

# Laleston Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Laleston Community Council held at Blandy Hall on 17 July 2025 commencing at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Cllr's A Berrow, JP Blundell, Z Blundell, C Davies, M Fouracre, D Harrison, V James, S Philpin, S Richmond, C Smith, M Smith, I Spiller and C Webster.

**In attendance:** Gail Jewell

**1. 19.1702 Council undertook a period of silent reflection.** Cllr I Spiller proposed that Members undertake the minutes silence in memory of the tragic death of Rhys Rubery following a road incident on the A48, that took place 9 years ago.

**2. 19.1703 Apologies for absence.** None.

**3. 19.1704 Representation from members of the public.** None.

**4. 19.1705 Items of business that the Chair deems urgent.**

- i) The Chair sought agreement from Council that the Clerk and the Chair have preliminary powers to handle urgent matters during recess.

**Resolved:** Council **agreed** that the Chair and the Clerk have preliminary powers to handle urgent matters during recess and requested that a report be provided to Council on any decisions made at the Council meeting in September.

- ii) The Chair explained that pages of the Broadlands Fun Day Magazine referring to Laleston Community Council had been circulated prior to the meeting for review and required agreement from Council prior to its publication.  
Cllr I Spiller explained that some of the projects Council have agreed to undertake in previous years and details of developments that had been completed had been added to the Broadlands Fun Day magazine to publicise the work of Council and its Councillors. Cllr C Webster thanked the inclusion of Pantry and the room hire of Bryntirion Community Centre and Blandy Hall.

**Resolved:** Council **agreed** with the content referring to work carried out by Laleston Community Council be included in the Broadlands Fun Day Magazine.

**5. 19.1706 Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr I Spiller – Approval of Minutes (for accuracy) for Items 8 & 9 – Prejudicial Interest as the Chair of Broadlands Community Hub.

Cllr I Spiller – Item 4ii – Personal Interest as the Chair of the Broadlands Community Hub.

Cllr I Spiller – Item 15 – Personal Interest as a Member of Bridgend Town Council.

Cllr C Webster – Item 15 – Personal Interest as a Member of Bridgend Town Council.

Cllr A Berrow – Item 19 - Prejudicial Interest as a Member of Bridgend County Borough Council Planning Committee.

Cllr D Harrison - Item 19 - Prejudicial Interest as a Member of Bridgend County Borough Council Planning Committee.

**6. 19.1707 Approval of Minutes.**

**Confirmation of Accuracy of the minutes from the meeting that took place on 17 April 2025**

In response to Cllr C Davies querying proposing the minutes of the meeting that took place on 17 April 2025, the Clerk confirmed that the recording had been checked and that it was Cllr M Fouracre that proposed the minutes of the meeting, and that the minutes had been amended to reflect that.

**Accuracy of the minutes from the meeting that took place on 19 June 2025**

*Cllr I Spiller left the room whilst Members agreed to the accuracy of Items 8 and 9.*

**9. 19.1686 To receive any recommendations and or comments from Committees.**

- a) **Finance Committee** - The Clerk explained that an email had been received from Cllr C Smith requesting that points made during deliberation be added to the minutes, to which the Clerk agreed to add to the body of the minutes prior to publication.

*Cllr I Spiller returned to the room following the accuracy of Items 8 & 9.*

**13. 19.1690 To discuss Pen-Y-Bont Football Club.**

Cllr I Spiller highlighted the ambiguity of what was proposed prior to the resolution made during this item. The Chair responded by stating the Cllr C Davies had proposed that Bryntirion Play Fields be used to remedy the parking issues caused by visitors to Pen-y-Bont Football Club and requested that the minutes reflect the deliberation prior to publication.

In response to the resolution that Council **agreed** to write to Bridgend County Borough Council to ascertain previous planning applications submitted for extending the car parking facilities for Pen-y-Bont Football Club, Cllr I Spiller provided an update explaining that a meeting had taken place with Bridgend County Borough Council, Pen-y-Bont Football Club and Members of Laleston Community Council the previous year where it was confirmed that no pre planning advice or planning permission had been sought by Pen-y-Bont Football Club to extend the car parking facilities.

Cllr I Spiller further explained that during the meeting, it was agreed that Pen-y-Bont Football Club work with Bridgend County Borough Council to explore extending the car parking facilities, although following recent written communication with Pen-y-Bont Football Club, that has not taken place.

