

These are DRAFT Minutes and may be amended when presented to the next meeting of Council for approval

Cyngor Cymuned Blaenhonddan Blaenhonddan Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on Monday 11 November 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Cadoxton Community Centre, Neath and Online

Presiding Councillor H Harry
Present In Person - Councillors J Hale, J Betts, G Morgan, W Griffiths, L Rabaiotti Jones, G T Morgan, C Lewis
Online – Councillors L Bromham-Nichols, A Burton, S Mitchell
Apologies Councillors C Heath, W Evans, C Williams, R Lewis

5643 Armistice Day

The Chair referred to the fact that Council was meeting on Armistice Day. Accordingly, all present stood and observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect.

5644 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting.

5645 Matters Raised by Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

5646 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21 October 2024

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on 21 October 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

5647 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5648 Financial Matters – November 2024

RESOLVED that the Clerk's report on payments and transfer of funds in November be approved.

5649 Planning Applications – October 2024

RESOLVED no objection to the following application –

P2024/0621	Detached Outbuilding	The Builders Yard Farmers Road Bryncoch
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5650 Community Centre Management

1 RESOLVED that the Clerk's report on electrical inspections and repairs be noted.

2 RESOLVED that the Clerk investigate toilet specifications at all community centres.

5651 Police Matters

RESOLVED that the following information from Members be noted –

- Progress with regard to door-to-door scammers at work in Caewern and Bryncoch
- A recent health emergency at the Bryncoch Inn
- Anti-social behaviour in Cadoxton and the Rhyddings during Halloween dealt with by the Police
- Proposals by NPT CBC to monitor speed on Dwr y Felin Road and Llygad yr Haul Caewern

5652 Reports from Outside Bodies

There were no reports from Outside Bodies.

5653 Casual Vacancy Aberdulais Ward

The Clerk indicated that the deadline for Expressions of Interest to fill the present Casual Vacancy in the Aberdulais Ward was Friday 15 November 2024, and if none were received, that he would further advertise the vacancy. RESOLVED noted.

5654 Applications for Financial Assistance

The Clerk reminded Members of the Council's arrangements for considering applications for financial assistance under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. He summarised the budget agreed for the 2024/25 financial year and commitments made to date, and outlined the applications received.

(Councillors W Griffiths and J Hale declared an interest in Items 3 and 7 below and Councillor C Lewis declared an interest in Item 6)

RESOLVED that the following applications be supported in the sums indicated –

1	Ainon Baptist Chapel Bryncoch	£80.00
2	Neath Port Talbot Stroke Group	£80.00
3	Bryncoch Community Association	£80.00
4	Cilfrew Community Health and Wellbeing Group	£80.00
5	Pisgah Chapel Fellowship	£80.00
6	Green Footprints Neath	£80.00
7	Bryncoch Community Association	£80.00
8	3 No Senior Citizen Groups (each)	£150.00

5655 Cilffriw Primary School Governing Body

Members were reminded that a decision on a nomination to the Governing Body of Cilffriw Primary School when the term of office of the present nominee ends, had been deferred at the Annual Meeting of Council. As the term of office ends on 13 December 2024, a review of the nomination was now required. RESOLVED that the Council's present nominee, Mrs J Cook, be

nominated to continue in the role. Further RESOLVED that all Council nominees to School Governing Bodies be requested to provide feedback to Council on their participation in the role and, subject to complying with confidential and sensitive matters, on the issues and initiatives which prevail in the discussions.

5656 Insurance Claim, Church in Wales Land, Cadoxton

Members were advised that no response had been received to date to the referral made by Council to its insurers following damage caused during the recent storms. RESOLVED noted.

5657 Public and Press

RESOLVED that further to Subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the following four items, by virtue of the nature of the business to be transacted.

5658 Matters Arising from Exempt Items

There were no matters arising from exempt items on the Minutes.

5659 Health and Safety

There were no reports for submission to Council. RESOLVED noted.

5660 National Pay Award 2024-25

The Clerk reminded Members of the Council's decision to pay its staff in accordance with National Joint Council (NJC) Pay Scales, and to receive annual recommendations from the NJC in reviewing staff salaries (Minute 3566 of the Resources Committee, 03 December 2015, and Minute 3576 of Council, 14 December 2015, refer). He submitted a factual report on the recommendations for the pay award from 01 April 2024, and outlined the financial implications for Council if the recommendations were accepted, including the implications arising from decisions following the recent job evaluation exercise.

(The Clerk withdrew from the Chamber during the remainder of this Item to allow Members to discuss the details further)

RESOLVED that Council accept the recommendations on Pay Scales from the National Joint Council and implement the 2024-25 Pay Award accordingly. Further RESOLVED that Council proceed with the Job Evaluation Exercise in respect of all non-office-based staff as soon as practicable.

5661 Vacant Posts

The Clerk advised Members of the steps taken to advertise the two vacant office posts and confirmed that in conjunction with the Chair, he hoped to undertake shortlisting and interview at the earliest opportunity. He further confirmed that should there be no suitable candidates, he would, in conjunction with the Chair, modify job descriptions to facilitate a further advertisement to maximize the attractiveness of the posts. RESOLVED that the Clerk's report be noted and endorsed.

5662 Correspondence

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	Welsh Government	S 137 Expenditure Limit for 25/26
2	One Voice Wales	Consultation on Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Bill

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm

Signed

Dated 09 December 2024
