

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

**Cyngor Cymuned Blaenhonddan
Blaenhonddan Community Council**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on Monday 16 March 2026 at 6.30 pm in the Cadoxton Community Centre, Neath and Online

Presiding Councillor H Harry
Present In Person - Councillors G T Morgan, W Griffiths, J Hutchings, G Morgan, C Lewis, J Betts, J Griffiths, A Burton, C Parry
Apologies Councillors R Lewis, J Hale, C Heath, A M Broom, C Williams

5992 Chair's Statement

The Chair read a statement reminding Members of their obligations under the Code of Conduct and the Council's Standing Orders.

5993 Declarations of Interest

Councillor C Lewis declared an interest in an item of correspondence relating to Birch Lane Cilfrew.

5994 Matters Raised by Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

5995 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 16 February 2026

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on 16 February 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

5996 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5997 Financial Matters – March 2026

RESOLVED that the Clerk's report on payments and transfer of funds in March 2026 be approved.

5998 Planning Applications – March 2026

RESOLVED no objection to the following application –

P2026/0081	Cricket Infrastructure	Bryncoch RFC/Dyffryn Cricket Cub Bryncoch
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RESOLVED that an objection be made to the following application for the reasons indicated-

P2026/0084	Retention of use as Traveller Site accommodation with ancillary facilities	Price's Yard, Main Road, Aberdulais
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Council noted that this development proceeded without planning consent, and is aware of significant local concerns with regard to the amenity of local residents, arrangements for sewerage and waste disposal and the potential for flooding, and, given the nature of the development, Council considers that it should be accommodated on a local authority designated site, and that its approval may well set a precedent for further such unplanned proposals at sporadic locations elsewhere in Neath Port Talbot.

5999 Community Centre Management

The Clerk advised Members that the Council's utilities contract would fall due for renewal in 2026 and that the Council's broker had sought prices for provision of gas and electricity once the existing contract came to end. The comparative prices indicated that those offered by British Gas Lite for three years were the most competitive. RESOLVED that Council enter into a contract with British Gas Lite for the provision of gas and electricity.

6000 Police Matters

There were no substantive matters to report although Members were made aware that off road bikes in Dyffryn Woods had been reported to the Police. RESOLVED noted.

6001 Reports from Outside Bodies

RESOLVED that the following be noted -

- There were no reports from the NPT CBC Liaison Forum.
- There were no reports from One Voice Wales
- Councillor A Burton advised Council of discussions undertaken in the Governing Bodies of Bryncoch CIW School and Blaenhonddan Primary School. There were no other Governing Body reports.

6002 Casual Vacancy, Cadoxton Ward

The Clerk advised Members that one expression of interest had been received in respect of the Casual Vacancy in the Cadoxton Ward and outlined the content therein. RESOLVED that Nia Brown be co-opted to serve as a Councillor serving the Cadoxton Ward.

6003 Waunceirch District Park Rent Review

Members were advising that under the terms of its lease from NPT CBC, a rent review was due as from 08 June 2025. He outlined the increase in rent proposed by NPT CBC and indicated that a grant to offset the cost could be applied for. RESOLVED that the revised rent be agreed and that the Clerk submit the necessary request for grant to offset the costs.

6004 Capital Programme Schemes

Further to Minute 5984 of Council on 16 February 2026, the Clerk outlined progress to date on specific schemes. RESOLVED that –

- Following further quotations from drainage companies in respect of Cadoxton Park and Cilfrew Community Centre, Council appoint MetroRod/Swansea Drains Ltd to undertake the investigations required at the cost made known to Council
- Options for a ramp up to Waunceirch Playing Fields be further investigated with contractors as a “design and build” approach
- The revised price for kitchen units for Cilfrew Community Centre from Howdens be accepted and the Clerk seek quotations for installation as soon as practicable

6005 Potential Allotment Development Sites

The Clerk provided a presentation of the two sites that had been suggested as potential allotment development sites. RESOLVED that the site at Roman Way be discounted but that further investigation be explored regarding the Ynysllynlladd site, and that the possibility of a new site near Aberdulais Community Centre be also investigated.

6006 One Voice Wales

The Clerk summarised the pre-election manifesto of One Voice Wales prepared in advance of the Senedd election and also outlined the Membership Proposal submitted for the Council. RESOLVED that the Manifesto be circulated to Members and that Council renew its Membership.

6007 Draft Dignity at Work – Bullying and Harassment Policy

RESOLVED that the Council adopt the Draft Dignity at Work – Bullying and Harassment Policy as circulated.

6008 Draft Member/Officer Protocol

RESOLVED that the Council adopt the Draft Member/Officer Protocol as circulated.

6009 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.

6010 Matters Arising from Exempt Items

Further to Minute 5990 regarding Playground Equipment Repair Quotations, Members were made aware of the outstanding costs that Council would need to meet. RESOLVED that the costs be noted and that the Clerk be authorised to proceed and agree reasonable variations should this be necessary.

6011 Health and Safety

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

6012 Grounds Maintenance 2026-27

The Clerk advised that the Council's three contractors had submitted their prices for the three Grounds Maintenance Contracts in 2026/27 and advised Members of the respective costs. RESOLVED that the quotations received from the following be accepted –

- South Wales Environmental Ltd
- NPT CBC Streetscene
- Ecosolve/Wayne Duggan

6013 Insurance

Members were advised that the Council's insurance policy would expire on 01 May 2026. The Clerk outlined the renewal costs submitted by the Council's existing insurers and summarised discussions with two other companies who could offer Council the necessary cover. RESOLVED that Council renew its policy with its existing insurer at the cost stated for a 3-year Long Term Agreement as this was the most competitive option available and there had been no issue with previous service.

6014 Correspondence

(Councillor C Lewis declared an interest in Item 1 of the Correspondence)

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be actioned as indicated –

1	Mr AD Cilfrew	Letter re Birch Lane Cilfrew
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Council investigate its legal obligations in respect of the parcel of land that it owns.

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

2	Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales	Annual Remuneration Report 2026-27
3	NPTCBC Planning	Planning Appeal, 23 Main Road Bryncoch

The meeting ended at 8.39 pm

Signed

Dated 20 April 2026