

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2026

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2026 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor H T Bennett – Chairperson

JPD Blundell
HJ David
M J Evans
H Griffiths
D M Hughes
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
I M Spiller
I Williams

E L P Caparros
C Davies
P Ford
S J Griffiths
M Jones
J E Pratt
T Thomas
MJ Williams

O Clatworthy
P Davies
J Gebbie
GC Haines
W J Kendall
R J Smith
G Walter
E D Winstanley

RJ Collins
S Easterbrook
RM Granville
M L Hughes
M Lewis
JC Spanswick
HM Williams

Present Virtually

S Aspey
N Farr
M R John
AJ Williams

F D Bletsoe
W R Goode
RL Penhale-Thomas
R Williams

S J Bletsoe
D T Harrison
A Ulberini-Williams
T Wood

N Clarke
RM James
A Wathan

Officers:

Jake Morgan
Kelly Watson
Kate Pask
David Wright
Carys Lord
Mark Galvin
Rachel Keepins
Oscar Roberts

Chief Executive
Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory & Electoral Services
Corporate Policy & Performance Manager
Head of Children and Family Services
Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation
Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees
Democratic Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer - Committees

284. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jeff Tildesley, Councillor Anthony Berrow and Councillor Philip Jenkins.
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

285. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	The following declarations of interest were received: Councillor Richard Williams declared a personal interest in item 11, as he is a member of Pencoed Town Council. Councillor Ian Spiller declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a Laleston Community Councillor. Councillor Rhys Goode declared a personal interest in item 12. Councillor Melanie Evans declared a personal interest in item 11, as she is a member of Pencoed Town Council. Councillor Martin Williams declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a member of St Brides Minor Community Council. Councillor Elaine Winstanley declared a personal interest in item 11, as she has done some work on that issue. Councillor Timothy Thomas declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a member of two Community Councils that are mentioned in the report. Councillor Mark John declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a member of two Community Councils that are mentioned in the report, Ynysawdre and St Brides Minor. Councillor Owain Clatworthy declared a personal interest in item 11, as he works for Dewis Cymru which
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	works closely with the Council to support homeless young people, including care leavers. Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a member of Laleston Community Council. Councillor Steven Bletsoe declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a member of Bridgend Town Council. Councillor Timothy Wood declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a member of Bridgend Town Council. Councillor Ian Williams declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a member of Bridgend Town Council. Councillor Steven Easterbrook declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a member of Bridgend Town Council. Councillor Alan Wathan declared a personal interest in item 7, as he is a member of Bridgend Town Council. Councillor Amanda Williams declared a personal interest in item 12, as she is a member of Llais Cymru.
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

286. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	That the minutes of the 11/03/2026 and 13/05/2026 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026	

287. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the following (No decisions required/made):-
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This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

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	• Mayor; • Chief Executive
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

288. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made).
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

289. Panel Performance Assessment Response

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Leader of the Council, was to present Council with the Council's draft response to the recommendations of the Panel Performance Assessment that took place between 16-19 September 2025 for consideration and approval, before it can be formally published and circulated to the statutory recipients detailed in paragraph 3.4. Members posed questions on: • The Council's approach to risk management and whether that could hamper efforts to address the recommendations in the report. • Immediate improvements planned in communication with key stakeholders, and the timeline for these improvements. • Steps to be taken by the Council to unlock the Council's untapped potential. These questions were addressed by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council: 1. Approved the draft Response to the Panel Performance
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	Assessment Report (Appendix 2 to the report) 2. Approved publication of the Panel Performance Assessment Report September 2025 (Appendix 1) and Response to the Panel Performance Assessment Report (Appendix 2) and circulation to the recipients detailed in paragraph 3.4.
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

