



**CYNGOR CYMUNED  
LLANBRADACH & PWLL-Y-PANT  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the ORDINARY Council Meeting held on  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 6.15pm, at Llanbradach Community Centre  
in a MULTI-LOCATIONAL format in accordance with the provisions of the  
Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.**

**Present**

**Councillors:** V Alexander, N Cabble (Chair), D Edwards, N Hwer (Vice Chair), C Mann, B Newton, M Robotham and E Thomas.

**Clerk:** C Mortimer

**In Attendance:** Mr G Adams of Horizon Forge, PC A Porter and PC R Davies of Gwent Police.

*Chair Cllr Norma Cabble welcomed everyone to the meeting.*

- 171 Apologies** were received and noted from Cllr V Noble due to other commitments and Ms Emma Thomas who would be arriving later, due to work commitments.

**172 Declarations of Interest**

Councillors were reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Clerk.

Clerk declared an interest in Minute No. 185 - SLCC membership.

*Chair Cllr Norma Cabble invited PC A Porter and PC R Davies to present their report.*

**173 Police Update**

Members noted the following:

**“Crimes logged between 01/02/2025-09/01/25**

66 Incidents in total

23 Crimes recorded in total

Incidents include:

- Criminal damage and Arson
- Public order offences
- Common assault
- Threats to damage property

**INCIDENTS OF NOTE**

No further reported incidents from RICHMOND CLOSE, agencies are still involved with supporting residents.

Patrols continue as per our Patrol diary for CWM LAS ESTATE following arson of 3 vehicles.

Schools officers have changed as per the new strategy being adopted by Gwent Police and Neighbourhood teams are taking ownership/responsibility for liaising between schools. Bev is in contact with the schools on a regular basis.

Youths reported to be using racial hate language amongst each other in the park just behind school street by Llanbradach library. Patrol plan in place, foot patrols conducted by PCs and PCSO's.

Go safe van incident reported by Cllr Mann which is being investigated by Inspector Williams.

Licensing have attended the premier shop in relation to risks and legalities around selling alcohol to underage persons”.

*Chair, Cllr Norma Cabble thanked the officers for their attendance. Both officers subsequently left the meeting.*

*Chair Cllr Norma Cabbie invited Mr Glen Adams to address members on the next item.*

**174 Horizon Forge – Memorial bench additions and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bench Project**

Mr Glen Adams discussed with members the additional items, such as a pick, rifle, helmet and hat and a maquette of the bench was shown to members. Discussion around a second bench, to be sited opposite the memorial bench also took place. Interpretations and QR codes were further discussed. It was agreed that this project would be discussed further under Projects.

*Chair Cllr Norma Cabbie thanked Mr Glen Adams for his attendance, and he subsequently left the meeting.*

**175 RESOLVED: Council agreed to the exclusion of press and public due to the confidential nature in relation to the next item.**

(i) Co-option vacancy

Mr Mark Robotham introduced herself to members and spoke about his line of work and Family and was an advocate for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in education.

**RESOLVED:** A member proposed, another seconded and all unanimously agreed to the co-option of Mr Mark Robotham.

(ii) Signing Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Mr Mark Robotham signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, agreeing to observe the adopted Code of Conduct.

*Chair and members welcomed Cllr Mark Robotham to the Community Council.*

**176 RESOLVED: Council agreed to re-open meeting to the public and press.**

**177 Public Participation** – there was no public participation.

**178 Chair's Announcements** – there were no new announcements.

**179 Minutes**

**Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 13/01/2025** were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

**180 Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising.

**181 Finance to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**(i) Balance of Funds**

'Balance of Funds' document were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

**(ii) Reconciliation**

Reconciliation document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

**(iii) Bank Statements**

Bank statements 160 and 175 were received, approved and signed as accurate records.

**(iv) Bank signatories**

Banking forms from members were received and noted and members signed declaration.

