

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

Cyngor Cymuned Blaenhonddan Blaenhonddan Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on Monday 15 June 2026 at 6.30 pm in the Cadoxton Community Centre, Neath and Online

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

6073 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting.

6074 Matters Raised by Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

6075 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 18 May 2026

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 18 May 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

6076 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 18 May 2026

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on 18 May 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

6077 Matters Arising

1. Further to Minute 6045 relating to membership of Committees, RESOLVED noted that Councillor R Lewis had accepted nominations to the Resources and Staffing Committees.
2. Further to Minute 6065 regarding Water Management arrangements, the Clerk submitted information and prices received from MSS Water. RESOLVED that the Clerk investigate further the possibility of undertaking work in house and report back on potential arrangements and contracts in due course

6078 Financial Transactions – June 2026

RESOLVED that the Clerk's report on payments and transfer of funds be approved, subject to the following corrections –

- Voucher DD10260 – Caewern CC not Cilfrew CC
- Voucher DD10261 - £117.23 not £1017.23

6079 Planning Applications – June 2026

RESOLVED no objection to the following application, subject to the views of the NPT CBC Arboricultural Officer –

P2026/0293	Work to TPO Tree	8 Bittern Court Bryncoch
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RESOLVED no objection to the following application –

P2026/0373	Details Condition 12 – Interpretation Material	Caewern House Dwr y Felin Road Caewern
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6080 Community Centre Management

1. The Clerk reported a request to consume alcohol at a birthday and anniversary celebration in Bryncoch Community Centre and submitted details of the proposed booking. RESOLVED that the request be acceded to.
2. The Clerk reported that a request to hire a community centre car park had been received and indicated that such a request was not covered in the Council's hire policy. RESOLVED that the Council's policy be amended to preclude standalone hire of car parks, but to allow such use and make the adjacent community centre available, subject to levying a hire charge at the community rate.

6081 Police Matters

RESOLVED that the following reports from Members be noted –

- Youths misbehaving at Caewern House, with Police response involved.
- Youths gathering at the rear of Caewern Community Centre
- A recent incident involving a dog and its owner in Bryncoch

Further RESOLVED that the Clerk's Report on the following be noted and actioned accordingly -

- Vandalism to safety surfacing at the Bryncoch Playground, to be publicised and reported to the Police, with action to effect immediate repairs authorised
- Neighbourhood Police Sergeant J Davies is scheduled to attend the September meeting of Council.

6082 Reports from Outside Bodies

There were no reports from the NPT CBC Liaison Forum, One Voice Wales or School Governing Bodies, other than notification of Governing Body meeting dates.

6083 Audit of 2024-25 Accounts

The Clerk reported that, after a lengthy and protracted external full audit process, the report of Audit Wales on the 2024-25 Accounts had been received. He

reported that a Qualified Opinion had been issued and provided details of the Basis of Qualification indicated by the Auditor. He confirmed that some of the reasons were understood and agreed, whilst others were debatable and non-specific, but acknowledged that staff turnover had caused issues in 2024-25 that had now been addressed. RESOLVED that the Auditor's Report be noted and that, if appropriate, the Clerk query the debatable reasons with the auditor.

6084 Casual Vacancy, Bryncoch South Ward

Members were advised that the Chair had received, through the Clerk, the resignation of Councillor C Heath as a Member of Council representing the Bryncoch South Ward, citing personal and business reasons for the decision. The Clerk indicated that, as a consequence, the following would need to be addressed –

- The Casual Vacancy – RESOLVED that it be advertised immediately
- Nomination to the Governing Body of Cilffriw Primary School – RESOLVED that the Clerk advise the school, and that an item be placed on the July agenda of Council allowing Members to consider whether they wished to put their names forward
- Membership of the Council's Staffing Committee – RESOLVED that Councillor J Griffiths be nominated to fulfil the role.

6085 Capital Programme Schemes

The Clerk submitted progress reports on capital programme schemes as follows –

- RESOLVED noted that NPT CBC had agreed to address drainage issues outside Cadoxton Park, and that any issues within the Park would be monitored
- RESOLVED noted that proposed drainage work at Cilfrew Community Centre and additional investigations would take place during the week beginning 06 July 2026
- RESOLVED noted that a meeting regarding the proposed footpath ramp up to Waunceirch Playing Fields had been arranged.
- RESOLVED noted that the kitchen and flooring work at Cilfrew Community Centre had been completed, that a caretaker's cupboard be constructed by the kitchen contractor at a cost reported to Members, and that the Clerk review cleaning regimes at all community centre kitchens and toilets.
- Further to additional suggestions being received, RESOLVED that proposed environmental work be supported in Cilfrew, a Cilfrew utility box repaint be funded and Members considered potential similar options in their respective wards, and that longer term changes at the Cilfrew Playground be added to the list of potential capital projects for future consideration.

6086 Historic Invoices

The Clerk submitted a report, following consultation with the Council's Internal Auditor and Rialtas, requesting that Members consider the write-off of historic

unpaid hire invoices from 2023/24 and 2024/25, in the total sum made known to Members. Reasonable efforts have been made to recover the outstanding amounts, but the organisations or groups involved are believed to have ceased operating. Council authority to approve the write-off of these debts as irrecoverable is required and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

6087 Lease of Caewern Community Centre

NPT CBC had advised that the lease of Caewern Community Centre expired on 31 March 2026 and enquired as to whether Council wished to renew the lease on similar terms and at a revised rental made known to Members. RESOLVED that renewal of the lease of Caewern Community Centre be agreed and that the Clerk apply for a grant from NPT C BC to cover part of the cost.

6088 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.

6089 Matters Arising from Exempt Items

There were no matters arising.

6090 Health and Safety

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

6091 Staffing Committee

The Clerk advised Members that a meeting of the Staffing Committee would be convened in the near future to consider a disciplinary matter. No further details were divulged to Members and there was no discussion thereon. RESOLVED noted.

6092 Mileage Allowance

The Clerk referred to the recent change in HMRC mileage allowances from 01 April 2026 and sought authority to pay the amended amount. RESOLVED that Council pay the amended HMRC mileage rate.

6093 Correspondence

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	One Voice Wales	Invitation to National Conference
2	NPT CBC Planning	Notification of Planning Enforcement Appeal – Land between The Bungalow and Dulais Rock Inn Main Road Aberdulais
3	NPT CBC Finance	Notification of Grant Award – Lease of Waunceirch District Park

RESOLVED that the following item of correspondence be actioned as indicated
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4	KLG Internal Audit Service	Withdrawal of Internal Audit Services
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Clerk to review options for the appointment of a replacement internal auditor and report back to Council in due course.

The meeting ended at 7.44 pm

Signed

Dated 20 July 2026
