

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor HJ David – Mayor and Chairperson

A R Berrow
RJ Collins
M J Evans
H Griffiths
D M Hughes
M Lewis
G Walter

JPD Blundell
E D Winstanley
N Farr
GC Haines
M R John
JC Spanswick
AJ Williams

E L P Caparros
P Davies
J Gebbie
D T Harrison
M Jones
I M Spiller
HM Williams

O Clatworthy
S Easterbrook
RM Granville
M L Hughes
W J Kendall
JH Tildesley MBE
I Williams

Present Virtually

S Aspey
N Clarke
W R Goode
J E Pratt
A Wathan

F D Bletsoe
C Davies
RM James
R J Smith
MJ Williams

S J Bletsoe
C L C Davies
P W Jenkins
T Thomas
R Williams

P Ford
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
A Ulberini-Williams
T Wood

Officers:

Mark Galvin
Lindsay Harvey
Rachel Keepins
Carys Lord
Jake Morgan
Janine Nightingale
Michael Pitman
Alex Rawlin

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Democratic Services Manager
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Chief Executive
Corporate Director - Communities
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Corporate Policy & Performance Manager

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Jeni Thomas
Gaynor Thomas
Oscar Roberts
Kelly Watson

Senior Electoral Services Officer
Manager (Sustainable Communities for Learning)
Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy

196. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from the following members:- Councillors R Penhale-Thomas, H Bennett and S Griffiths
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025

197. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	The following declarations of personal interest were made by members:- Councillor E Winstanley - Agenda item 7 as her employer is a partner of BCBC Councillor J Pratt – Agenda item 6 as a member of His Majesty’s Coastguard Councillor R Williams – Agenda item 9 as a resident of Pencoed The following members declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9 as members of local Town &/or Community Council’s:- Councillors E Caparros, J Llewellyn-Hopkins, JC Spanswick, W Kendall, Amanda Williams, M Williams, S Bletsoe, A Wathan, I Spiller, I Williams, S Easterbrook, T Wood, D Harrison, JP Blundell, M Evans, R Williams, T Thomas, M John, G Haines, J Gebbie, M Jones, P Jenkins, R Collins, Chris Davies, P Davies, M Lewis, H Griffiths, H Williams, H David, R Granville, E Winstanley, N Farr and J Pratt. The following members declared a further personal interest in Agenda item 9, as they took part in the consultation held in respect of this item and were also mentioned in the report:-
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	Councillors JP Blundell, JC Spanswick, M Evans, E Winstanley and M Hughes. Councillor T Thomas as a school governor at Ysgol Llangynwd Councillor RM James as a school governor at Ysgol Gyfraeg Cymraeg
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025

198. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of a meeting of Council dated 24 September 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025

199. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the following Cabinet Members and Chief Executive (No decisions required/made):- • Mayor; • Chief Executive
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025

200. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made).
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Date Decision Made	22 October 2025
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201. State of the County Borough Debate

Decision Made	Council convened to debate on the subject of the following: ‘Instances of extreme weather are affecting the Borough more frequently. This can lead to flooding, problems with highways infrastructure and interruptions to essential services, ie – electricity/water. How resilient is the County Borough in adapting to these events, which could possibly be attributed to Climate Change, and when they occur how effective are we in supporting our communities’. The Debate was introduced by the Mayor, who expressed disappointment that the Council’s statutory partners did not choose to attend the meeting despite being invited to participate in the debate. The proposer of the debate, opened by presenting the argument that long-term prevention strategies are vital to ensure that costs and effects of flooding are limited, particularly in areas of new development and working with local stakeholders incorporating both nature-based measures and available mapping and technology. The Leader added that several sub-groups within the Public Service Board have been formed to attempt to address flooding problems championing adaptability and resilience given weather changes in recent years representing more of a threat to homes and borough infrastructure. The Leader of the Bridgend County Independent Group presented several examples of dire circumstances experienced by residents through the last winter, asking how resilient the authority can be in the light of these occurrences and presenting several questions to the Executive around systems currently in place to prioritise those most at risk from the effects of flooding and the effectiveness of communication from the Council out to residents. The Leader responded assuring all present that the questions raised would be answered by the Cabinet Member -Climate Change & the Environment and the Corporate Director – Communities, either at or outside of this meeting. the Deputy Leader of the Democratic Alliance group, gave a contribution focusing on the findings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the Borough’s current readiness and resilience to these extreme weather events, encouraging a proactive approach focusing on investment in disaster prevention and integration of climate considerations into planning and funding matters. A member added that an early warning system when culvert alarms being activated could result in lessened effects of
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	flooding before Council officers can respond to these, and calling on Natural Resources Wales to reach out to residents to offer assistance wherever possible. A member suggested that action be prioritised on areas such as Council Tax, anti-social behaviour and road conditions while focusing on physical solutions such as clearing drains. A question was posed to the Leader and Chief Executive by a member regarding how the Council's partner organisations can be encouraged and if necessary compelled to step up to deal with the risks and work required to help prevent flooding. A member raised the possibility that due to weather and erosion changes, decisions may need to be made about the habitability of certain areas in the long term in line with other Welsh Councils' decisions. Another member responded to earlier comments that properties within the Borough remain at risk or are currently damaged by flooding at the present time, so it remains an active concern for residents, adding that Welsh Water and other organisations should be ready to work with the Council on these issues and that funding may be available from these bodies in order to alleviate flooding risks. A member posited that Council plans for these events should focus on implementing any action as quickly as possible, given that action plans are not always followed through fully by authorities, as well as calling on the Council to contact other organisations such as the British Red Cross for aid with any developing situations as necessary. A member suggested that the Council should pivot towards giving our flood engineers and drainage teams grant funding support to allow them to perform their duties as efficiently as possible. A member asked what arrangements the Council has in place for regular drain and gully clearances as well as sharing concerns over the capacity of water treatment facilities in the borough, and the effect that may have on local pollution. A member also suggested that a future Council debate could take place on Global Warming, and asked if the Authority could invest in new vehicles to aid in the clearing of surface water drains. A Cabinet member pointed to the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which is being followed up on with works throughout the Borough to increase resilience to these extreme weather events, with progress continuing to be made on implementing other aspects of recommendations from the Section 19 flood investigation carried out following flooding in September 2024. He also encouraged the publication of a works schedule to be available to residents for progress checking and an increase in community-focused readiness. A member suggested that the Council convenes an Extraordinary meeting in December where a further
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	attempt can be made for NRW and Dŵr Cymru to attend, which the Mayor agreed to pass onto officers for consideration, pledging to at least have these organisations meet with relevant members of the Executive, in order to discuss this increasingly important topic further. The absence of these bodies today was noted with displeasure, given the serious consequences that the borough is facing going forward as well as residents' concerns about flooding. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment responded to the concerns raised about multiple Councillors' ward issues related to flooding, as well as setting out his area of responsibility and actions being taken to tackle the threat of future flooding. He shared some statistical information with Council to this end, adding that there were 26,000 gullies/culverts in the County Borough which all required clearing periodically. Further equipment was required in order to effectively manage the clearing of these areas, as 115 of these were classed as 'critical' areas that were prone to flooding. The Council staff in total had made 5,800 visits of these gullies/culverts in 2024/25 in order to clean them, unfortunately however, in inclement weather they often became re-blocked quickly. Some of these gullies/culverts were alarmed. He concluded by adding that the Council would work closely with the likes of Welsh Government in an attempt to secure increased funding for this purpose in future. To close, the member who instigated the debate, provided a response to various contributions made during the meetings and encouraged a future deep dive on this topic through the Council's Overview and Scrutiny process, to ensure that the Borough is as prepared as possible for any future extreme weather events. RESOLVED: That the State of the County Borough Debate be noted.
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025

