

The following are DRAFT Minutes and may be amended when presented to Council for approval at its next meeting

Cyngor Cymuned Blaenhonddan Blaenhonddan Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on Monday 20 July 2026 at 6.30 pm in the Cadoxton Community Centre, Neath and Online

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

6097 Declarations of Interest

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

6098 Matters Raised by Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

6099 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 15 June 2026

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on 15 June 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

6100 Matters Arising

1. Further to Minute 6077.2 relating to water management arrangements, the Clerk reported on training costs that would enable work to be undertaken in house. RESOLVED that the training opportunities be accepted on the terms reported to Council.
2. Further to Minute 6084 relating to the resignation of former Councillor C Heath, RESOLVED that no replacement Member be appointed to the Festivals Committee.
3. Further to Minute 6093.4 regarding the appointment of an internal auditor, the Clerk indicated that he would be seeking bids and reporting to Council at its September meeting. RESOLVED noted.

6101 Financial Transactions – July 2026

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

6102 Planning Applications – July 2026

RESOLVED no objection to the following applications –

P2026/0383	Garage Conversion	16 Golwg y Mynydd Waunceirch
P2026/0417	S/S Rear Extension	25 Parc Penscynor Cilfrew

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

P2026/0397	Work to TPO Trees	Land between 2 & 4 Derwen Deg Bryncoch
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RESOLVED objection to the following application for the reasons indicated -

P2026/0407	2 No. Padel Courts, Floodlighting & Canopy	Neath Sports Centre Neath Abbey Road Neath
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Council is concerned about the loss of 28 car parking spaces and the lack of any proposal to replace those spaces given how busy the Centre is, and is not convinced that school premises will be made available when needed. It believes that the junction with Neath Abbey Road is already difficult to exit and a cause of concern on highway safety grounds, and that a further development of the site will exacerbate that situation.

6103 Community Centre Management

1. The Clerk reported that Council could purchase first aids kits that meet Health and Safety requirements for each Community Centre and indicated the cost involved. RESOLVED that the first aid kits be purchased and installed.
2. The Clerk reported that the piano at Bryncoch Community Centre was damaged and could not be repaired. Options for disposal were discussed RESOLVED that disposal be arranged and the relevant cost be met as necessary.

6104 Police Matters

RESOLVED that the following reports from Members be noted –

- E Scooter issues in Aberdulais
- Speed monitoring arrangements at Llygad yr Haul and Llewellyn Avenue
- A pending change of PCSO personnel.

6105 Reports from Outside Bodies

There were no reports from the NPT CBC Liaison Forum, One Voice Wales or School Governing Bodies.

6106 Minutes of the Festivals Committee Meeting held on 13 July 2026

The Clerk indicated that the agenda omitted an item to facilitate the appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2026-27 civic year and that the 2025-26 Chair had presided over the meeting. RESOLVED that the situation be rectified at the next meeting and that the Minutes of the Festivals Committee held on 13 July 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

6107 Cilffriw Primary School Governing Body

Further to Minute 6084 of Council on 15 June 2026, the Chair invited nominations from Members for a Minor Authority Governor position on the Governing Body of Cilffriw Primary School. No Member was able to accept a nomination and Council considered its options with regard to the appointment of a lay member. RESOLVED that, in the interests of transparency, Council should advertise its intention, invite lay member nominations and contact individuals who had previously expressed an interest.

6108 Cadoxton Park Development

Members were advised that in pursuit of the proposal to provide a partial Multi Use Games Area at Cadoxton Park information on surfacing had been sought, and the relevant contractor had advised of a change in specification and a revised price. Members appreciated that the Council's enhanced contribution could amount to a third of the capital cost, and considered their options. RESOLVED that the Clerk liaise with Councillor P Rogers regarding the amount of grant available, and if such a significant contribution was required, consult further before making a commitment.

(Councillors R Lewis and C Lewis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or decisions thereon)

6109 Birch Lane Cilfrew

The Clerk summarised a complaint from a resident of Birch Lane regarding water and surface problems. The complainant suggested actions that could be taken to address the issues and, given Council's ownership of part of the lane, an expectation that it should assist with delivery of some of the solutions mooted. The Clerk indicated that, without obligation, he had taken some engineering advice regarding possible practical actions, but that he was unsure as to whether there was a legal obligation on Council to address any of the issues. RESOLVED that the Clerk seek legal advice from the Head of Legal at NPT CBC and, without obligation, explore the potential cost of the practical engineering works identified.

