

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 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, 13 MAY 2026 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

H T Bennett
JPD Blundell
C Davies
RM Granville
M L Hughes
M Lewis
I M Spiller
A Wathan
MJ Williams

A R Berrow
N Clarke
S Easterbrook
H Griffiths
M R John
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
T Thomas
AJ Williams
R Williams

F D Bletsoe
O Clatworthy
M J Evans
S J Griffiths
M Jones
J E Pratt
JH Tildesley MBE
HM Williams
E D Winstanley

S J Bletsoe
RJ Collins
J Gebbie
GC Haines
W J Kendall
JC Spanswick
G Walter
I Williams
T Wood

Present Virtually

S Aspey
P Ford
N Farr

E L P Caparros
P W Jenkins
RL Penhale-Thomas

P Davies
D M Hughes
R J Smith

Officers:

Mark Galvin
Laura Griffiths
Lindsay Harvey
Rachel Keepins
Jake Morgan
Janine Nightingale
Michael Pitman
Kelly Watson

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Group Manager – Legal, Democratic and Emergency Planning
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Democratic Services Manager
Chief Executive
Corporate Director - Communities
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Electoral

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CONDOLENCES

The Mayor sadly announced the recent passing on of two former members and Mayor's of Bridgend County Borough Council, namely Cleone Westwood and Rosemary Deere.

The Mayor therefore asked everyone in attendance at the meeting to stand for a minutes silence as a mark of respect to these two former Councillors.

270. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from the following members:- Cllr RM James Cllr WR Goode Cllr C Davies Cllr D Harrison Cllr Alex Williams
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

271. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

272. To receive announcements from the Mayor Councillor Huw David

Decision Made	The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Citizenship Awards celebrate individuals and groups who make an outstanding contribution. 27 such awards had been presented again this year to individuals and groups across our communities. One of the winners was Ceri Joseph is the driving force at Porthcawl museum, A treasure trove of local artefacts and history. Ceri and the museum were instrumental last year in celebrations of the 200th
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anniversary of the birth of the town. This year Maesteg also celebrated its 200th anniversary and another citizenship award winner Rob Doyle initiated and has led an extraordinary festival of events in the town that continue this year.

We were lucky to have so many fantastic volunteer led organisation that change lives and even save lives and the Mayor was delighted to be able to present awards. Winners included Cefn Gwyrdd, Da Capo and Crescendo, RNLi Lifeboat Station Porthcawl, Bridgend County Vintage Club, Llynfi River Care and Environmental Group, Bridgend & Porthcawl Marie Curie fundraising group and Cancer Help in Local Lives.

His optimism about the future has been strengthened by the young people he had met including award winner Aspen Wolf Jones who at just 6 years of age had already helped organise a coffee morning, complete a sponsored mini fun run and a undertook charity sleep out. Another award winner was dedicated teenager Morgan Pritchard who selflessly volunteers every Saturday morning at his local breakfast club.

Being part of the citizenship ceremonies for new citizens of the UK has been another highlight of the year. Without exception the people he had met at these ceremonies have been very hard working often running businesses, working in the NHS, social care or the hospitality sector. Often they have made that journey to citizenship because their partners are from here in the UK.

He gave a thank you to everyone who generously donated to his two charities, Make a Wish makes dreams come true for local children dealing with the grueling daily reality of life with a critical or life limiting illness. Ty Hafan provide invaluable support to local families who face that unimaginable reality that their child's life will be short. Visiting the hospice, meeting children, families, staff and volunteers was the most humbling and emotional experiences of his time as Mayor. A special thanks to Castle Bingo in Bridgend who every year makes a significant contribution to the Mayor's charities and this year will be making a donation of £2,000.

The Mayor was very grateful for the very warm welcome he received whenever and whoever I met, businesses, public services, charities, voluntary groups, schools, colleges, places of worship, emergency services.

He confirmed that he wouldn't have been able to undertake the role without the efficient, professional and very patient democratic services team, especially Ruth and Nimi who supported the Mayor alongside their wider roles of supporting all members.

