



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
held at the Council Meeting Room, Trane Cemetery, Tonyrefail
at 6:00pm on Thursday, 15th January 2026

Present: Cllr Ceirion Skym (Chair)
Cllr Martin Barron
Cllr Austin Davies (late arrival)
Cllr Danny Grehan
Cllr Gerald Francis – remote (late arrival)
Cllr Dan Lawrence
Cllr Amanda Richards (late arrival)

Officers: Ms Jo van Tonder (Clerk & RFO)

Meeting commenced at 6:12pm.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Karen Webb and Linda Michel.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Public Questions

There were no members of the public present.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting: 18th December 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th December 2025 as a true and accurate record.

5. Casual Vacancies – Collenna and Tyn-y-Bryn wards

Members noted that no by-elections had been called and the Council was free to co-opt to fill the two vacancies.

These would be advertised according to the Council's Co-option Policy with a view to co-opting at the next meeting in February.

6:22pm – Cllr Amanda Richards joined the meeting.

6. Finance

a) Completion of Audit of accounts for 2024/25

Members were advised the Auditor General for Wales had concluded their audit of the Council's accounts for 2024/25 and had issued an unqualified report with no matters to report or recommendations to make.

b) Recommendations of the Finance Committee

6:26pm – Cllr Austin Davies joined the meeting.

i) Memorandum of Understanding with respect to Windfarm Grant

Members were reminded of the informal arrangement between the Council and the two Tonyrefail West County Councillors whereby a Windfarm Grant of £5,000 per annum was held by the Council on their behalf and disbursed upon their instruction.

The Finance Committee had reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties that formalised the authorisation of payments, included indemnity provisions and clarified responsibilities for due diligence and fund compliance.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To accept the Committee's recommendation and

(a) Approve the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Wind Farm Community Grant for Tonyrefail West; and

(b) Authorise the Clerk to arrange for the MoU to be signed by the County Borough Councillors for Tonyrefail West at the earliest opportunity.

ii) Budget 2026/27

The Clerk presented the draft Budget for 2026/27, as reviewed by the Finance Committee and recommended for adoption.

Members discussed the Committee's suggestion that Cemetery fees were reviewed in the coming months, especially in light of the impact burials income had on reducing the precept requirement.

The Clerk outlined anticipated movements from earmarked reserves over the current and forthcoming financial years. It was noted these transfers would be to cover cemetery extension clearance and fencing, as well as the delivery of the Biodiversity Mitigation Scheme.

Cllr A Davies reminded members that the Events Committee would seek to fund the Christmas event with a National Lottery grant, thus releasing £10,000 from the budget back to general reserves.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To adopt the budget for the year ending 31st March 2027 as presented, with net expenditure of £393,708.

iii) Precept 2026/27

Members considered the recommendations of the Finance Committee who had assessed the impact of various precept options on both General Reserves and Band D equivalent households.

It was noted that a Precept of £370,000 would result in a £5.51 (6.72%) increase per Band D equivalent household per annum while maintaining General Reserves at a lower, but acceptable, level of 26% of general expenditure.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To request a Precept of £370,000 for the financial year ending 31st March 2027.