Cllr I Spiller confirmed that introductory meetings had been scheduled to take place with Laleston Community Council Members and the new Chief Executive of Bridgend County Borough Council where the parking issues will be highlighted to the Chief Executive as an unacceptable situation.

**Resolved:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council that took place on 19 June 2025 were **approved** as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr C Webster and seconded by Cllr S Richmond.

**Matters Arising from the Meeting that took place on 19 June 2025:**

*Confirmation was received explaining that the Standards Committee had granted Cllr I Spiller dispensation for the meeting on 17 July 2025 to speak only as a matter of clarification on matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 19 June 2025 relating to Item 8 and Item 9.*

**Item 8. 19.1685      To receive an update on Broadlands Fun Day.**

Cllr I Spiller raised concerns relating to the statement made by Cllr C Davies outlining that the Headteacher would not have provided the response if he were to know that it would be presented at a public meeting and asked Cllr C Davies to elaborate. Cllr C Davies confirmed that the statement was true and reflected the governors stance. Cllr C Davies agreed to provide a quotation from the email where the reference was made.

**9. 19.1686      To receive any recommendations and or comments from Committees.**

**a) Finance Committee**

In response to statements made by both Cllr C Davies and Cllr S Smith at the Council meeting that took place on 17 July 2025, Cllr I Spiller clarified the following:

- Council's donation policy does not preclude applications from community organisations.
- In 2017, the Broadlands Residents Association (previous name of Broadlands Community Hub) wrote to Laleston Community Council to partner with the group on the Fun Day, as a subsequent Clerk raised concerns as Council were paying for items and claiming back the VAT and it was explained that VAT was only recoverable for Council activities, which were ordered by the Council, invoiced to the Council and paid for by the Council, which was agreed at full Council. This agreement ensured that no money was directly given to Broadlands Community Hub and that Laleston Community Council pay directly for equipment for the day which would be audited by internal and external auditors.
- Further clarification was provided by a motion submitted by Cllr S Philpin to Council in October 2023, which outlined 'In recognition of council's participation in the success of the annual Broadlands Fun Day, and that council co-hosts the event. I propose Laleston Community Council agrees that the event is:
  - 1) Given a budget heading within the council's budget annually.
  - 2) As a council event it is no longer referred to as a grant request or donation.
  - 3) An agenda item is included annually following the event to:
    - a. Receive a report on the event.
    - b. Agree a budget for the following years event. This budget should then be included within the budget and precept setting process'.
- Broadlands Community Hub had previously sought charitable status and were informed that the Group did not have aims that were solely for charitable purposes, although he did confirm that the Group would be looking to seek advice from BAVO to explore becoming a charity or similar organisation, at the next Annual Meeting. It was further explained that as the group was not a charity, there is no onus on the group to have audited accounts, but following on from the feedback received by Council, Broadlands Community Hub will pass the accounts to an external auditor this year as good practice.

In response to a statement made by Cllr C Davies regarding the Governors of Maes Y Haul Primary School not being made aware of any damage made to the school grounds in

a timely manner, following a previously held Broadlands Fun Day, Cllr JP Blundell suggested that Council write to the School Governors to ask them to confirm their concerns in writing, Council could look at the issues to see how to mitigate in the future.

It was explained that if any Member of Council had reservations with the processes for Broadlands Fun Day, a motion should be presented to Council, which would be seconded and voted on by all Members.

Following on from the Chair initiating restrictions for any further deliberation, Cllr C Smith continued to raise concerns relating to the governance of the Fun Day and was asked three times to stop, which resulted in Council voting that Cllr C Smith was no longer heard at the meeting.

**7. 19.1708 To receive quotations, if any. None.**

**8. 19.1709 To receive and review the final draft report, final design, analysis and planning response for Bryntirion Community Park completed by Whittington Landscape Architecture**

**Resolved:** Following review of the final draft report for Bryntirion Community Park, Members **agreed** that a conclusion meeting be scheduled with Whittington Landscape Architecture, Laleston Community Council steering group, Rachel Morton, Resilient Communities Coordinator for Reach and Louise Connolly, Community Asset Transfer Officer from Bridgend County Borough Council to discuss the report further and explore adding additional detail in the conclusion section of the report by means of a Gantt chart and information pertaining to responses received from Planning and the on-line consultation process.

