



MINUTES OF MEETING

BEDLINOG & TRELEWIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF BTCC Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 15 October 2024** at **6:15 PM**. The meeting was held in the **Bedlinog Community Centre**

Present: Cllrs Searl (Chair), Preston, Brown, and Dawson.

In Attendance: Ryan James (Clerk), two members of the public.

Minute Taker: Ryan James

42 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jago, Thomas, Matthews, Frayne, and Beard.

43 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

There were none.

44 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Representatives from Bedlinog Playgroup were in attendance.

A discussion was held regarding concerns about reduced hours of Bedlinog Playgroup and the potential that parents of existing children that attend will move the children to another playgroup. Concerns were raised about the potential loss of this facility from the village.

45 MEETING WITH THE POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

The Police were not in attendance due to their annual leave.

The Clerk has made a report today regarding the MUGA at the rear of Hylton Terrace – more broken glass and mesh wire tied to the basketball hoop due to ongoing ASB in the area.

ACTION: The MUGA is a ASB hotspot that has been reported a number of times to the Police. Contact to be made with the Community Safety Team at MTCBC also.

ACTION: A request will be made to meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

46 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM TANYA EDWARDS, SOUTHERN BOROUGH REGENERATION OFFICER

Tanya Edwards did not attend the meeting.

47 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12 SEPTEMBER 2024, AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD 25 SEPTEMBER 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held 12 September 2024, be approved and the Minutes of the Events Committee held 25 September 2024 be approved.

48 TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS ARISING

Item 16 – Engineering team still working on costs for the path repair from the Community Centre to the Rec, as NRW need some involvement also.

Item 33 – The water fountain at the lakes was reported for repair.

Item 33 – The dog waste bag dispenser suggestions were: Bontnewydd Terrace to the cycle path; Taff Road; outside Bedlinog Primary School; Trelewis Welfare Football Ground; Heol Isaf Stormtown to Trelewis Primary School gates; Stormtown steps; Garth Terrace (there is a dog waste bin there); Entrance to Nant Llwynog Park; Maes Y Bedw.

Responses were also submitted for the entrance to Manor View, Trelewis and Garth Terrace, Bedlinog. There are dog waste bins in these locations, and it was felt a bag dispenser being placed directly next to the bins is not an appropriate location. At Manor View we will investigate another location within the estate where dog walkers regularly pass.

ACTION: The Clerk will look at appropriate locations in these areas and liaise with Neighbourhood Services.

Item 36 – The Annual Report FY23/24 has been published.

Item 38 – The trees growing out of the wall opposite Bedlinog Newsagents were reported and cut back.

In relation to the Nant Llwynog update, Cllr Dawson advised that he has been invited to attend an international conference in Turkey.

Item 40 – Bedlinog Allotments have nobody on the waiting list currently (as some plots recently became available) that may be interested in the beds at Manor View. These will continue to be advertised.

49 TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P/24/0216 Erection of agricultural building for the storage of farm machinery, equipment, hay/feed storage (Prior Notification) at Tyla-Glas Farm Craig Y Hendre, Bedlinog.

A discussion was held and the only comment is whether the building can be seen from the road as it is noted in the application that the site is not currently visible.

RESOLVED that there are no objections to the application.

50 TO APPROVE THE £75 DONATION TO THE TRELEWIS HIGH STREET COMMUNITY GROUP FOR COST OF BARK

RESOLVED that the £75 donation be approved. It was noted that the money is for compost not bark.

51 TO NOTE THE S137 GRAND AWARD TO BEDLINOG PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESOLVED that the £500 S137 Grant Award to Bedlinog Primary School be noted.

52 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD 11-09-2024 TO 08-10-2024

RESOLVED that Payments and Receipts for the period 11-09-2024 to 08-10-2024 be approved.

53 TO RECEIVE ANY COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR CASES

Cllr Dawson sent a paper prior to the meeting in relation to heritage trails and the suggestion to organise a community walk. Cllr Dawson will liaise with the Tourism team at MTCBC and we can jointly arrange a date/refreshments/meeting points etc.

Cllr Brown raised the purchase of warm packs for the community. The Clerk advised that there is already budget set aside for this. Cllr Brown and the Clerk will investigate the packs further.

Cllr Preston advised of a Bedlinog couple, Gary and Michelle Jones, have been shortlisted in the Outstanding Service category, in this year's Wales Care Awards.

Cllr Brown suggested that the Community Council holds its own community awards to recognise achievements in the community – this will be discussed at an Events Committee in the new year after the Christmas events have been organised.

