BARGOED TOWN COUNCIL

Bargoed Police Station
Hanbury Road
BARGOED
CF818XF

Website: www.bargoedtc.org.uk

Draft Unapproved Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 21st October 2026

Present in person: Councillors; C Andrews; R Carroll; P Collins; J Davies; D IngramJones; M IngramJones; H Llewellyn; Y Price; M Roberts.
Present remotely: Councillors S Hamer Thomas; C Bissex Foster; J McCarthy; R Price.
Chairperson: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)
Also Present: Two Gwent Police Community Support Officers; Mrs. H Williams (Town Clerk / RFO); Mr G Wadley (Deputy Clerk/Deputy RFO).

Police Report.
Officers reviewed the monthly police report with Members who noted crime statistics slightly reduced overall with Anti-Social behaviour increased. Vehicle offences, particularly theft of Nissan Jukes in particular appeared to be a crime spree. Police targeted activity this month included POP Plans and high visibility patrols. A large drug warrant was actioned in Aberbargoed with class A drugs in a vehicle, perpetrators arrested and remanded into custody.
A Member asked about parking at Aberbargoed school. Officers advised a high visibility patrol had taken place earlier in the week, and there were no issues on the housing estate local to the school.
A question was asked about the big increase in crime statistics in Gilfach. Officers advised they will find out and report back.
A further question was levied by Members who expressed concern about large groups of youths on Sunday afternoon, both in Morrisons and in front of the miners heads on Hanbury Square. Ramps being used on Lowri plaza by youths riding bicycles causing a nuisance. Officers advised of having attended Morrisons, met with the management to report issues with sewerage and the rear door being damaged by youths. Patrols are in place but to resolve these issues there must be collaborative work.
No further questions.

At officers request, the Mayor sought agreement from Members to reorder the agenda and move to item 8.
Resolved – to move to agenda item 8.

8. To receive a request from Bargoed Ward Members about the bollards in the Town Centre and provide instruction to the Clerk.
Officers highlighted traders bringing large numbers of concerns to officers about illegal parking in the town as a result of the concrete blocks being moved by discourteous drivers which led to Caerphilly County Borough Council shifting the blocks further up Hanbury Road. Officers reported unsafe pavements, particularly in the area of Honey Dots, and when the police checked the mapping online it shows an even distribution of the cubes. Officers asked Members what, if anything can be done?
CCBC ward Members advised of having requested Highways move the blocks again.
Members spoke with officers about this issue.
Resolved – to instruct the clerk to write to CCBC, copying in the cabinet member, to request Highways revert the concrete blocks in this area to their original locations, paying particular attention to the vicinity of Honey Dots.
Police Officers left the meeting 18.16pm.
The meeting reverted to the original order of business at this point.

To receive Apologies for Absence – No apologies, all Members present. Councillor R Price advised of late arrival.

To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.
Councillor Andrews declared on agenda item 10.
Councillor HamerThomas declared on agenda item 4A.
Councillor Bissex-Foster declared on agenda item 5.

The clerk declared on agenda item 5.

Press and Public Participation Session.
No enquiries received by officers.

1. To receive, review and approve the draft unapproved minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9th September 2026.
Councillor Andrews abstained due to not being present.
Resolved – Members approved the minutes as a true record of business and instructed the Mayor to sign the minutes.

Councillor R Price joined the meeting 18.26pm.

2. To receive, in accordance with the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 Section 29 and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, the external audit completion notice for the 2025-26 financial year. Members are required to note the comments from Audit Wales and approve the publication of the Annual Return.
Resolved – to accept and publish the audit completion.

3. To receive the Draft annual remuneration report 2027-28 from the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru, consider its content and provide any comments for feedback to the consultation. Members are required to also confirm budget planning details.
Resolved – no comments to feed back on the draft report – budget planning as per draft report.