290. Review of Community Arrangements

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Executive, was to update Council on requests received from Town and Community Councils following Council's decision in October 2025 not to approve the Final Report of the Review of the Community Arrangements of Bridgend County Borough Council. Members posed questions on: • Ongoing efforts to engage with the Boundary Commission Wales. • The timeline of a potential merger between Ynysawdre and St brides Minor Community Councils. These questions were addressed by the Chief Executive. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council: 1. Noted the requests received from Town and Community Councils 2. Noted that whilst there is insufficient time to carry out the reviews as requested by Bridgend Town Council, Ynysawdre Community Council and St. Brides Minor Community Council at this time, further options will be explored over the Summer and reported back to Council in the Autumn. 3. Noted the request from Laleston Community Council and to approve commencing the review process in accordance with the Terms of Reference at Appendix 1.
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Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

291. Revenue Budget Outturn 2025-26

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance and the Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation, was to provide Council with an update on the Council's revenue financial position for the year ended 31st March 2026. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council noted the revenue outturn position for 2025-26.
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

**292. Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions and Contract
Procedure Rules**

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer - Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services, was for Council to approve the amendment of council functions within the Scheme of Delegation of Functions and to note the revised Contract Procedure Rules. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council: 1. Approved the amended Scheme of Delegation of Functions (Appendix 1) in relation to the council functions; 2. Noted that the Constitution will be amended to incorporate the revised Contract Procedure Rules (Appendix 2) subject to Cabinet approval and the expiry of the call-in period.
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

293. Information Report for Noting

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer - Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services, was to inform Council of an Information Report for noting that has been published since its last scheduled meeting. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council acknowledged the publication of the report referred to in paragraph 3.1 above.
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

294. To receive the following Questions from:-

Decision Made	Councillor Ian Williams to the Leader (response previously circulated to Members). A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Williams which was responded to at the meeting. Councillor Alex Ulberini-Williams to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing (response previously circulated to Members). A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Ulberini-Williams which was responded to at the meeting. Councillor Owain Clatworthy to the Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing (response previously circulated to Members). A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Clatworthy which was responded to at the meeting. Councillor Timothy Thomas to the Leader (response previously circulated to Members). A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Thomas which was responded to at the meeting. Councillor Martin Williams to the Leader (response previously circulated to Members). A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Williams which was responded to at the meeting.
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Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

295. Notice of Motions Proposed by:-

Decision Made	Members debated the Notice of Motions as detailed at Agenda item 12. on today's meeting agenda. Councillor Penhale-Thomas gave a statement outlining a proposed amendment to the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Blundell to insert a new point, as follows- “That the Council recognizes that the resources available to local government in Wales are fundamentally shaped by UK Government’s funding arrangements and calls for continued reform of the Barnett formula to ensure Wales receives a fair and needs-based level of funding. Alongside the local government family in Wales, support the new Welsh government in any negotiations with the UK government that seek to address historic underfunding that, if realised, would result in additional monies for public services here in Wales.” Councillor Blundell declined to accept the amendment proposed but offered to work with Councillor Penhale-Thomas outside the meeting on a separate Motion on the subject of the Barnett formula. Members outlined their thoughts on the Motion proposed by Councillor Blundell and the proposed amendment, asking that any correspondence from Welsh Government be shared with all Members. A verbal vote was then conducted on the amendment to the motion proposed by Councillor Penhale-Thomas, the result of which was as follows:- <table><tr><td><u>For (the amendment)</u></td><td><u>Against</u></td><td><u>Abstentions</u></td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>28</td><td>1</td></tr></table> <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Blundell be supported. The Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing gave a statement outlining a	<u>For (the amendment)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	17	28	1
<u>For (the amendment)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>					
17	28	1					

