoholism was explained; along with the physical and mental implications. The visitors talked about activities such as camping, day trips, local projects and volunteering activities which are delivered by the fellowship; and Members were made aware that the local meetings take place in Pontllanfraith.

A Member requested contact details for the Pontllanfraith group be shared.

The Mayor sought any further questions from the meeting. Nothing further.

Police officers left the meeting at 18.20pm.

Visitors left the meeting 18.23pm

Meeting Minutes

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

To receive Apologies for Absence.
Councillor J McCarthy (work)

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

Press and Public Participation Session.
No enquiries received.

1. To receive, review and approve the draft unapproved minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17th June 2026.

Councillor Davies moved, Councillor Y Price seconded.

Resolved to approve and sign the minutes.

2. To note draft unapproved minutes of committee meetings as circulated to Members electronically as follows:

2.1 Community Activities & Environment 22nd June 2026 - noted.

2.2 Policy & Resources 24th June 2026 – noted.

3. To complete a Town Council submission to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC) consultation exploring attitudes and perceptions of Town and Community Councillors.

Members completed the survey during the meeting and it was electronically submitted immediately upon completion. The clerk encouraged Members to complete the survey independently if they had not already done so.

4. To hear from the Engagement Lead including feedback on attendance at the One Voice Wales Annual Conference and Awards ceremony, and consider engagement recommendations.

Councillor M Ingram-Jones advised that 3 Members and 2 officers attended the event 1st July 2026. It was disappointing that the Senedd Minister did not attend. The event covered results of the social impact survey, and literature is in the office for Members to review. Also a most interesting presentation was made by the lottery funding team, which Cllr Ingram-Jones provided additional information on. Members were encouraged to also consider entering the One Voice Wales awards programme next year.

The first meeting of the Annual Report Working Group recommends consulting the public on the design and content of the town council annual report to find out what works and what perhaps is not so well received. Data collation from the priorities consultation is being undertaken the following day.

Members were encouraged to take more hard copy reports out into the community – particularly to those organisations who have received funding from the town council.

The meeting considered the recommendation from the working group.

Resolved to instruct the working group to liaise with officers and undertake the consultation without delay.

5. To receive feedback from the Deputy Clerk attendance at the One Voice Wales larger councils committee meeting 8th July 2026.

Deputy Clerk reported that the meeting started with the social impact report, and nothing further to report from the previous item. One Voice Wales is encouraging Welsh Government to develop materials on how to become a councillor, and what local councillors do – they suggest maybe a short video.

The innovative practise conference is September 30th 2026, one Member is already registered, any other interested Members to contact the Deputy Clerk. Councillor M Ingram-Jones expressed an interest.

The meeting heard from a councillor at Welshpool who was eager to congratulate their clerk for timely submission of a £5million bid to the heritage lottery fund for a town hall project.

Finally, members were asked to think about whether there are topics they would like One Voice Wales to bring speakers in and give information on at future meetings.

6. To receive confirmation of the Bargoed Town Council response to CCBC request for information in support of the continued use of CCTV in the Bargoed ward area as provided electronically by Members.

The following statement was submitted by Bargoed Town Council:

The CCTV Control Room Bargoed provides an essential service with a significant number of targeted CCTV patrols carried out by operators including incidents reported to police requiring police attendance, police

requests for assistance for live incidents, requests to view retrospective CCTV footage after incident has already occurred and direct uploads of CCTV to the Police Database. This is backed up by figures provided by the police with 362 recorded incidents in the Bargoed ward and 95 recorded incidents in or near the area of the cameras. Members of Bargoed Town Council feel the statistics speak for themselves and that this is an essential service in the community. They fully support the continuation of CCTV use in Bargoed and, indeed, would argue for expansion of this invaluable service to include areas such as Bargoed urban park, as these were highly welcomed by residents in Aberbargoed when introduced in the vicinity of Yew Street/Cwrt Coch Street park.

7. To receive items from the clerk as follows:

7.1 CCBC cleaning schedules and the cleaner, greener programme. Members are requested to feed items in to CCBC ward members at monthly meetings instead of waiting for the communication from officers at CCBC.

The clerk advised that in respect of the town centre, any areas Members wish to have included in the cleaner greener scheme should be fed into the town centre audit via the regeneration team. A standing item will be on the monthly meeting agenda for Members to feed in regular cleaning/weeding concerns to ward Members.

7.2 Youth Representatives – Members are requested to provide instruction to the clerk regarding engagement with young people for appointment as Youth Representatives.

Resolved to instruct the Deputy Clerk to promote the opportunity and bring in Youth Representatives as soon as possible.

7.3 Year 10 and 12 student engagement – Members are requested to provide instruction to the clerk regarding planned months for visits to schools.

Resolved to contact the schools in September with a view to engagement work commencing October onwards. A Member noted that Heolddu Comprehensive School also has a school Senedd which Members were keen on attending.

7.4 Member participation in community activities and annual report content.

The clerk reminded Members of the importance of attending activities that are delivered in their ward areas such as the skateboarding; forces fitness; summer sport scheme at Heolddu and the Hangar.

7.5 Strategic Planning workshop date.

Resolved to book the YMCA for Friday 27th November 2026 from 10am – 4pm.

7.6 Dates suitable for in-house Member training on Sexual Harassment & Third-party Harassment.

Resolved to make provision for this training to take place during the strategic planning day in November 2026.

7.7 Correspondence to the clerk in respect of Member allowances.

The Clerk reminded Members that allowances will be paid to them in February 2026 on a pro rata basis for those who have not been Town Councillors for the full year, unless written advice of rejection is received by the clerk.

7.8 Rolling Register of Members Interest.

The Clerk reminded Members of the rolling update process, and that changes should be reported as soon as possible.

8. To consider a motion for Bargoed Town Council to develop a Community Hub incorporating Bargoed Town Council Chamber. Councillor D Ingram-Jones to speak on the motion.

[Please note: should Members resolve to move forward with this motion a working party of five Members with experience of business development and grant applications will be required to work with the clerk]

Members heard from Councillor D Ingram-Jones, and a largely positive debate followed. One or two slight concerns were raised about voluntary sector impact, location and time scales.

The Clerk reminded Members of the motion they were debating.

Resolved to unanimously support the motion for Bargoed Town Council to develop a Community Hub incorporating Bargoed Town Council Chamber.

The Mayor requested that all Members start looking at premises in the local community and liaise with the officers as and when premises are identified.

This concluded the non-confidential business of the meeting. Separate confidential minutes are produced for agenda item 9.