

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 19 October 2026 at 6.30 pm in the Cadoxton Community Centre, Neath

Presiding Councillor J Betts
Present In Person - Councillors C Lewis, J Hale, G Morgan, G T Morgan, J Hutchings, A Burton, N Brown, W Griffiths, J Griffiths, L Rabaiotti Jones, H Harry, J Hearne
Apologies Councillors A M Broom, R Lewis, C Parry, C Williams, L Bromham-Nichols

6177 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Councillor J Hearne who was attending her first meeting as a Councillor

6178 Declarations of Interest

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

6179 Matters Raised by Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

6180 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21 September 2026

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on 21 September 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

6181 Matters Arising

1. Further to Minute 6155 regarding the Governing Body of Cilffriw Primary School, the Clerk suggested that, as there was no Member or lay person nomination, the position of Minor Authority Representative would need to be held in abeyance, pending a review at the Annual Meeting of Council. RESOLVED that Cilffriw Primary School and the Local Education Authority be informed accordingly.
2. Further to Minute 6157 relating to Football Activities at Cilfrew Playing Field, the Clerk confirmed that he had engaged with Cilfrew Rovers FC, and received a communication indicating that the Club would not be using Cilfrew Community Centre for matchday social purposes for the foreseeable future, but that they would review the situation early in 2027 and engage further with the Council at that time. RESOLVED noted.
3. Further to Minute 6169 and the One Voice Wales conference attendance, the Assistant Clerk summarised the proceedings for Members' information. RESOLVED noted.

6182 Financial Transactions – October 2026

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

6183 Planning Applications – October 2026

RESOLVED no objection to the following applications -

P2026/0510	Amended Plans - Listed Building Consent – Removal of Pews	Seion CM Church Fforest Hill Aberdulais
P2026/0580	Extensions, Driveway etc	20 Ty'n yr Heol Road Bryncoch
P2026/0582	Extensions, Additional Parking	75 Main Road Bryncoch
P2026/0600	Upgrading of Forestry Tracks	Ynysygerwn Forest, Ynysarwed
P2026/0606	Extensions	3 Dol Werdd Waunceirch

6184 Community Centre Management

The Clerk reported that a request had been received to allow consumption of alcohol at a celebration event to be held at Bryncoch Community Centre in November and outlined the circumstances to Members. RESOLVED that the request be acceded to.

6185 Police Matters

RESOLVED that the following reports from Members and referred to the Police be noted –

- Anti-social behaviour patrols were taking place in Bryncoch and Caewern
- Issues relating to parking associated with the Fireworks event at Bryncoch Social Club
- Indiscriminate parking on the public highway near Blaenhonddan Primary School
- Notification of the “Cuppa with a Copper” meeting in Cadoxton Community Centre on 24 October 2026

6186 Reports from Outside Bodies

There were no reports from the NPT CBC Liaison Forum or One Voice Wales. Councillor A Burton summarised recent discussions at the Blaenhonddan Primary and Bryncoch CIW School Governing Bodies. RESOLVED noted.

6187 Minutes of the Festivals Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2026

Members were provided with updated information regarding the Council's proposed Carol Service as referenced in Minute 6175 of the Committee. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Festivals Committee held on 12 October 2026 be adopted by Council.

6188 Applications for Financial Assistance

The Clerk reminded Members of the Council's arrangements for considering applications for financial assistance under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. He summarised the budget agreed for the 2026/27 financial year and commitments made to date, and outlined the applications received.

RESOLVED that the following applications be supported in the sums indicated –

1	Ainon Baptist Chapel Bryncoch	£160.00
2	Bryncoch Community Association	£160.00
3	Daisy Chain Stay and Play	£160.00
4	Pisgah Chapel Cilfrew	£160.00
5	Calon Cilfrew	£160.00
6	2 No Senior Citizen Groups (each)	£160.00

