

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB / REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

H T Bennett	A R Berrow	F D Bletsoe	S J Bletsoe
JPD Blundell	O Clatworthy	P Davies	S Easterbrook
M J Evans	N Farr	J Gebbie	W R Goode
H Griffiths	GC Haines	M L Hughes	D M Hughes
P W Jenkins	M R John	M Jones	W J Kendall
J Llewellyn-Hopkins	RL Penhale-Thomas	R J Smith	JC Spanswick
A Ulberini-Williams	HM Williams	I Williams	R Williams
E D Winstanley	R Collins	T Wood	

Present Virtually

N Clarke	CLC Davies	C Davies	P Ford
S J Griffiths	RM James	M Lewis	J E Pratt
T Thomas	G Walter	A Wathan	AJ Williams
MJ Williams			

Officers:

Kelly Watson	Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Jake Morgan	Chief Executive
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing
Carys Lord	Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change
Adam Provoost	Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
William Lane	Operational Manager – Shared Regulatory Services
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager

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**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026**

Mark Galvin  
Michael Pitman  
Oscar Roberts

Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees  
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services  
Temporary Democratic Services Officer – Committees

**223. Apologies for absence**

Decision Made	Apologies were received from Councillors David Harrison, Ian Spiller, Eugene Caparros, Sean Aspey, Richard Granville and Jefferson Tildesley.
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**224. Declarations of Interest**

Decision Made	<p>The following declarations of interest were made:-</p> <p>Cllr Paul Davies declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 as a family member is in receipt of the reduction. Cllr Davies left the meeting while this item was being considered.</p> <p>Cllr John Spanswick declared a personal interest in item 8 as a close family member is in receipt of the reduction.</p> <p>Cllr Melanie Evans declared a personal interest in item 9 as a Pencoed Town Councillor.</p> <p>Cllr Melanie Evans declared a personal interest in item 12 as a ward member for Pencoed and Penprysg.</p> <p>Cllr Timothy Wood declared a personal interest in item 8 as he is in receipt of the 25% single occupancy discount.</p> <p>Cllr Mark John declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 as a close relative is in receipt of the reduction. Cllr John left the meeting while this item was being considered.</p> <p>Cllr Jane Gebbie declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 as she is in receipt of Council tax deduction. Cllr</p>
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**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026**

	<p>Gebbie left the meeting while this item was being considered.</p> <p>Cllr Gary Haines declared a personal interest in item 8 as he is in receipt of the 25% single occupancy discount.</p> <p>Cllr Malcolm James declared a personal interest in item 8 as a family member is in receipt of the reduction.</p> <p>Cllr Neelo Farr declared a personal interest in item 8.</p> <p>Cllr Richard Williams declared a personal interest in item 9 as a member of Pencoed Town Council.</p> <p>Cllr Richard Williams declared a personal interest in item 10 as a member of the Licensing Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Amanda Williams declared a personal interest in item 4 as Chair of Governors at Coity Primary School</p> <p>Cllr Elaine Winstanley declared a personal interest in item 4 as her employer, Awen Cultural Trust, works with Halo Leisure.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**225. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of a meeting of Council dated 19 November 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**226. Presentation To Council by the Chief Executive Officer of Halo Leisure**

Decision Made	The Chief Executive and Leader presented a report that introduced Scott Rolfe, the Chief Executive Officer of Halo Leisure, who gave a presentation outlining Halo's role in the community, services offered by their leisure facilities and progress on initiatives to support the Bridgend County Borough.
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	<p>The presentation detailed Halo Leisure's wellbeing programmes offered to the local communities across their facilities, including their Access to Leisure scheme, their Feel Good for Life programme offering dementia-friendly activities to support older adults with dementia, loneliness and depression and autism-friendly swimming lessons for young people living with ASD or intensive needs.</p> <p>Following Mr Rolfe's submission, the Mayor opened up questions, examples of which were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitments and plans to support assets held by Halo as a custodian going into the future.</li><li>• Potential reductions in take-up due to transport costs or other associated factors.</li><li>• Visions for the future.</li><li>• Estimates for remedial work to leisure centres within the County Borough.</li><li>• An explanation regarding ways that Halo Leisure can further encourage access to facilities for high-level athletes.</li><li>• Any plans to expand provision or facilities to cover a wider range of activities.</li><li>• Potential plans to move to an agency model.</li><li>• Whether additional Town and Community Councils can participate and support schemes offered by Halo.</li><li>• Collaboration possibilities with the Bridgend Youth Service.</li><li>• How anti-social behaviour around Halo centre's is treated.</li></ul> <p>The questions and queries raised above (as well as others) that Mr Rolfe could not sufficiently respond to, he confirmed that he would follow-up and respond to outside of the meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council noted the presentation as referred to at paragraph 3.1 of the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**227. To receive announcements from:**

