***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***CYNGOR TREF BRYNMAWR***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 21 May 2025 held at the Brynmawr Institute, Market Square at 6.25pm.***

***Present: - Councillor Mrs. O.M. Swales (Presiding). W.K. Hodgins***

 ***J.M. Gardner***

 ***E.M. Hillier***

 ***Mrs. D. Brown***

***G. Nutt***

***In Attendance: - Miss. N.J. Williams (Town Clerk/RFO).***

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***41/25 Apologies: - Mrs. A.C. Davies (Administrative Assistant),***

 ***B.M. Sutton, J.M. Sutton, R.J. Hill, G.D. Jones.***

***42/25*** The Chair welcomed members to the May Monthly Meeting.

***43/25 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

 The Chair reminded members to make declarations of interest at appropriate points on the agenda.

***44/25 Corrections – P.3 Item – 15/25 – Pedestrian Crossing along the A467.***

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mairs Surname is Edwards not Parry.

***Matters Arising from the Minutes.***

 ***Item 234/24 – Meeting with Officers of ABUHB.***

The Clerk reminded members that a meeting has been arranged with Ms. Nicola Prygodzicz, CEO and Mr. Lloyd Hambridge, Divisional Director, ABUHB on Tuesday, 08 July 2025 at 13.30pm in the Council Chamber, Brynmawr Institute, Market Square.

It was agreed to invite Councillor Ms. Sonia Behr and Councillor Peter Baldwin, BGCBC to the meeting.

***Item 258/24 – 80TH Anniversary VE Day Celebration.***

Members unanimously agreed that the Brynmawr Town Council VE Day Celebration was a great success.

***Item 257/24 – Land at Clarance Street, Brynmawr.***

A member asked whether any update had been received regarding the erection of a small commercial workshop/unit for B1 use.

A member said there have been no update yet regarding the workshop.

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***Item 13/25 – Hanging Baskets for Market Square, Brynmawr.***

Councillor Hodgins said that he already has suitable baskets/tubs and agreed to seek a quote from Ms. Sharon Smith, Garden Angels to fill the hanging baskets with flowers to hang around the 4 lampposts on the Market Square.

It was suggested that in the future perhaps the Brynmawr Allotment Association could be asked if they would be happy to supply the flowers for the hanging baskets/tubs etc.

It was also agreed that the Brynmawr Town Council will take ownership of the 3 flower tubs around the Market Square area and the Clerk to send out an email asking Councillors to help fetch the soil and plants etc. to fill the tubs when the Summer Fair departs.

***Item 16/25 – De-weeding around the Market Square area.***

A member said that he knows of a local Gardener Mr. Will Hennings who got the correct tools to get rid of weeds/roots etc. around the Market Square area at a rate of £15 per hour.

It was unanimously agreed that the rate was cheap compared to other Gardeners and Councillor Gardner agreed to ask Ms. Karen Willimas, Town Centre Manager would there be any money in the budget to pay Mr. Hennings to remove the weeds from the hotspot areas around the Market Square.

***Item 17/25 – Approval for 6 room HMO.***

Councillor Hodgins declared an interest.

A member informed members that there is a link on the Welsh Government Website to Ms. Rebecca Evans, MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

Consultation on HMO’s; the written statement expresses that HMOs provide an important source of accommodation for many people across Wales from all walks of life. This type of accommodation is lived in by families, young professionals, students and supports some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, such as those on low incomes. In recent years, high-quality HMOs are also being used to provide affordable accommodation.

In his opinion this gives a better understanding of what HMOs are intended for and informed members that they must be controlled.

It was agreed that letters be sent to both United Welsh and Tai Calon asking them to clean, paint and tidy up the outside of their properties in Beaufort Street, Brynmawr.

***Item 19/25 – Community Asset Transfer of the Bowling Green, Brynmawr Welfare.***

A member said that the Bowling Green has not been attended to in the past 14 weeks leaving it un-operational. The member has spoken to the Football Club who has informed him that they will utilise the Bowling Green to train the youth football team and residents/local clubs etc. will be able to use the Bowling Green through arrangements with them. The Bowling Green will not be turfed over for a while as the Football Club is currently working on the funding.

A member informed the meeting that last summer kids were hanging around the Pavilion where they were able to enter resident’s gardens behind the building.

A member said that fencing is on the Football Clubs wish list, and they intend to totally secure the back of the building.

The Football Club will be running the Tennis Courts possibly from April-September.

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A member said that a considerable amount of money is becoming available for play equipment in Wales.

It was agreed to invite Councillor Tommy Smith and copy in Mr. Steve Thomas, Leader, BGCBC to a site meeting to view the play equipment in all three parks in the Brynmawr area and to establish what is needed in each park.

A member asked is the Welfare Park, Brynmawr still under a covenant.