RESOLVED that the following application be not supported -

- 7 Wales Air Ambulance

6189 Bryncoch Football Club Aspirations for Waunceirch District Park

The Clerk referred to the presentation recently received from a representative of Bryncoch Football Club (Minute 6144, Council, 21 September 2026 refers). He indicated that clarification had subsequently been sought from the representative, as to specific intentions with regard to the area involved, the proposed use restrictions, infrastructure and facilities, timescales and maintenance intentions. The response received was outlined in detail for Members. Members were also reminded of correspondence received in 2024 from Neath Port Talbot CBC in its capacity as freehold owners, and which outlined the terms under which the land was held following its transfer to the County Borough Council from the Welsh Government (previously transferred by the Land Authority for Wales). The Clerk advised that there were options in responding which included surrendering its lease, negotiating a sub-lease or retaining the status quo. Members highlighted the purpose of Waunceirch District Park as a community facility provided for use by the public at large, and noted that there were significant legal challenges that would need to be overcome, potentially at significant cost, if this legal constraint were to be amended or lifted. Following discussion, therefore, it was RESOLVED that the Council was not in favour of accommodating the proposal from Bryncoch Football Club, and wished to maintain the status quo in allowing the Waunceirch District Park to be retained in its entirety as a public facility available to the entire community.

6190 Capital Programme Schemes

The Clerk submitted updates on possible projects that were under investigation as follows -

- Further to the possibility of constructing a footpath ramp up to Waunceirch Playing Fields, a revised option was currently being prepared for submission to Members. RESOLVED noted.
- Advice received to date regarding the potential to develop allotments at Ynysllynlladd had emphasised that the site displayed significant infrastructure challenges before consideration of allotment development could be addressed. Immediate issues regarding the former stable on site had also been highlighted. RESOLVED that the Clerk continue with his exploratory discussions.

6191 Waunceirch District Park

Councillor J Hale indicated that some discussions had taken place with NPT CBC officers about proposals to landscape and improve the disused playground at Waunceirch District Park, and the Clerk outlined a plan that had been received. Members were advised that further work would be necessary to refine the proposals, seek costings and complete a grant application, but that it was unclear as to who might take the lead in progressing the proposal. Should the proposal be delivered, Council would need to assume responsibility for upkeep of the area as part of its wider role in relation to Waunceirch District Park. RESOLVED that Council agree to support the proposal in principle and that Councillor Hale be invited to liaise further with the officers concerned to agree a way forward.

6192 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.

6193 Matters Arising from Exempt Items

Further to Minute 6165 relating to the removal of a tree at the Ynysygerwn Playground, the Clerk confirmed that the contractor had agreed to leave the tree trunk on site and that there would be no change to the cost quoted. RESOLVED noted.

6194 Health and Safety

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

6195 Professional Services

1. Further to the previous discussions on the Caewern Community Centre lease (Minute 6156, Council, 21 September 2026 refers), the Clerk indicated that, following an approach to local solicitors, he had received a fee quote for representation of the Council's interests in discussions with NPT CBC and HM Land Registry. Members were made aware of the potential cost and the scope of services. RESOLVED that Council appoint Probert and Barton to represent the Council in the renewal of the Caewern Community Centre Lease.

2. Further to discussions on drainage issues at Birch Lane, Cilfrew (Minute 6158, Council, 21 September 2026 refers), the Clerk outlined discussions held with a civil engineer to resolve issues on the Council's land, including two potential arrangements that could be implemented. He emphasised advice received about obligations, including those of adjacent landowners. A fee proposal for a design and specification had been received from the engineer and Members were made aware of the potential costs. RESOLVED that, in the first instance, the Clerk engage with HM Land Registry to establish whether a specific landowner could be identified with a view to potentially resolving issues before they prevail on the Council's land.

6196 Personnel Matters

The Clerk advised Members that interviews leading to the appointment of two caretakers had been arranged and that he was hopeful of appointments being made. RESOLVED noted.

6197 Correspondence

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

1	NPT CBC Electoral Services	Email re Local Government Elections 2027
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Appropriate provision be made in the 2027/28 budget.

3	Bouncy Castle Kingdom	Enquiry re Use of Waunceirch Playing Fields
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Further information be sought.

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

2	Democracy and Boundary Commission	Notification of Draft Remuneration Report
4	Welsh Government	Vision for Culture and Sport in Wales – Call for Evidence
5	Nextfort Data Ltd	Email re River Neath

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Signed

Dated 16 November 2026