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the following Cabinet Members and Chief Executive (No decisions required/made):- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayor;</li></ul>
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COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chief Executive</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**228. To receive announcements by the Leader**

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made).
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**229. Children's Residential Home**

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing, was to seek Council approval for the inclusion of a capital budget of £1,620,450 in the Capital Programme for the proposed acquisition and refurbishment of a residential home to be registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) as a children's residential care home.</p> <p>Members posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Whether other suitable land could be used for the same purpose as the proposed property acquisition.</li><li>Whether BCBC can claim relief on this property similar to other social landlords.</li><li>Whether BCBC can mitigate any potential roadblocks to obtaining the funding.</li><li>The reasoning behind this report coming before Council without first going through the Scrutiny process.</li><li>The proposed property's price to acquire.</li><li>Possible alternatives to better use the allocated funds.</li><li>The possible creation of a set of rules and guidance around future similar investments so that a precedent can be established to have more details on any schemes such as this proposed in the future.</li><li>Whether other buyers may attempt to purchase the property earmarked for the spend.</li><li>The logic behind the quoted refurbishment price.</li></ul>
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**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whether properties within new developments can be earmarked for similar proposals in the future.</li></ul> <p>These questions were addressed by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing, The Chief Executive, The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing, the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council approved a capital budget of £1,620,450 be included in the Council's Capital Programme for the acquisition and refurbishment of a children's residential home to be initially funded from BCBC resources, on the assumption that some or all of the costs will be recovered via the Welsh Government Housing with Care Fund.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**230. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026-27**

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, was to provide Council with information regarding the proposed 2026-27 Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme, and to seek Council approval to adopt this CTR scheme by 31 January 2026.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council noted the information in the report and adopted the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026-27 as set out in paragraphs 3.15 to 3.20 of this report.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**231. Outdoor Recreation Facilities Supplementary Planning Guidance**

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing, was to inform Council of the outcome of the public consultation exercise on the draft Outdoor Recreation Facilities Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document following approval (with</p>
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	<p>amendments) by Cabinet at its meeting on 23rd September 2025.</p> <p>Members posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential expansions of Multiple Use Games Areas to parts of the County Borough.</li><li>• Recreation facilities agreed to be delivered in previously built or smaller housing residential sites.</li><li>• Methods of reassuring residents nearby to upcoming housing sites.</li></ul> <p>These questions were addressed by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing, the Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager, the Leader and the Corporate Director – Communities</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> <u>That Council:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Noted the contents of the report and approved the officer's consultation responses to the representations received in response to the public consultation on the draft Outdoor Recreation Facilities SPG, together with resultant amendments set out in the attached Appendix 2 to the report.</li><li>b. Approved the final form Outdoor Recreation Facilities SPG (Appendix 1) and agreed its adoption for immediate application as a material consideration in making development management decisions and in the determination of planning applications along with the adopted RLDP, subject to the provisions of resolutions 'c', 'd' and 'e'.</li><li>c. Authorised the Corporate Director - Communities and Group Manager - Planning and Development Services to make minor presentational changes, typographical or factual corrections as necessary prior to publication of the adopted Outdoor Recreation Facilities SPG.</li><li>d. Authorised the Corporate Director – Communities and Group Manager – Planning and Development Services to update, as necessary, the web links to external best practice guidance documents listed under the 'Design Guidance by Outdoor Recreation Facility Typology' heading in Section 7.0 of the Outdoor Recreation Facilities SPG, to ensure they remain current and accurate.</li><li>e. Authorised the Corporate Director – Communities and Group Manager – Planning and Development Services to update the costs set out in Table 1 (page 11), Appendix A and Appendix B of the Outdoor Recreation Facilities SPG periodically to ensure such costs remain up-to-date and reflective of current costs.</li></ol>
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**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026**

Date Decision Made	14 January 2026
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**232. A Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy**

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, was to ask Council to approve the publication of the revised Statement of Licensing Policy detailed in Annex A of the report.</p> <p>Members posed a question on potential mitigation of proposed changes to licensing requirements for music and/or dancing in Late Night establishments, in particular for reasons to reduce any noise to residential areas. This question was addressed by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance and the Operational Manager – Shared Regulatory Services.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council approved the draft Statement of Licensing Policy detailed at Appendix A of the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**233. Information Report for Noting**

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Monitoring Officer, was to inform Council of the Information Report for noting that has been published since its last scheduled meeting. The only report published since the last meeting of Council was the Audited Statement of Accounts 2024-25, appended to the report.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council acknowledges the publication of the report referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the cover report.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**234. To receive the following Questions from: Councillor**

Decision Made	Councillor Alex Ulberini-Williams to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing (response previously circulated to Members).  A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Ulberini-Williams which was responded to at the meeting.  Councillor Tim Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & the Environment (response previously circulated to Members).  A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Thomas which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

**235. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	14 January 2026

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

The meeting closed at 18:58.