***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***CYNGOR TREF BRYNMAWR***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 23 July 2025 in the Council Chamber, Brynmawr Institute at 6.00pm.***

***Present:- Councillors Mrs. O.M. Swales (Presiding).***

***E.M. Hillier***

***J.M. Gardner***

***B.M. Sutton***

***J.M. Sutton***

***Mrs. S. Morgan***

***R.J. Hill***

***W.K. Hodgins***

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

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***Apologies:- Mrs. Angela Davies (Administrative Assistant)***

***Councillor G. Nutt.***

***84/25*** The Chair welcomed all members to the July Monthly Meeting of the Town Council.

***85/25 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***86/25 Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2025.***

***87/25 Corrections – None.***

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

***Item 19/25 – Email from Mr. Bill Upham – Terence Garden, Brynmawr Welfare.***

The Clerk read out an email from Mr. Bill Upham, Growing Space.

Mr. Upham said that he was disappointed that the members of the Town Council have been mis-informed with regards to the café being closed to the public at the Garden. Mr. Upham said Growing Space are delivering activities five days a week at the Terence Garden. The café is used by the people who access the services, but Growing Space is a mental health service and deals with people from Blaenau Gwent with complex issues hence why the café is not available for the public.

Mr. Upham agreed to attend a meeting with the Brynmawr Town Council to discuss the future of the Terence Garden at Brynmawr Welfare. Dates to be approved.

Members agreed that the café should remain as a public facility what it was originally used for.

A member said on the occasional afternoon when he has been in the Welfare Park the Terence Garden has not been open so in his opinion the garden is not being put to

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good use.

Another member questioned who has given Growing Spaces permission to take over the garden and run it as a Mental Health service facility. The Town Council has not been notified of change of use for the area where a planning application should have been submitted. Over the years the Brynmawr Town Council have donated a lot of money to help towards the community project and in her opinion another facility has been taken from Brynmawr.

A member informed the meeting that no permission from the BGCBC has been given, Growing Spaces have slowly taken over the facility.

A member said she walked past the garden recently and in her opinion, it looked a bit unkept to how it used to look when the late Mr. Terry Hughes managed the facility.

A member said there has been a significant improvement lately.

A member informed the meeting that himself and Ms. Jayne Morris, Volunteers at the Terence Garden might have signed the control of the running of the garden to Growing Spaces when Mr. Terry Hughes sadly passed but thought they would have continued to run it as a public facility.

It was agreed that an email be sent to BGCBC to request a copy of the document for the conditions of the use of the Terence Garden, Brynmawr Welfare.

It was also agreed that a meeting be arranged with Mr. Bill Upham to discuss the future of the Terence Garden, Brynmawr Welfare.

***Item 50/25 – Swing at the Welfare Park, Brynmawr.***

A member informed the meeting that the swing has been replaced by a nest swing.

The member said the park remains un-swept and said the equipment is not suitable for various ages that it is supposed to be accommodating for.

***Item 71/25 – IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd - Internal Audit.***

All members thanked and congratulated Miss Nicola Willimas, Town Clerk/RFO for the completion of her first Internal Audit where no non-compliances were identified.

***Item 72/25 – Car parks, car park signs and bay painting in Brynmawr car parks.***

A member informed the meeting that there is now a sign on the carpark at the entrance on King Street, but still no bay markings.

A member said that if you receive a ticket while parked in a private company run carpark you should be able to argue the fine if there are no visual bay markings as long as you have not impeded another driver.

The Clerk informed members that a letter was sent to Ms. Katherine Rees regarding this matter but has received no reply.

It was agreed that another email is sent.

***Item 82/25 – Brynmawr Town Council – Christmas Disco.***

Councillor Joel Sutton informed the Clerk that the room at the Brynmawr Social Club have been booked for the Children’s Christmas Disco to take place on Thursday, 18 December 2025 at 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

A member said that the Family Fun Day at Brynmawr Welfare Park which took place on Tuesday, 22 July was a great success. The member said that the Terence Garden/café/toilet should be open to the public because that specific day there was work being carried out on the Pavillion which resulted in no access to a toilet/cup of

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tea, coffee, cans of pop etc. The member asked Mr. Matthew Morgan would he open the toilets at Terence Garden for the public to use which he was happy enough to do so.