4. To consider applications to the Community Grant Programme from:
a) The Parent Network (Trunk or Treat Event) – **Resolved** to award a £500 grant
Local Government Act 1972 s144
b) Bargoed Community Choir (expert tuition support) – **Resolved** to award £500 grant
Local Government Act 1792 s145

5. To hear from the Clerk about the Pride in Place programme for Aberbargoed, Bargoed and New Tredegar.
The Clerk provided Members with a verbal account of the individuals appointed to the Pride in Place Programme board for Aberbargoed, Bargoed and New Tredegar as follows:
Chair – John Williams (Phillipstown)
Aberbargoed: Sally Everson; Susan Richards; Rev Ralph Adalese.
Bargoed: Robert Butcher; Neil Carter; Helen Williams
New Tredegar: Mikaela Swindon; Coral Williams; Louise Edwards
Education and Business link: Matthew Tucker (Vice Principal Coleg Y Cymoedd)
CCBC Ward Member Representatives: Councillor Bissex-Foster (Aberbargoed and Bargoed); Councillor Mark Evans (New Tredegar).
Member of Parliament – Nick Smith; CCBC Regeneration Managers.
The clerk moved on to advise of arranged workshop and introduction to the town council on Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 6pm; and that with members permission, the Pride in Place consultation will be shared with Members for completion and sharing as widely as possible.
Resolved – to instruct the clerk to share the electronic consultation with Members, partner organisations and online via the website and social media.
Engagement team will provide Members with hard copy surveys for use in the community. Members spoke about the importance of working very closely with the board, and collaborating wherever possible.
Resolved – to offer the board the use of the meeting equipment and table for monthly board meetings as convenient.
Councillor D Ingram-Jones encouraged Members to feed as many views and ideas as possible into the consultation as this is an excellent opportunity for the community to benefit.

6. To discuss civic items required for the incoming new council following the May 2027 elections and provide instruction to the Clerk.
(Members are asked to consider ties, scarves, replacement tablets and anything additional to be advised to the clerk)
Members debated the needs of the new council following the May 2027 elections, with lots of ideas being shared. In consideration of the need to reduce the carbon footprint and increase use of technology Members noted the option to purchase laptops too expensive, and now that the officers have identified the correct

document format for Members to access on the tablets via Sharepoint, a new set of replacement tablets was identified as the most effective way forward.
Moving on, Members **Resolved** to instruct the clerk as follows:
16 new Samsung tablets; Bargoed Town Council ties, brooches, ladies scarves, and cases for the tablets to be ordered during this financial year. Town Clerk delegated to negotiate quantities and obtain value for money.

7. To receive items from the clerk as follows:
a) A request to upgrade the Teams meeting system at the town hall. Members are required to hear from the clerk, consider the equipment required and provide authorisation of expenditure.
(When considering this item, Members should note the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 regarding hybrid meeting arrangements and the ability for Members to hear and be heard)
Members reviewed three quotations from Midwich, Yealink and E-Infinity for replacement equipment that will cover the extended range required for the microphone systems to be effective.
Resolved To approve the quotations for Yealink MVC s80 plus VCM36 wireless expansion microphone, installation and configuration of £4375 net and instruct eInfinity to obtain the equipment without delay.
Local Government Act 1972 s111.

b) Update on minute reference 9092026-8 premises.
The clerk advised members of the fact finding meetings she and the Deputy Clerk had carried out regarding the four premises identified at the previous meeting, and advised that active planning is in place for the pierhead, no funding opportunities exist for the building outside the town centre, and the retail premises recently vacated by Peacocks stores is unsuitable for this type of development.
With regard to 63-65 Hanbury Road, officers from regeneration are happy to make visit arrangements, inclusive of the accompaniment of a surveyor in the first instance and to investigate appetite to sell, any grounds for CPO, and how the project fits with the Placemaking Plan. The clerk provided Members with detail of the Welsh Government Transforming Towns funding that includes both grants of up to £750,000 and loans with a 2% interest rate.
Members were asked to focus on developing a concept for the Community Hub including their vision, services to be included and potential sustainability options for the longer term.
The debate continued about how to move forward with the concept development.
Resolved – Members to send one email each to the Clerk/Deputy Clerk by no later than 21st November which will be collated into a meaningful concept proposal to be looked at during the workshop/strategic planning day.

c) Communication from One Voice Wales regarding Governance Arrangements 2026 – Noted.

d) Online consultation event on the Local Development Plan Deposit Plan – All members to attend a face-to-face engagement event at Bargoed YMCA on 11th November 6pm. Clerk to add to the calendar.

e) Communication from WalknTalk requesting a letter of support.
Clerk instructed to liaise with the Caerphilly County Borough Council Community Asset Team for up to date information on their current position. Members will be happy to hear from WalknTalk once they have a fully costed, complete proposal in place. The Town Council look forward to receipt of the WalknTalk information literature with their Community Grant feedback report.

f) Members are requested to confirm pre-Christmas financial donations be made during November 2026? (eg. Wales Air Ambulance/Rhymney Valley Foodbank/ CCBC Operation Santa/ Any others?) Expenditure amounts and instruction to be provided to the Clerk.
Resolved to make a donation to the Wales Air Ambulance - £500; Operation Santa - £500; Rhymney Valley Foodbank - £250.
Local Government Act 1972 s137.
No further financial donations identified by ward Members at the current time.

g) Members are required to confirm the arrangements for the remaining selection boxes after the primary school aged children have all been allocated.
Resolved to distribute all remaining selection boxes to the fire service Santa trail, Gwent Police engagement event, Heolddu School hampers and ad-hoc remaining supplies if any to the foodbank.