c) Payments made since the last meeting – December 2025

Unity Current Account Transactions

Tonyrefail & District Community Council

For the period 17 December 2025 to 15 January 2026

Date	Payee	Description	Credit
17 Dec 2025	ICE Communications DD	Telephone	69.36
17 Dec 2025	Cymuned Penrhiwfer & Williamstown	Small Grant	500.00
22 Dec 2025	Aingie Cripps Melody	Reimburse expenses	18.08
22 Dec 2025	Biffa Waste Services Ltd - DD	Cleaning Supplies	272.82
22 Dec 2025	British Gas (Staff Base Electric) DD	Utilities	56.37
22 Dec 2025	Central Bar & Catering Supplies Ltd.	Cleaning Supplies	115.20
22 Dec 2025	Cor Cwm Rhondda	Events - Christmas event	150.00
22 Dec 2025	Griffiths Security & Smart Technology Ltd	Security	120.00
22 Dec 2025	ICCM	Training	3,558.00
22 Dec 2025	Lite Ltd	Events - Christmas lights	2,366.94
22 Dec 2025	PC Help Services	PC Repairs	420.00
22 Dec 2025	PEAC (inv pmts)	Photocopier Hire	254.18
22 Dec 2025	Prichards	Pecker attachment for digger	4,320.00
22 Dec 2025	Prichards	Equipment Hire	1,303.16
22 Dec 2025	Shaunna Evans	Cleaning	99.00
22 Dec 2025	The Wash Shop	Events - seniors dinner	84.00
22 Dec 2025	The Windmill Restaurant	Events - seniors dinner	2,925.00
23 Dec 2025	Eon Next - Gas Staff Base	Utilities	159.55
29 Dec 2025	Acer Ecology	Report - planning conditions	2,448.00
29 Dec 2025	C & L Garden and Tree Services	Events - Christmas trees	1,682.50
29 Dec 2025	Certas Energy - DD	Fuel	188.44
29 Dec 2025	Welsh Water - DD (851215840012)	Utilities	437.00
31 Dec 2025	Amazon Payments	Various consumables & stationery	132.35
31 Dec 2025	Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	25.95
02 Jan 2026	Screwfix DD	Consumables	9.87
02 Jan 2026	Core Synergy Ltd - STO (prev. Function 28)	Website	48.00
02 Jan 2026	DVLA	Vehicle Tax	30.18
05 Jan 2026	Valleys Waste Services	Allotments - asbestos	1,573.20
07 Jan 2026	Thomastown Social Club	Windfarm Grant	1,500.00
09 Jan 2026	Viking Payments	Stamps	87.81
12 Jan 2026	Certas Energy - DD	Fuel	1.20
12 Jan 2026	RCTCBC - Pensions	Pensions	4,049.87
12 Jan 2026	HMRC - PAYE & NI	HMRC	4,537.17
13 Jan 2026	Xero (UK) Ltd - DD	Subscriptions	44.40
15 Jan 2026	Rhondda Cynon Taff	Rates	88.00
			33,675.60

d) Accounts for Payment – January 2026

Aged Payables Detail

Tonyrefail & District Community Council

As at 31 January 2026

Ageing by due date

Supplier	Description	Total
Amazon Payments	Various consumables	61.89
Forest Park & Garden	Equipment & consumables	93.37
Prichards	Equipment hire	1,303.16
Spring clean	Cleaning	71.40
SLCC	Membership - ACM	253.00
Valleys Waste Services	Allotments - asbestos	2,116.80
Total Payable		3,899.62

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To approve the accounts for payment.

7. Matters pertaining to Governance and Administration

a) Appointment of Cemetery Administrator

6:47pm – Cllr Gerald Francis joined the meeting remotely.

Members noted the recently appointed Cemetery Administrator, Laura Hughes, would be taking up her post the following week.

b) OVW correspondence regarding Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Following discussion, it was decided not to nominate anyone from the Council for the garden party.

8. Tackling litter across the community

Following a request to consider this item by Cllr G Francis, the Clerk began to present a paper outlining options for consideration to help tackle the prevalence of litter across the district.

Cllr Davies interjected and suggested there was little the Council could do within its available resources.

Members went on to discuss measures that could be taken:

- Promote the Ton Environment Group to help boost volunteer numbers.
- Advertise the Council as a Keep Wales Tidy Hub more extensively.
- Invite RCTCBC educational teams to visit schools to discourage litter dropping.
- Discuss the possibility of additional litter bins with RCTCBC.

It was agreed to make a start on those measures first.

9. Planning & Development Control

- a) 25/1260/FUL** – Installation of condenser unit – Cwm Taf University Health Board, Dinas Isaf Industrial Estate West, Penrhiwfer

No further comments were made.

10. Members' Reports – for information only

- Cllr D Grehan:
- i) advised the Skatepark Committee's bid for funding for the extension to the skatepark, was due to be submitted imminently.
 - ii) advised he had reported potholes, fly tipping and a knocked-down wall to the relevant departments at RCTCBC.
 - iii) advised he had asked for the return of the High Street bin.
 - iv) advised Tref-y-Rhyg Primary School had received a pleasing Estyn report following its latest inspection.
- Cllr A Davies:
- i) reported continued accumulations of litter along Penrhiwfer Road, especially in the vicinity of the Co-Op.
- Cllr A Richards:
- i) reported overflowing dog waste bins.
- Cllr C Skym:
- i) asked when the CCTV would be installed, covering Waunrhydd Road; the Clerk advised works at the Rhondda Bowl development needed to be completed first.
 - ii) reported a need for street cleansing in alley between Well Pharmacy and Lusang Takeaway off Mill Street.

11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19th February 2026 at the earlier time or 6:00pm.

Meeting concluded at 7:19pm