**(v) ICO Information Commissioner's Office – Direct Debit**

**RESOLVED:** Council agreed to setting up an annual direct debit, applicable from 2026, to the ICO, to qualify for £5 reduction.

*Ms Emma Thomas arrived at the meeting.*

- 182 RESOLVED: Council agreed to the exclusion of press and public due to the confidential nature in relation to the next item.**

(i) Co-option vacancy

Ms Emma Thomas introduced herself to members and her involvement in community life within the village and actively raising funds for local causes.

**RESOLVED:** A member proposed, another seconded and all unanimously agreed in the co-option of Ms Emma Thomas.

(ii) Signing Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Ms Emma Thomas signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, agreeing to observe the adopted Code of Conduct.

*Chair and members welcomed Cllr Emma Thomas to the Community Council.*

- 183 RESOLVED: Council agreed to re-open meeting to the press and public.**

- 184 Audit Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and 2024** – deferred from the last meeting as we await a response from Audit Wales since writing to them 8<sup>th</sup> January. Clerk will write again.

*Clerk declares an interest in the next item and plays no part in the ensuing discussion.*

- 185 SLCC Membership Renewal 2025/26**

**RESOLVED:** Council agreed to renew membership and sharing the cost with Gelligaer Community Council, if in agreement, at a cost of £240. ( £160 GCC/ £80 LLPCC)

- 186 Financial Assistance/Grants 2024/25** – there were no applications received.

- 187 Projects 2024/25**

(i) Project Summary – was received and noted

(ii) Gumblitzer - correspondence was received and noted. Members agreed to meet with the company for costings to continue cleaning the village.

(iii) Memorial bench

**RESOLVED:** Council agreed to the additional features to the memorial bench to the cost of £1,280 and a second bench (to be sited opposite the memorial bench) using donated cast iron bench sides as discussed.

Manufacturing and installation of bench powder coating black 2 meters long at the cost of £840 with an additional cost of £170 for galvanising. It was also agreed to re-search history, photos and QR codes.

(iv) Any new project proposals:

(a) Flag pole – quotes were received and noted.

**RESOLVED:** Council agreed not to progress.

(b) Easter Party – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 2-4pm

**RESOLVED:** to charge £2 per child, adults FREE.

Bilingual posters and tickets. Easter bonnet parade, craft competitions, disco & games. Small egg or chocolate to be gifted to each child and larger eggs for winning competitions. Member volunteers: Norma, Beci. Nicola, Emma, Mark. Others: Ceri & Ethan.

- 188 Training- Members are encouraged and supported to attend training**

(i) Training sessions were received and noted.

Cllr Nicola Hewer and Cllr Emma Thomas expressed an interest in The Councillor training on 20/3/25

(ii) Training Plan – was received and noted.

**189 Ty'n y Graig Footbridge Update – Transport for Wales (TfW)**

Correspondence from CCBC was received and noted confirming that CCBC are prepared to use their Compulsory Purchase Order powers on TfW's behalf. TfW are now considering that offer and costs involved etc and are expected to report back to CCBC with their intention on how they wish to proceed.

**190 Bluebell Woods Bluebell Woods Update - Llanbradach Area Regeneration Committee (LARC)**

It has previously been noted that LARC has received charitable status. A recent meeting with Woodland Savers had been very positive.

**RESOLVED:** Council agreed to the transfer the total sum of £18,973 back to the LARC account.

**191 Land at Wingfield Works Lane Llanbradach CF83 3RW – Enforcement Notice**

Members received and noted Enforcement Notice served.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides the Council as Local Planning Authority the powers to serve an Enforcement Notice where it is expedient to issue one, having regard to the provisions of the Development Plan and to any other material considerations.

The intention of the Enforcement Notice is to remedy the effects of the unauthorised development, not to punish the people carrying out the operation or use. The action taken is commensurate with the breach of planning control to which it relates.

The notice has been issued today 5.2.2025 and takes effect on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 unless an appeal is made against it before the notice comes into effect. Should the Notice be appealed to the Welsh Government (PEDW) enforcement action will be held in abeyance until the outcome of the appeal.