It was agreed that an email be sent to Reverend Jeremy Bevan and all involved to congratulate them on organising a successful event.

***88/25 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 25 June 2025, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***Orders & Requisitions.***

***89/25*** Melrose IT Solutions – Call Charges for the month of July 2025.

Council moved payment of £62.40.

***90/25*** Melrose IT Solutions – Call Charges for the month of August 2025.

Council moved payment of £69.00 for the month of August due to Council being in recess and the payment needs to be paid.

***91/25*** Vision ICT – SSL Certificate - pro rata to April 2026.

Council moved payment of £45.00.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***92/25*** Prior to the meeting a quote was received from CSF (Central Security and Fire Limited) for a camera in the hallway of the Institute and Clerks Office.

The total cost for one installation of one camera, DVR recorder and CCTV monitor p plus parts and labour - £855.43 plus VAT. Cost for two cameras - £947.12 plus VAT.

The Clerk explained to members that the magnetic locking system on the door to enter the office area had come lose resulting in the door not locking properly.

A lengthy discussion ensued where members agreed it was a good idea to purchase a security system due to the Clerk being a Lone Worker in a public building and to protect the building when it is empty as the system will have a DVR recorder and CCTV monitor.

It was agreed to create a new Lone Worker Policy. It was also agreed to speak to the Secretary of the Snooker Club on the first floor of the building to ask whether he would like to contribute towards the security system as it would also protect the Snooker Club and possible reduce payments on insurance.

***93/25*** Smart Signz – Mayors Board.

The Clerk informed members that Councillor Gardner asked Mr. Todd Purnell, Smart Signz to visit the Council Chamber to provide quotes for painting all the Mayors names/years since it was last updated in 2019. Another option was to have the board striped back and repainted which would save the Council having to purchase a new Mayors Board for potentially another twenty years.

Councillor Gardner agreed to contact another company to also give a quote.

No quotes have been received yet.

***Correspondence.***

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***94/25*** A lengthy discussion took place regarding the following anti-social issues around Brynmawr.

* + Recent fire on retail park (Asda Site).
  + Use of slingshots aimed at motorists and the killing of swans.
  + Male exposing himself and following people.
  + Children climbing on the roof of Crawshay House.

A member asked how Gwent Police are dealing with these concerning anti-social issues in the Brynmawr Town.

A member suggested that the Police could visit schools and discuss the problems in a special assembly.

Another member said something needs to be done and informed members that he has been made aware of three children going around Brynmawr, but mostly Nantyglo with slingshots smashing windows, aiming them at people and animals.

A member informed the meeting that the new Neighbourhood Sergent has brought a team up from Bargoed and hopes some of the issues will be dealt with over the next few months.

When the BGCBC Members, members of the public etc ask for access to the CCTV they are told that it is very difficult because it is managed from Cwmbran.

A member asked what is going to happen to the area that was set on fire at the side of Asda?

A member said that funding needs to be accessed before the damage can be replaced. Previously it took around eighteen months to find funding to replace the decked area due to fire damage (arson).

A member said there needs to be a Police presence on the Black Path where it was recently reported that a male exposed himself and followed a lady.

A member said that she was walking past the Crawshay House site where she witnessed children climbing down from the roof and said it is dangerous someone could fall through, and no one would know where they are which could result in a fatality.

A member said Crawshay House should never have been sold, and Blaenau Gwent Council should try to get a Compulsory Purchase Order on the land and building.

A member said the Subway is in a terrible state, kids have graffitied the walls of the tunnel and vandalising it.

A member reminded members that they need to start reporting all the issues they witness as it helps the Police decipher what problems needs to be overseen, if people do not report the Police do not know it is happening.

Due to all the above problems being Police matters it was agreed to invite Mr. Mark Hobrough, Police Sergeant along with Ms. Jane Mudd, Police Commissioner to a meeting with the Brynmawr Town Council to discuss members concerns regarding anti-social behaviour etc.

***95/25*** Members were informed that the bench that was taken away at the top of Alma Street during roads works has been returned.

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***96/25*** A lengthy discussion took place regarding the clock on the Market Hall Cinema being altered to the correct time due to it being several minutes out.