202. Self-Assessment 2024/25

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member – Finance & Performance, was to seek Council approval of the self-assessment for 2024/25 included at Appendix 1 and the accompanying performance information at Appendix 2. This self-assessment covered the requirements of service delivery, use of resources and governance. Members drew attention to various sections of the report, including changes to Scrutiny Committees and reporting processes as well as the progress made on the National Pathway of Care for vulnerable
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	residents within the borough. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council considered and approved the draft Self-Assessment 2024/25 report at its Appendix 1, that was supported by performance information in Appendix 2. Council further thanked the contribution from all teams across the Council that contributed to the progress and achievement shown within this report.
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025

203. Panel Performance Assessment

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Leader of the Council, was to inform Council of the findings of the Panel Performance Assessment that took place between 16-19 September 2025. It also sought Council approval for the next steps within which to proceed. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:- • Considered the findings of the PPA in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report. • Endorsed the next steps in responding to PPA in Paragraphs 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 (of the report). Council thanked members of all teams that helped contribute to the assessment as well as BCBC's partners throughout the process of conducting the assessment.
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025

204. Review of Community Arrangements

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Executive, was to present final proposals for Council to consider and, if agreed, seek authority to submit such proposals to the Local and Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales ('LDBCW') who are the implementing body for the review.
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	Negative community and member feedback towards the findings of the report were discussed, as well as the merits of merging Town and Community Councils together in the context of Councillor vacancies on these bodies. The consequences and effects on local democracy from either accepting or refusing these changes were also discussed. Members posed questions on:- • The potential consequences and cost of not approving the proposals outlined in the report. • Ownership of assets held by Town and Community Councils set to be merged. • Differences between this report and the previous Boundary Review conducted for Borough Councillors. • Whether reconsideration of the report is possible within the legislative timeframe. • Whether individual reviews and merging of Town and Community Councils can take place separate from this review, as part of a further revised review. These questions were addressed by the Senior Electoral Services Officer, the Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy and the Chief Executive. Following some considerable debate by members on the report, it was <u>RESOLVED:</u> (1) That the Final Report of the Review of the Community Arrangements of Bridgend County Borough Council be noted. (2) That Council agreed not to approve the recommendations as set out in the report and decided instead, to refer the review to the Local and Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales ('LDBCW') for further consideration and determination. Council also gave thanks to the officers and members who formed part of the consultation panel who contributed to the review and subsequent report.
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025

205. Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Jane Gebbie

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Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	It was agreed by Council that this Notice of Motion be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of Council.
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025	

206. Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Rhys Goode

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	It was agreed by Council that this Notice of Motion be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of Council.
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025	

207. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.	
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025	

208. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	The report relating to the following item was not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. Following the application of the public interest test, Council resolved pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private, with the public being excluded from the meeting during such
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	consideration.
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025

209. School Modernisation Programme - Welsh - Medium Secondary Provision

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	The decision relating to this item is exempt and is therefore not available for public inspection.
Date Decision Made	22 October 2025	

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 19:46.