**9. 19.1710 To review concept designs for Laleston Well prior to consultation.**

**Resolved:** Members **thanked** Phil Cope and Bronwen Thomas for the work carried out on the concept designs for Laleston Well Project and **agreed** to take the designs forward to consultation. Members further agreed to accept a response of 60% in favour of the designs to progress further following consultation.

**10. 19.1711 To agree to replace two bins at Chestnut Bush Play Park following resolution from Bridgend County Borough Council.**

**Resolved:** Council **agreed** to replace two bins at Chestnut Bush Play Park.

**11. 19.1712 Laleston Church Bells.**

**Resolved:** Members **agreed** to defer this item to await further information from St. Davids Church treasurer.

**12. 19.1713 To investigate utilising an external contractor to implement a car parking release fee for Bryntirion Community Centre car park.**

**Resolved:** Council **agreed** for the Clerk to investigate costings for utilising an external contractor to implement a car parking release fee for Bryntirion Community Centre car park.

**13. 19.1714 To discuss investigating re-opening pathways in Craig Y Parcau Local Nature Reserve.**

Cllr I Spiller explained that during a Council meeting that took place on 17 November 2022, Members resolved that the Clerk reply to BCBC to state that all Members of Laleston Community Council would be very interested in obtaining any information on working together on the matter, and to possibly explore the opportunity of including areas upstream along Wordsworth Avenue to Nant Cefn Glas. He continued to explain that a site meeting had recently taken place with BCBC Officers at Craig Y Parcau to discuss possible options of re-opening some pathways within the nature reserve.

Cllr I Spiller proposed that Laleston Community Council seek funding to undertake a 'tiered approach' feasibility study on re-opening pathways within Craig Y Parcau.

Cllr C Davies highlighted concerns with reopening Craig Y Parcau by outlining that work had been carried out in 2018 on a section of Craig Y Parcau, which only resolved the issue for 4 years before section had to be closed due to further bank erosion, and that a cost for remedial work had been provided of £750,000.

**Resolved:** Members **agreed** to seek funding to undertake a 'tiered approach' feasibility study on the existing conditions at Craig Y Parcau Nature Reserve, to include areas upstream along Wordsworth Avenue to Nant Cefn Glas, to ascertain the viability of reopening any of pathways in Craig Y Parcau.

*Cllr C Smith asked if he could speak on the item and the Chair confirmed he could not, as a vote had taken place to ensure that he was not heard for the duration of the meeting. Cllr C Smith continued to challenge the situation and Members agreed that Cllr C Smith be removed from the meeting.*

**14. 19.1715 Consider costings provided by Bridgend County Borough Council for CCTV and agree on a way forward.**

**Resolved:** Members **agreed** to note the costings for CCTV and retain on file until Council agree to maintain the park and surrounding area by Broadlands Basketball Court and review the costings during the budget setting process.

**15. 19.1716 To receive a quotation to repaint Laleston Milestone**

**Resolved:** Council **agreed** to defer the item until costings are provided by Bridgend Town Council in writing.

**16. 19.1717 To receive any recommendations and or comments from Committees –**

- a) Finance Committee. None.
- b) HR & Personnel Committee. None.
- c) Biodiversity & Allotment Committee. None

**17. 19.1718 To receive the draft minutes of any Committee meetings held since the last meeting of Council and note any delegated decisions made.**

- a) Finance Committee – None.
- b) HR & Personnel Committee – None.
- c) Biodiversity & Allotment Committee – None.

**18. 19.1719 To receive correspondence, if any.** None.

**19. 19.1720 To consider Planning Applications.**

*Cllr D Harrison and Cllr A Berrow left the meeting.*

| <b>Planning Application</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Comment</b>                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Planning Application No.: P/25/367/FUL<br>Applicant: Broadlands Property Investment Ltd<br>Location: Units 7 & 8 Broadlands Shopping Centre<br>Gentle Way Bridgend CF31 5EJ<br>Proposal: Extension to existing commercial units<br>Date: 26 June 2025 | <b><i>Resolved:</i></b> No issues raised. |

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18 September 2025 and will commence at 7.00pm.