The notice as issued requires the removal of all tipped materials, the regrading of the land to the level and condition prior to the unauthorised work and the preparation of the area with grass seeds. The landowner has been given 3 months from the date the notice takes effect to undertake the works”.

Furthermore, members noted, that CCBC confirmed that “no re-planting of trees is required. We have consulted NRW Forestry and they confirmed that they could not establish that an offence under the Forestry Act had been committed and therefore it would not be possible for NRW to enforce tree planting, therefore it could not be used as a requirement on the Enforcement Notice.

Should the owner appeal the Notice to the Welsh Government, they must do so between now and the date the notice takes effect.

When appealing an enforcement notice, the appeal can be based on one or more of the following seven grounds, as outlined in Section 174(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Ground (a): Planning permission ought to be granted for the development.

Ground (b): The breach of planning control alleged in the enforcement notice has not occurred.

Ground (c): The alleged breach does not require planning permission.

Ground (d): It is too late for the authority to serve an enforcement notice.

Ground (e): Copies of the enforcement notice were not properly served on the relevant parties.

Ground (f): The steps required to comply with the notice are excessive.

Ground (g): The period for compliance with the notice is too short.

The timescale for the determination enforcement appeals with PEDW is lengthy, currently enforcement appeals are taking 12-18 months before determination”.

## 192 CCBC Budget Proposals 2025/26 - Consultation

Members received and noted documentation in relation to CCBC's Budget Proposals commented/objected on the following:

- CS4: We would like to see the Community Empowerment Fund continue as it has been a great initiative in supporting worthwhile projects in our communities. It does allow other sources to match fund some excellent projects in the community. The fund supports a wide range of initiatives and by involving local ward members and community groups the fund ensures that projects are tailored to meet the needs and aspirations of each community at grass root level.
- EE2: Cleaning Services - Increasing hourly rates by 44% could in effect mean schools cutting back on school cleaning services which might result in unhygienic conditions, affecting students' health and learning environments. Clean and well-maintained schools are essential for preventing the spread of illnesses and creating a conducive learning atmosphere. Poor hygiene can lead to increased absenteeism and lower academic performance.
- EE4: Bus Service - Reducing further our bus service will impact our most vulnerable residents such as those with mobility issues, the elderly and also impacting those that don't have access to a car either through choice or affordability. It will limit independence, spontaneity and could potentially increase social isolation in the elderly and disabled if they are unable to keep connected with family and friends. It is likely to affect the ability to earn a living by not being able to get to and from work. We would like to see public transport strengthened not weakened, making it a great and reliable service to encourage more people to use the service.
- EE26 & EE27: Pitch Fees - Increase in pitch fees for sports pitches will make it more difficult for community sports clubs to afford facilities, potentially reducing physical activity and community engagement. This could have a negative impact on public health and social cohesion, as sports and recreational activities are vital for physical and mental well-being. It contradicts CCBC stated policy of encouraging healthy living. We are concerned that players may not book pitches and play on them regardless which could mean they are not inspected or maintained properly, increasing the risk of accidents and injuries. Unauthorised uses could also mean more wear and tear.
- EE32: CCTV cameras are proven to help alleviate crime and disorder and are an excellent tool for surveillance and evidence gathering in supporting successful prosecutions. Removal of several CCTV cameras will make it harder to investigate crimes as there will be less visual evidence available.
- EE34: Community Safety Wardens - This service is very much valued by our residents and we know of cases where an intervention from the officers has provided help and reassurance to various individuals. The service helps to enhance community wellbeing and also reduce low-level nuisance behaviour which concerns many. We do not support the removal of Community Safety Wardens.
- EE35: Pest Control - Reducing funding for pest control could lead to an increase in rat populations, posing health risks such as the spread of diseases like leptospirosis and salmonella both of which are dangerous to humans and animals. Additionally, rats can cause significant damage to properties and infrastructure, leading to costly repairs and maintenance. We are very concerned that rat sightings and infestations will go unreported simply because residents cannot afford costs of £66 for rat treatments as we continue to feel the squeeze from the cost of living crisis.
- EE37: Eliminating an Enforcement Officer's post could lead to less enforcement of regulations, potentially resulting in increased violations and decreased community safety. Enforcement officers play a vital role in ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, and their absence could lead to a rise in illegal activities and unsafe practices.