54 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Gill Preston provided an update report regarding the last two MTCBC Council meetings involving a change of leadership at MTCBC and new Cabinet Members appointed. Also an overview of policies agreed at the meetings.

County Councillor Preston also provided an update of the casework completed since being elected.

Report is attached as appendix.

County Cllr Preston advised that at Planning Committee she objected to the four houses being built adjacent to Bedlinog Community Primary School, due to concerns from residents around safety and parking issues at school drop-off times.

55 TO RECEIVE ANY CORRESPONDENCE

Cllrs Preston and Searl will be attending the One Voice Wales National Conference along with the Clerk on 16/10/2024. The Council has been given a stall in the networking area to showcase the community hub work and events organised. One Voice Wales deem the Community Council to be a 'beacon of success' with everything that the Council does on such a low precept in comparison to other Community Councils in Wales/

The reporting of the 'Tell Emma' consultations the Community Council held have been made to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

56 TO NOTE THE DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the date of the next meeting, Tuesday 12th November be noted.

Meeting concluded at 7:45 PM

All open tasks

Task	Assigned to	Due
A request will be made to meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner.		
The Clerk will look at appropriate locations in these areas and liaise with Neighbourhood Services.		
The MUGA is a ASB hotspot that has been reported a number of times to the Police. Contact to be made with the Community Safety Team at MTCBC also.		

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Report Update – County Cllr Gillian Preston

A Council meeting was held 18th September – Councillor Brent Carter was appointed Leader of the Council.

The new cabinet are - Councillor Brent Carter – Leader

Councillor David Jones – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services

Councillor Gareth Lewis – Cabinet Member for Education

Councillor Louise Minett-Vokes – Cabinet Member for Social Services

Councillor Jamie Scriven – Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing and Public Protection

Councillor Anna Williams-Price - Cabinet Member for Governance and Resources

A Council meeting was held 2nd October.

A presentation was received that was funded by Macmillan and delivered by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust called ‘Together Improving the Cancer Journey.

A Children’s Residential Policy was approved.

The Post 16 Transport policy from September 2025 was approved – option 2 was chosen, to streamline the service to provide free post 16 transport only to The College, Merthyr Tydfil, Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun for pupils choosing Welsh Medium education Post 16, and St John Baptist Church in Wales High School for pupils attending the school for statutory education.

This achieves approximately 42k savings.

Reports I have been dealing with recently for residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis:

1. An abandoned vehicle behind the shop in Trelewis
 2. The overgrowth on the steps from Cherry Tree Way
 3. Damaged zebra crossing light in Bedlinog which has been replaced, and a dangerous wall near Grove terrace
 4. Litter bin taken from Captain Hill, Trelewis
 5. The overgrowth on the green path in Commercial Street
 6. Bedlinog and Trelewis Cenotaph’s for weeding and cleaning
 7. Cutting back the overgrowth on Taff Road and for the street cleansing team to take the sweeper along the road
 8. Slabs to be repaired on Trelewis High Street
 9. The damage caused on Gelligaer Road near Manor View
 10. The post that has been hit by the food hut in Taf Bargoed Park
 11. Dangerous curb in Commercial Street
 12. Obstructive parking in the bus stop near Mackintosh Terrace, Trelewis
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Events attended:

1. A talk from Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board at Bethal Chapel
2. An advice surgery with Cllr Gareth Richards for the Taf Bargoed area
3. A Macmillan Coffee Morning at Trelewis Community Centre
4. Helped organise a Macmillan coffee morning at the Community Warm Hub which raised £88
5. The Treharris Annual Showcase Concert with Gerald Jones MP, and Dawn Bowden MS
6. The litter pick at Parc Taf Bargoed
7. I also met with Merthyr Valleys Homes staff at Trelewis Community Centre

A very busy first few weeks!

Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trails

Revision and updating of walk leaflets and maps

Background

The series of ten walks were produced over twenty years ago and urgently need updating and reprinting. Copies are still available and are being given out freely to visitors to the park.

Walk Report

Walk No 2 Crawshay's Trail. It was undertaken on Wednesday 18th September 2024 by Simon Williams and Edward Dawson. The distance is listed as 3 miles and 1 hr. The walk took us 2.30 hours in total.

Point 1

Entrance to the Castle is definitely a good and distinctive place to start. We started at here and went into the reception area to ask about maps. They are given out to walkers and family groups.

Point 2

The Entrance to the woodland is clear. This ideally needs an information board; trees are not named. We saw Welsh Oak, Chestnut, Hazel, Silver Birch and Beech *et al* and these could be identified. An information board covering the trees would be worth adding.