	proposed amendment to the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Clatworthy to insert the following additional point under “This Council Notes:”, as follows- “That the knowing or reckless dissemination of misinformation or disinformation by Elected Members undermines public confidence in local democracy, damages trust in public institutions and may constitute a breach of the Nolan Principles of Public Life, particularly the principles of honesty, integrity, accountability and leadership.” In addition, the amendment proposed to insert the following new resolution after resolution 3 and re-number subsequent resolutions accordingly, as follows- “4. Agree that any allegation that an Elected Member has knowingly or recklessly disseminated misinformation or disinformation in relation to Council business, Council governance, Elected Members, Officers or matters affecting the reputation of the Council with automatically be referred to the Monitoring Officer for formal consideration under the Member’s Code of Conduct as a potential breach of the Nolan Principles of Public Life, with onward referrals to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales where appropriate.” Councillor Penhale-Thomas gave a statement outlining a proposed amendment to the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Clatworthy to insert a new point after number 3, as follows- “To recognise that the right to freedom of speech is accompanied by responsibilities. Elected Members should exercise that right with care and respect, particularly in public communications and all social media, ensuring that language does not inflame division or contribute to the hostile environment this Motion seeks to address.” Members outlined their thoughts on the Motion proposed by Councillor Clatworthy as well as both proposed amendments. Concerns were raised over the use of the term ‘misinformation’ in the first proposed amendment as it lacks a singular legal definition. A verbal vote was then conducted on the first amendment to the motion proposed by the Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing, the result of which was as follows:- <table><tr><td><u>For (the amendment)</u></td><td><u>Against</u></td><td><u>Abstentions</u></td></tr><tr><td>31</td><td>15</td><td>0</td></tr></table>	<u>For (the amendment)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	31	15	0
<u>For (the amendment)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>					
31	15	0					

	A show of hands was conducted on the second amendment to the motion proposed by Councillor Ross Thomas, which was carried. The Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory & Electoral Services compiled a new version of the Motion incorporating both amendments, as follows- “This Council notes: • That across Britain we are seeing a growing culture of intimidation, political abuse and hostility towards people who hold different views. • That democracy cannot function properly if ordinary people are shouted down, threatened or intimidated for expressing lawful opinions. • That political violence, intimidation and harassment against councillors, candidates, activists, journalists or members of the public is completely unacceptable regardless of political affiliation. • That many decent people are now discouraged from entering public life because politics has become increasingly toxic and hostile. • Britain is built on free speech, democratic debate and the right to peacefully disagree. • Strong debate is healthy in a democracy, but intimidation and political violence are not. • Nobody should face threats, abuse or attempts to silence them simply for holding mainstream political views. • Councillors have a duty to lead by example and uphold respectful democratic debate, even where opinions differ strongly, including showing common courtesy towards one another. • That the knowing or reckless dissemination of misinformation or disinformation by elected members undermines public confidence in local democracy, damages trust in public institutions, and may constitute a breach of the Nolan Principles of Public Life, particularly the principles of Honesty, Integrity, Accountability and Leadership. This Council resolves to: 1. Condemn all forms of political violence, intimidation, harassment and attempts to silence lawful democratic expression. 2. Reaffirm this Council’s support for freedom of speech, open debate and democratic participation. 3. Encourage all elected members to promote respectful conduct both online and in public meetings. 4. Recognise that the right to freedom of speech is accompanied by responsibilities: elected members should exercise that right with care and respect, particularly in public communications and on social media, ensuring that language used does not inflame division or contribute to the hostile environment this motion seeks to address.
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5. Agree that any allegation that an elected member has knowingly or recklessly disseminated misinformation or disinformation in relation to Council business, Council governance, elected members, officers, or matters affecting the reputation of the Council shall be automatically referred to the Monitoring Officer for formal consideration under the Members' Code of Conduct as a potential breach of the Nolan Principles of Public Life, with onward referral to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales where appropriate.
6. Work with South Wales Police where necessary to ensure threats or intimidation towards councillors, officers or members of the public are treated seriously.
7. Promote a culture where residents feel confident expressing their views openly without fear of abuse or intimidation.
8. Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Welsh Government expressing concern over increasing hostility in public life and calling for stronger action to protect democratic participation and free expression."

A verbal vote was then conducted on the motion incorporating the two amendments from the Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing and Councillor Penhale-Thomas, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>For (the amendment)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
31	15	0

RESOLVED:

That the twice-amended Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Clatworthy be supported.

Members outlined their thoughts on the Motion proposed by Councillor Penhale-Thomas, indicating the lack of transparency in the process for service moves within NHS Wales and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board's accountability. Meetings with the Chief Executive of the board to discuss concerns have been cancelled at short notice. Next steps following the motion were also discussed to ensure that

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	Borough County residents receive the proper representation for their concerns. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Penhale-Thomas be supported.
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

296. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	24 June 2026

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

The meeting closed at 19:04.