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2026

	Finally, the Mayor thanked each and every member for supporting him in his role of Mayor. Serving as Mayor of the County Borough had been one of the greatest honours and privileges of his life.
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

273. To elect the Mayor for the period to May 2027 in accordance with Section 23(1) of the Local Government Act 1972

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cllr H Bennett be elected as Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2027. Cllr Bennett stated that it was with extreme honour that she accepted the role of Mayor and with gratitude and humility. She added that in the coming year she would look to visit every part of the County Borough in her prestigious role.
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

274. To elect the Deputy Mayor for the period to May 2027 in accordance with Section 24(1) of the Local Government Act 1972

Decision Made	There were two nominations for Deputy Mayor, namely Cllr E Winstanley and Cllr A Wathan. A vote took place on these nominations, the result of which was as follows:- For – Cllr Winstanley – 26 For – Cllr Wathan – 19 No abstentions <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cllr E Winstanley be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2027.
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COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2026

Date Decision Made	13 May 2026
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275. To elect the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council

Decision Made	<p>There were two nominations for the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for the year 2026-2027, namely Cllr JC Spanswick and Cllr R Penhale-Thomas. A vote therefore took place on the election of Leader, the result of which was as follows:-</p> <p>For - Cllr Spanswick - 29</p> <p>For - Cllr Penhale-Thomas - 14</p> <p>Abstentions - 6</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cllr JC Spanswick be elected as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year, to May 2027.</p> <p>The Leader thanked Members for the confidence that had been placed in him to be once more Leader of the Authority and he assured Members, that he would continue to take this prestigious role very seriously in order to do the very best he could for the BCB and the constituents who reside within its communities. He added that he hoped all Members of BCBC would unite in this challenge and thanked members and officers for the support he had received the last 12 months which he was sure would continue in 2026-2027.</p>
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

276. The Leader to inform Council of the members to be appointed to the Cabinet including the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member portfolios

Decision Made	The Leader advised that his Cabinet would comprise of the following members in the undermentioned portfolios:-
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	<p>(2) Determined the size and Terms of Reference for those committees as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; including approving changes to the Terms of Reference of the Governance and Audit Committee and a reduction in size of the Development Control Committee from 18 to 16 members (and not 18 to 14 as was recommended in the report) with a quorum of 8 members, and the associated amendments to the Constitution;</p> <p>(3) Determined the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules as set out in Appendix 2 (of the report) which has been amended to reflect the proposed changes to the Development Control Committee;</p> <p>(4) Noted which political groups represented at Council are entitled to make appointments of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons;</p> <p>(5) Received nominations and appointed Councillors to serve on each of the Committees, Panels and other bodies (as per a list of Committee member appointments shared with Group Leaders and confirmed on the BCBC web site):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appeals Panel• Appointments Committee• Governance and Audit Committee• Democratic Services Committee• Development Control Committee• Licensing Committee• Licensing Act 2003 Committee• Town and Community Council Forum• Standards Committee• Corporate OVSC• Social Services, Health and Wellbeing OVSC• Education and Youth Services OVSC• Communities, Environment and Housing OVSC <p>(6) Received nominations and appointed the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the following Committees, Panels and other bodies (as indicated) with it being noted that the Governance and Audit Committee at its first scheduled meeting will appoint a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:</p> <p>Appeals Panel – Chairperson. Two nominations were received, namely Cllr W Kendall and Cllr R Smith. A vote was therefore conducted for Chair of this Panel the result of which was as follows:</p>
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For – Cllr Kendall – 25

For – Cllr Smith – 18

Cllr W Kendall was therefore appointed Chairperson of the Appeals Panel

Appeals Panel – Vice-Chairperson – Cllr M Hughes (unopposed)

Democratic Services Committee Chairperson – Cllr T Thomas (unopposed)

Development Control Committee. Three nominations were initially received, namely Cllr D Hughes, Cllr R Granville and Cllr M John. Following a vote Cllr Granville and Cllr John proceeded to a second vote (with Cllr Hughes being omitted due to having the least votes)

The result of the second vote was as follows:

For – Cllr Granville - 28

For - Cllr John – 16

Cllr R Granville was appointed Chairperson of the Development Control Committee

Two nominations were received for Vice-Chairperson of the Development Control Committee, namely Cllr S Griffiths and Cllr M John. A vote was therefore conducted the result of which was as follows:

For – Cllr Griffiths – 25

For – Cllr John – 18

Cllr S Griffiths was appointed Vice-Chairperson of the Development Control Committee