Point 3

Markers T19 indicating something perhaps. Way markers spotted. Significant incline not mentioned.

Points 4 – 6

Yellow labels on trees (Forestry Commission probably) numbered. First seating noted. Information board by Fitzpatrick Woolmer and these was replicated many times around the site.

Points 7 – 8

The pink tarmac is in good condition with no obstructions. Information boards in poor condition needed cleaning and some repair. Memorial benches noted some in useable condition. CCTV camera spotted, and unsure if in use. More way markers some dirty and defaced. Very fine specimen trees noted and perhaps deserve to be identified and better explained as to their history and value in the landscape.

Points 9 – 11

Ice House should be added to map. Café well used. Road wider and much used. Not clear which was Gwaelodygarth House, and surrounded by other houses. Path run out on to road with traffic and has a stretch with no footways. Better to stay inside the park and follow a grassy unmarked path downhill.

Points 12 - 14

Grass trim and neat, passing the main entrance to the castle grounds. We stayed on the inside rather than using the road. This makes for a calmer and less hurried walk. No other issues noted here.

Points 15 - 16

Walk around the lake is very popular and has many seats. Waterfowl observed but no listing of their identification. Pair of Cormorants spotted, which is quite an unusual bird species inland, may breed.

Observations

It was a very pleasant sunny day. Very few people were seen walking. None were using the leaflet and we wondered if anyone ever does use it. People seem to use the paths more informally and casually. The condition of pathways is generally good, with no obstructions. Map needs minor improvements.

I was invited to attend the Local Access Forum meeting held at the Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil on Tuesday 17/09/2024. I was asked to give a broad overview of access and management issues at Nant Llwynog and other adjoining areas, and to consider personally becoming a member of the official forum. LAF are statutory bodies and are convened by local Councils. Their purpose is to advise authorities on making improvements to public access for outdoor recreation and sustainable travel.

LAFs can set their own priorities depending on local issues. They also respond to consultations and draft policy documents. When making recommendations, LAF members need to consider all forms of land use, as well as the need to conserve flora, fauna, geological and physical features.

Presentation

I was able to give an informal presentation of work at Nant Llwynog and its role in the landscape. I covered issues to do with access and the welcoming nature of the site. It had met all the main Green Flag criteria and had won the Award for the sixth consecutive year. The talk was very well received. The next LAF meeting will include a site visit to the park, followed by an indoor session as normal.

Improved access issues

There was some discussion on safety problems on the common, with off-road bikes of all kinds causing damage and ruining the peacefulness of the area. Police find it difficult to respond quickly and to pick up some of the unauthorised vehicles and bikes; some were taken away and crushed. The problems start as early as 6 am, with people making 101 calls, and should also be reported on *Fix My Street*.

There were no new cross-boundary Rights of Way issues in the Borough to report from Rob Thomson. This would however be on the agenda for a full report at the next meeting in November 2024.

NRW Update and Reports

Daniel Lewis gave an update on Natural Resources Wales explaining that it had grown as an agency over recent years. Now rising costs meant a slimming down process was coming. 270 posts may be axed though some will be protected, possibly including work on Access & Recreation, National Parks and ROW funding for councils. There were a number of active consultations going on at present.

The summer edition of the NRW newsletter *Countryside* was now out and copies would be sent to members. The Countryside Code was being promoted again as the problem of dogs running loose was being widely reported, and causing distress to farm animals. The statutory role of NRW was foremost.

Reorganisation at Parks Dept

A successor to Rob Barnett had been appointed as Head of Parks: Mark Pamier. A small group of young workers under a charge hand is working to clear overgrown paths around the town. The suggestion of utilising those 'on probation' is being investigated, as has been the case in the past. Funding from the UK SPF was being used by the Council in a number of practical projects addressing local concerns.

Ramblers clearing pathways

The Merthyr Valley Ramblers path clear group had been clearing footpaths on the Aberdare Mountain. One project has been to re-open the path between Blaencanaid and the Heolgerrig quarry, a path that lay unused for around 15 years. With the help of NRW and MTCBC, they have now opened the path and wish to invite all members of the LAF to an on-site opening ceremony on 25 September.

Heritage Walks meeting

Members were reminded of the MTCBC Heritage Walks meeting at the Bothy in Cyfarthfa Park the next day. This followed on from the Trails Development Group which ceased due to Covid. The aim now is to revitalise and update the original set of 10 walk maps around the borough. A priority list would be agreed so that they could be checked for new information and suitability.

Edward Dawson