(Councillor R Lewis left the meeting at this point in the proceedings)

6110 Capital Programme Schemes

The Clerk submitted progress reports on capital programme schemes as follows

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- RESOLVED noted that NPT CBC had completed drainage work outside Cadoxton Park
- RESOLVED noted that sewer repairs at Cilfrew Community Centre had been completed. Further RESOLVED that a percolation test, with a view to resolving flooding with a soakaway, had demonstrated a soakaway as

feasible, and that subject to relevant consents, the work proceed if the indicative costs reported to Council were confirmed

- RESOLVED noted that further design details regarding the proposed footpath ramp up to Waunceirch Playing Fields were pending and that contingency work to facilitate future electrical connections be considered
- RESOLVED noted that a date for constructing a caretaker's cupboard at Cilfrew Community Centre had been agreed.

6111 Cilfrew and Ynysygerwn Playgrounds

Councillor C Lewis outlined her proposal, subject to Council's agreement, to upgrade the play facilities at Cilfrew and Ynysygerwn Playgrounds using a Pride in Place budget that she was able to access, with the assistance of the Council's officers. RESOLVED that Councillor Lewis' proposal be accepted, that the Clerk assist with any arrangements and, given that both playgrounds were constructed by Wicksteed Leisure, they be invited to submit proposals for consideration.

6112 Playground Safety Surfacing

The Clerk indicated that arrangements for repair of vandalised safety surfacing at the Cilfrew, Caewern and Bryncoch Playgrounds had been made, and advised Council of the costs to be incurred. RESOLVED noted.

6113 Casual Vacancy, Bryncoch South Ward

Members were advised that there had been no request for an election for the Casual Vacancy in the Bryncoch South Ward and that Council could, therefore, proceed to co-opt an individual. RESOLVED that the notice of vacancy be published as soon as possible with a view to reporting to Council on 21st September 2026.

6114 Bryncoch Football Club

The Clerk advised that a request to make a presentation to Council had been received from Bryncoch Football Club, regarding their aspiration to take a lease of the Waunceirch Playing Field. RESOLVED that Bryncoch Football Club be invited to send a delegation to the next meeting of Council on 21 September 2026 and that an officer from NPT CBC be invited to attend as well.

(Councillor A Burton left the meeting at this point in the proceedings)

6115 Scoping of Services

The Chair outlined his aspiration to conduct a survey of the services provided by Council and external partners as a means of identifying where gaps in provision exist and to consider how Council might assist in addressing such gaps. RESOLVED that the Chair review his proposal and submit a further report to Council in due course.

6116 Designated Dog Exercise Area, Cadoxton Park

The Clerk reported that a petition had been received suggesting that Council set up a designated dog exercise area by fencing off a part of Cadoxton Park. He summarised the proposal as outlined by the petitioner and provided Members with an analysis of the 130 signatories. He indicated that there are signs within the park asking dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead. Following a discussion of the proposal and issues arising therefrom, RESOLVED that Council reject the proposal for the following reasons –

- Bespoke locations exist in the wider area that can be used for dog training
- There are locations within the wider area where dogs can be exercised off lead and socialised
- Council does not wish to separate an area of the Park for such use, and would find it difficult to manage and maintain the area, and to “police” the activities if it did, as “self-regulation” is not something that is likely to be universally successful
- Council would not wish to set a precedent for similar facilities in its other parks
- Council is mindful of the insurance liabilities that might accrue if it were to develop an area of this nature.

6117 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.

6118 Matters Arising from Exempt Items

There were no matters arising.

6119 Health and Safety

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

6120 Staff Vacancy

The Clerk advised Members that the Park Attendant responsible for Cadoxton Park had submitted his resignation. He indicated that he had considered a review of park attendant services but that, at present, it may be expedient to advertise the post on a like for like basis. RESOLVED that the vacancy be advertised and an appointment be made in due course.

6121 HMRC

The Clerk referred to a recent issue with PAYE and his attempts to seek guidance from HMRC. He indicated that he may need external advice which may mean

incurring a small fee. RESOLVED that the Clerk to be authorised to seek external assistance if required.

6122 Correspondence

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	NPT CBC	Standards Committee Annual Report 2025-26
2	One Voice Wales	Conference Invitation
3	NPT CBC	Early Years Education – Roll-out in Blaenhonddan area

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm

Signed

Dated 21 September 2026