9. To hear from the Engagement Lead on the following items, consider the May 2027 elections, provide instruction to officers and authorise expenditure as appropriate:

a) One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference 30th September 2026 – statutory duty on play, AI policy importance, work being prepared on a scheme for community groups to register interest in community assets, a workshop was attended on community engagement with consultation examples, an environmental group, an older people's group, and a young people session which was very interesting with examples from Abergavenny.
b) One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting 7th October 2026
Two main topics – police and crime commissioner whose role ends in 2028, and training non attendance which will now be charged by One Voice Wales.
c) Annual Report Update – design now in place, and content starting to be populated.
d) Quotations for promotional pens, magnets, roller banners – Members considered two quotes for both pens and roller banners – **Resolved** to approve £217 expenditure for pens quantity 700, £129.98 for two roller banners. Magnets to be considered at a later date.
The Local Government Act 1972 s111.
e) Youth Representatives – visit to the sixth form to be arranged after half term – expressions of interest from Members available to attend an early morning Wednesday assembly to contact the Deputy Clerk.
f) Local Council Elections in May 2027 – Members **Resolved** to instruct the clerk to consult the updated information on the electoral commission website, to produce a new webpage, a notice for the community noticeboards and social media, along with an A5 flyer to encourage registration on the electoral role and advise residents how to become and what they could get involved in, as a Town Councillor.

10. To discuss the proposal as presented to the September 2026 meeting of Bargoed Town Council from Caerphilly Youth Service to provide financial support to establish and sustain a Welsh Speaking Youth Club based at Gilfach YMCA.
Councillor Andrews provided brief information from her role as CCBC Cabinet Member and left the room for the Members to debate the proposal.
Members raised concerns about equality, inclusivity and sustainability as year 6 students from all wards were not included in the proposal.
The Mayor called for a show of hands in support of the proposal in its current form – Members voted 4:8 against.
Resolved to instruct the Clerk to communicate that Members felt unable to support the proposal in its current format. Members will be happy to reconsider the proposal pending amendment that ensures inclusive access for all year six students.

11. To consider updated information relating to the development of Bargoed Town Council Annual Community Awards as contained within the report circulated to Members electronically prior to the meeting, and provide instruction to the clerk.
Resolved to include £1,000 budget and an Annual Community Awards event into the draft 2027-28 budget and annual plan.

12.To note the content of draft, unapproved minutes of the following committee meetings which were circulated to Members electronically prior to the meeting:

a) Policy & Resources Committee 16th September 2026
Noted.

The Mayor drew Members attention to the time which was 7.55pm and requested Members consider suspending standing orders to complete the business of the meeting.
Resolved to suspend standing orders.

b) Community Activities & Environment Committee 21st September 2026, members are requested to consider items 2.3 (Town benches) – Committee minutes were noted.
Members heard from the Deputy Clerk with an update on the two benches – the town centre team advised if the town council wished to use the benches, they would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance. A CCBC Bargoed Ward Member advised she has identified two benches in the ward that require replacement, and that a request has been sent to replace these.
Resolved to communicate with the town centre officers advising of supporting the replacement of the benches as per the Bargoed Ward Member suggestion. No further involvement from Bargoed Town Council.

item 3.5 (Town Boost programme funding) as deferred by the committee.

Members spoke about the Town Boost proposal at some length reflecting on the planting, painting and timing suggestions. Members expressed concern about a low level of trader engagement at present, and the priority for the time being should be on boosting engagement with town centre traders. Town Councillors feel March 2027 is not the right time to be looking at delivering this project.

Resolved – to instruct the Clerk to communicate with the Town Centre team that the Council does not feel able to support the project at the current time but will be happy to meet with them for further discussions at a later date.

This concluded the business of the agenda and the meeting was closed at 20.07pm.