EE50: Community Centres - We would like to see a cessation to the tapered reduction of 4 hours in the subsidy for caretaking cost. Community Centres are run by volunteers who already have significant financial challenges. Our community centres play a pivotal role in various aspects of community life. They are invaluable hubs of support, learning and connection and are extremely popular and well used. On that basis we would like to see more support from CCBC with the centres not less.

ELL3, ELL4, ELL5, ELL6:

We strongly object to the reduction in ALN and SLA support. What evidence do you have to suggest a fall in demand? Personal experiences from members of the public and the general perception, is that current levels of service is insufficient and inadequate as it stands, in meeting the needs of our children from nursery through to high school.

If your argument is that falling rolls in schools throughout the Caerphilly borough mean a fall in demand for ALN and SLA specialist services, why not consider at least maintaining the current level of specialist services so that the quality and level of service per pupil is improved.

ELL19: Reducing youth service funding removes valuable help and assistance to our young people. A quote from your Budget Impact Assessment states, 'The service is regarded as the authority's principal youth crime reduction organisation and any reduction in core capacity could diminish the impact of this work, placing a greater burden on the police and other crime reduction-related services'. Where is CCBC's commitment to partnership working."

**193 2<sup>nd</sup> Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2020 – 2035**

Follow link: <https://caerphilly.oc2.uk/document/16>

Members received, noted and commented on the following candidate sites:

"CB021 - Land west of Colliery Road, Llanbradach

Proposed use: Housing / tourism

Status: Settlement boundary review

RESOLVED: objection to the proposal for the use of housing/tourism on highway grounds and unsatisfactory infrastructure. Currently the road experiences a high volume of heavy traffic from a nearby skip company and it would not be able to cope with additional loads from a new development. The road is also in a terrible state of disrepair. Increased traffic on this road would also impact negatively on the environment and local residents in the village with noise pollution affecting quality of life and well-being.

We fully support the status on the following candidate sites as being unsuitable for further consideration.

CB011 - Land at Colliery Road, Llanbradach

Proposed use: Housing

Status: **Not suitable for further consideration**

CB029 - Land East of School Street

Proposed use: Housing

**Status: Not suitable for further consideration"**

**194 Library Review - Drop in Session Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 10am -12.00**

Members noted date of drop-in session and will be attending if they can.

**195 OVW Area Committee Survey**

Members received and noted survey and the Clerk was given delegated powers to complete it.

**196 Standards Committee - Vacancy for a Community Council Representative**

Members noted role/duties of a representative. Cllrs David Edwards and Colin Mann expressed an interest and will notify the clerk.

**197 Buckingham Palace Garden Party**

Correspondence from One Voice Wales was received and noted.

**RESOLVED:** Council nominated Cllr Norma Cabble (and guest) to attend a garden party in recognition of her exemplary charitable fund raising.

**198 Planning Applications**

Members commented on the following planning applications:

Case Ref 25/0064/HH

Construct single storey front and rear extensions 49 Pant Glas Llanbradach Caerphilly CF83 3PD GRID REFERENCE - 315330(E) 191483(N)

**RESOLVED:** No objection

25/0069/COU -Change of use from Class A1(shops) to Class C3 (dwelling houses) to create 2 No. 1 bedroom flats with parking spaces at 10 High Street Llanbradach.

**RESOLVED:** No objection on the proviso there is sufficient off street parking.

**199 Next meeting Date:** ORDINARY Meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 6.15pm at Llanbradach Community Centre.

**Meeting closed at 8.34pm**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**