A member said that the park is still under a covenant, meaning it will always remain as a park and the trees are also protected in the area.

Members agreed to invite the Brynmawr Football Club to a meeting once the Community Asset Transfer is complete and agreed that they are happy for Brynmawr FC to take on the management of the “Bowling Green” to support training and community activities going forward.

***45/25*** ***The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 23 April 2025, having been***

***circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***Orders & Requisitions***

***46/25*** Melrose IT – Microsoft 365, Office Applications License and Anti-Virus.

Council moved payment of £101.23.

***47/25*** Melrose IT – Internet Charges & Calls.

Council moved payment £62.40.

 ***Financial Correspondence.***

***48/25*** Correspondence received from Mr. Lewis Banks asking Council to consider a donation towards taking his son Colton Banks who has been selected for the Welsh MMA Team to compete in Abu Dhabhi this July. It was agreed that a donation of £350.00 be rewarded to Mr. Banks towards the cost of flying his son Colton Banks to Abu Dhabhi. It was also agreed to invite Colton Banks to the Chamber for a presentation if he wins his competition.

***Correspondence.***

***49/25*** Correspondence received from Councillor Sharon Morgan asking Council to

discuss carparks, bay painting, Parking Ticket Contravention Code 24 and parking sign on car parks with two entrances.

It was agreed to leave this matter on the table due to Councillor Morgans absence.

***50/25*** Correspondence received from Councillor Sharon Morgan Council to consider requesting a monthly report from David Watkins showing members what services Brynmawr Town have received in the previous month. It was agreed that when Members become aware of a problem around town regarding services such as street cleansing, grass cutting etc. they will notify Mr. David Watkins, Community Services Manager enabling him to rectify the matter.

***-4-***

A member informed the meeting that she litter picks regularly and asked why her bags have not been collected. A member said if the rubbish is in black bags they assume that it is fly-tipping and will not collect them. The member said that green bags along with a litter picker can be ordered from BGCBC. A member said that a litter bin along with an extra dog fowl bin is needed at the entrance of the old Railway Track.

***Reports.***

***51/25*** Before the meeting started each member was given a copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting with Mr. David Watkins, Community Services Manager and Councillor Helen Cunningham, Deputy Leader, BGCBC held on Wednesday, 30 April 2025. Report accepted as a true record of proceedings.

***52/25*** Before the meeting started each member was given a copy of the minutes of

the Special Meeting with Ms. Karen Williams, Town Centre Manager and

Mr. Iain Nicholson, Founder of the Vacant Shops Academy held on Tuesday,

13 May 2025.

Report accepted as a true record of proceedings.

***Monthly Salary.***

***53/25*** Council moved payments of Clerks Salary, Administrative Assistant’s Salary, Tax,

NI, Pension.

Council moved payment of the Administrative Assistants (Mrs. A. C. Davies) Statutory Sick Pay for the

month of May 2025.

A.C. Davies Salary

A.C. Davies SSP

N.J. Williams Salary

Inland Revenue Tax & NI

Torfaen CBC Pension

***Petty Cash***

***54/25*** Council agreed to withdraw £100.00 cash for petty cash purposes via Visa Debit Card.

The Clerk explained that she drew £50.00 out of her own Bank Account on the VE Day Celebration as she could only draw £250.00 out of the Town Council’s Bank Account due to the daily limit. £300.00 was needed to pay for the Cabaret Singer and Military Vehicle.

Council agreed for the Clerk to draw £100.00 using the Town Council’s Visa Debit Card. It was agreed that the Clerk reimburse herself (£50.00) out of the £100.00 petty cash.

***Policies, Regulations, Documents and Terms of Reference to be reviewed, approved and adopted.***

***-5-***

***55/25*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the Terms of Reference of the

Brynmawr Town Councils Committees:

Allotment Committee Terms of Reference 2025/2026.

Brynmawr Town Council Finance Committee Terms of Reference 2025/2026.

Brynmawr Town Council Events Committee Terms of Reference 2025/2026.

Members reviewed, approved, and adopted each of the Committees Terms

of Reference for 2025/2026.

***Events***

***56/25*** A discussion took place regarding possible upcoming events the Town Council could arrange/organise/support.

* A live band on the square
* Teddys Bear Picnic on the Bowling Green at the Welfare Park with a Storyteller and refreshments.
* Auction.

It was agreed to ask Ms. Karen Williams, Town Centre Manager if there is any money left in the pot to support a small event after the Brynmawr Food Festival has taken place.

***THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS OF A CONFIDENTIAL OR PERSONAL NATURE AND IS THEREFORE EXCLUSIVE TO MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ONLY.***

 ***PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960.***

***57/25*** No Exempt correspondence discussed for the month of May 2025.

***There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.35 hours.***

***Signed ……………………………………………***

 ***Mrs. O.M. Swales – Town Mayor.***