

Date: 22/06/2026

Time: 6:15 PM - 7:45 PM

Location: Bedlinog Community Council/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Group: Bedlinog & Trelewis Community Council

Present: Cllrs Searl (Chair), Preston, Dawson, and Thomas. In Attendance: Ryan James (Clerk), Ryan Morgan (Director of Education, MTCBC)

#	Topic	Files	Presenter	Minutes
203	To Receive any Apologies for Absence For Decision	Files (0)		Apologies were received from Cllrs Jago, Beard, Brown, Frayne, and Matthews.
204	To Receive Declarations of Personal/Prejudicial Interest For Information	Files (0)		There were none.
205	To Receive Representations/Questions from the Public For Information	Files (0)		There were none.
206	To Receive an Update from the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Director of Education, on the Education Strategy For Information	Files (0)		Ryan Morgan, the Director of Education at MTCBC, presented an overview of the current education strategy for Merthyr Tydfil and the work to develop a new strategy. The existing five-year RARS strategy had been launched in 2020-2021 in response to variable school standards, socioeconomic challenges, poverty, health issues and the impact of COVID-19. Its aims by 2026 included high aspirations, engaging and relevant learning, strong wellbeing, successful progression into employment or training, and independent and resilient learners. Ryan outlined the two overarching themes of the current strategy, which were partnership and collaboration across schools and communities, and pandemic recovery focused on lost learning, closing gaps and strengthening transitions into post-16 education and employment. There were five key goals covering governance, workforce development, learner health and wellbeing, achievement and progression, and learning environments, underpinned by cross-cutting priorities such as equity and deprivation, wellbeing, digital inclusion, Welsh language and partnership working. Ryan described the consultation timeline for the new strategy. In May, online consultations were held with elected members, parents and carers, headteachers, school staff, pupils and the public. In June, there was a focus on pupil feedback, feedback from education staff and scrutiny workshops, including this community council session. July was to be used to summarise responses and set new goals, with schools advising on implementation. Over August, a draft strategy would be developed, to go to cabinet, scrutiny and other stakeholders before final cabinet approval in October and a planned launch on 20th November 2026. Ryan reported key consultation findings. Stakeholders recognised strong staff commitment in schools and improved collaboration across clusters and phases. They noted a clearer focus on wellbeing and raising aspirations, more work on children's and young people's mental health, ongoing development of teaching practice, more wider learning experiences, and a willingness to work in partnership. Areas for development included maintaining a strong focus on teaching and learning quality, strengthening inclusion and early intervention for additional learning needs, improving attendance and engagement, widening equitable access to apprenticeships, training and local employment, enhancing digital skills provision and continuing investment in school buildings and environments. Many parents, residents and some newer staff had not previously been aware of the strategy, highlighting the need for better communication. Ryan shared the emerging vision for the new strategy: "every learner thriving, every school strong, every community engaged". They invited councillors to email further views so the strategy would reflect community needs and remain responsive, with an annual review so it did not become a static, out-of-date document. Community Councillors raised questions about language and content of the strategy, practical issues for schools and future priorities, inspection regime for home schooling, and impact of national policy and Welsh language.
207	To Note any Reports from the Police Representative For Information	Files (0)		The clerk advised that no report had been received from the Police. A discussion took place regarding ongoing concerns about local drug use, antisocial behaviour, and scrambler motorbikes. Councillors noted that residents often felt nothing happened when issues were reported, leading to disengagement from PACT meetings. ACTION: Councillors requested the Clerk invite the Sergeant to a future meeting.
208	To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held 11 May 2026 For Decision	Files (1)		DECISION: Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held 11 May 2026 be approved.

209	To Receive any Matters Arising from the Minutes For Information	Files (0)		The Clerk updated on the following items: 193 – The Internal Auditor had been appointed and the internal audit completed. 198 – Grant applications for Taff Bargoed Angling Association and Bedlinog Football Club had been paid. 200 – Costs for public noticeboards had been identified and would be added to the next agenda for approval. The Clerk asked Cllrs to start thinking about potential locations in Bedlinog and Trelewis. The Clerk also advised that he would be meeting with the Regeneration Team and Highways to discuss the potential toddler bike park.
210	To Approve Payments and Receipts dated 07-05-2026 to 16-06-2026 For Decision	Files (1)		DECISION: Resolved that the payments and receipts dated 07-05-2026 to 16-06-2026 be approved.
211	To Note the Internal Auditors Report and Discuss any Recommendations within the Report For Decision	Files (0)		DECISION: Resolved that the Internal Auditors Report be noted along with the recommendations within the report. The recommendation to have a 'search' facility on the website was rejected due to additional cost to have this setup, and with it being outside of the scope of the internal audit.
212	To Approve the Annual Governance Statement for FY2025-2026 For Decision	Files (0)		DECISION: Resolved that the Annual Governance Statement for FY2025-2026 be approved.
213	To Consider any Planning Applications For Decision	Files (0)		There were none.
214	To Receive any Updates from Councillors For Information	Files (0)		Cllr Gill Preston reported that local map boards produced by a teacher at Afon Taf school had become "a bit dilapidated". Cllr Preston has contacted the teacher, who remained in post and was exploring updating or replacing the maps, and the Council welcomed this. Cllr Dawson described plans for a Local Access Forum meeting to be held at Nant Llwynog Park on 8th July, involving an outdoor tour followed by tea and cake, and a formal meeting. There was extensive discussion about grass cutting and maintenance. Cllr Preston said long grass in the park meant older children could not play football properly, as the ball could not be seen. She reported that grass had finally been cut that day, and some of the park edges, but that "they still can't play football there" because only strips and edges had been mown. Cllr Dawson expressed concern that campaigns such as "No Mow May" and "Bloom for June" might be used to justify infrequent cutting, to the detriment of children and park users.
215	To Note the Date of Next Meeting For Information	Files (0)		The next meeting will be held Monday 13th July.