A member said there is no access to the clock since the asbestos issue many years ago. To access the clock the Market Hall Cinema would have to be closed for a few days, a shell would have to be built around the area, and it would have to be tested again for asbestos which could cost anything up to ten thousand pounds if not more and until a time when there will be funding or Market Hall Cinema can afford to have it tested etc. no access will be granted.

A member asked who and how alters the clock when they go forward and back yearly.

A member said the clock automatically changes in Spring and Autum.

A member said perhaps Smith of Derby could remove the front of the clock from outside then no access would be necessary.

It was agreed that at present there do not seem to be a solution to alter the clock but hopefully in the future there will be a solution.

***97/25*** A Councillor informed the meeting that she has received numerous complaints regarding parking outside the St. Marys Church of Wales School in Intermediate Road, Brynmawr.

The member informed the meeting that the main problem is a tenant has had a skip in the lane behind the houses for two plus months which is causing problems for the rest of the residents.

Another issue is parents picking up their children and blocking the entrance to the lane which should be kept clear.

A member said the right of access would be a civil matter between the residents.

It was agreed that another letter be sent to the Head Mistress of the St. Marys Church School to ask if she would send out an email to parents asking them to keep the access clear for the residents that live there.

***Planning Correspondence***.

***98/25*** Planning Application – Homestead Café, 85 Bailey Street, Brynmawr.

Proposed Conversion of vacant apartment into two apartments with alterations to fenestration and externa cladding.

It was agreed that no objection be made to this planning application.

***99/25*** Planning Application – 21 Western Avenue, Brynmawr.

Proposed single storey extension.

It was agreed that no objection be made to this planning application.

***100/25*** Planning Application – 60 Lansbury Road, Brynmawr.

Proposed single storey extension. (REDACTED).

***Reports.***

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***101/25*** Prior to the meeting each member received a list of proposed

Council Meetings for the Brynmawr Town Council from September to July 2026.

Moved and accepted.

***102/25*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council held with Ms. Nicola Prygodzicz, CEO, Mr. Lloyd Hambridge, Divisional Director of Primary Care, Community

Services, and Complex and Long-Term Care and Dr. Liam Taylor, Deputy

Divisional Director, ABUHB

A member said that the electronic prescription system has not yet started.

A member said that the MAU Department is constantly full of people who cannot get appointments at the Wellbeing Centre or people do not bother to call the Wellbeing Centre and just go straight to MAU Department because they know they will be seen.

A member said that recently he has received a good and bad experience at the Wellbeing Centre and in his opinion, it is the same for most people.

Members agreed that it was a productive meeting and agreed to monitor if improvements are being made moving forward.

Report moved and accepted.

***Clerk’s Monthly Salary***.

***103/25*** 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 July 2025.

A.C. Davies Salary

A.C. Davies SSP

N.J. Williams Salary

Inland Revenue Tax & NI

Torfaen CBC Pension

***104/25*** 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 August 2025 due to Council being in recess and no Full Council Meeting being held.

A.C. Davies Salary

A.C. Davies SSP

N.J. Williams Salary

Inland Revenue Tax & NI

Torfaen CBC Pension

***Events & Tasks***

***105/25*** A discussion ensued regarding the Welfare Park, Brynmawr.

Members were informed that there will be £200,000.00 coming available to spend on parks in Blaenau Gwent consisting of one hundred thousand from the Welsh

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Government match funded by BGCBC. The role out of the money is still to be

decided.

A member said we have already paid for services that the Government are now asking volunteers to do.

A member said that if the play equipment needs painting at any park the paint will be provided and volunteers will be asked to come forward, freeing up Officers so that they can concentrate on other jobs.

A member said that parts of the park was covered in glass.

A member said that people need to report issues such as glass etc. otherwise no one is going to know that there is glass everywhere. Once reported it will be dealt with.

***80th Anniversary of VJ Day.***

***106/25*** It was agreed and moved that if any wreaths, flowers etc. had to be purchased to

mark the occasion the Clerk shall pay for them either by BAC’S or using the Town Council’s Debit Card.

**EXEMPT INFORMATION – BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 1 – SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

***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.***

***There being no other business, the meeting close at 20.30 hours.***

***Signed ……………………………………………***

***Mrs. Olwen Swales - Town Mayor.***