Licensing Committee and Licensing Act 2003 Committee. Three nominations were initially received, namely Cllr M Lewis, Cllr S Bletsoe and Cllr RM James. Following a vote Cllr Lewis and Cllr Bletsoe proceeded to a second vote (with Cllr James being omitted due to having the least votes)

The result of the second vote was as follows:

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2026

	<p>For – Cllr Lewis – 25 For – Cllr Bletsoe – 17</p> <p>Cllr M Lewis was appointed Chairperson of the Licensing Committee and Licensing Act 2003 Committee.</p> <p>Licensing Committee and Licensing Act 2003 Committee Vice-Chairperson – Cllr R Williams (unopposed)</p> <p>Town and Community Council Forum Chairperson – Cllr JC Spanswick (unopposed)</p> <p>Town and Community Council Forum Vice-Chairperson – Cllr J Gebbie (unopposed)</p> <p>(7) Noted the nominations from the Group Leaders in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3.3 of the report, and appointed those nominees to the following Overview and Scrutiny Committees:</p> <p>Corporate OVSC Chairperson – Cllr Alex Williams (unopposed) Social Services, Health and Wellbeing OVSC Chairperson – Cllr Freya Bletsoe (unopposed) Communities, Environment and Housing OVSC Chairperson – Cllr Jon-Paul Blundell (unopposed) Education and Youth Services OVSC Chairperson – Cllr Heather Griffiths (unopposed)</p> <p>(8) Noted the Co-opted Member Protocol attached at Appendix 4, which has been drafted in line with the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru’s Annual Remuneration Report;</p> <p>(9) Noted the revised Local Resolution Protocol attached at Appendix 5 to the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

278. Proposed Programme of Meetings of the Council and Council Committees

Decision Made	The Monitoring Officer presented a report outlining the proposed programme of council and committee meetings for May 2026 to April 2027. She advised that the Budget meeting in February 2027 may be subject to change, dependent on the Welsh government’s settlement announcement timeline. Further
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	<p>details of other meetings were available in Appendix 1 of the report. It was noted that there would be a meeting of Council scheduled for December 2026.</p> <p>Attached at Appendix 2 to the report, was the draft programme of meetings for 2027-28 for noting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p> <p>a. Approved the proposed Programme of Council meetings for 2026-2027 as set out in paragraph 3.1 of this report, including a meeting of Council dated 18 December 2026;</p> <p>b. Approved the proposed Programme of Meetings of Council Committees for 2026-2027, as also set out in Appendix 1 to the report;</p> <p>c. Noted the provisional Programme of Meetings of Council and Council Committees for 2027-2028, set out in Appendix 2 to the report;</p> <p>d. Noted the dates of Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and the Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee which are also set out within the reports appendices for information purposes.</p>
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

279. Representation on Outside Bodies & Other Committees

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report presented by the Monitoring Officer, was to seek Council's approval for the appointment of Members to the South Wales Police and Crime Panel, the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group, the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Governance and Audit Sub-Committee and the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Standards Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.</p> <p>Nominations were received for each of the above positions unopposed</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p>
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COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2026

	<p>swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty the King, Charles the Third.”</p> <p>Cllr Huw David extended his congratulations to the incoming Mayor. Cllr David also announced that the Youth Mayor for the ensuing year, until 2027 would be Phoebe Evans and the Deputy Youth Mayor, Adam Cloutier.</p>
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

281. To invest the Mayor's Consort

Decision Made	David Bennett was invested as the Mayor's Consort for 2026-2027.
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

282. To invest the Deputy Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council for 2026/2027

Decision Made	<p>The outgoing Mayor Cllr David confirmed that earlier in proceedings Council had approved the nomination of Cllr Winstanley as Deputy Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council for the year 2026-2027. He therefore invited Cllr Winstanley to accept this offer in office.</p> <p>Councillor Winstanley duly accepted the offer of Deputy Mayor with great pleasure, adding that she looked forward to supporting the newly elected Mayor Cllr Heidi Bennett in this honorable position.</p>
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

283. To invest the Deputy Mayor's Consort

Decision Made	The outgoing Mayor Cllr David announced that the incoming Deputy Mayor did not have any one individual as a Consort for the coming year, but that she would seek to have members of her community to
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COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2026

	accompany her to Civic events.
Date Decision Made	13 May 2026

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

The meeting closed at 17.15.