In line with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 these minutes are duly published as draft and will be formally agreed at the next meeting of the Council.

LALESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Laleston Community Council held at Blandy Hall on Thursday 19th November 2026 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs.V.James(Chair), I Spiller, M. Fouracre, J-P Blundell, Z.Blundell M.Smith, T.Berrow, C. Davies, S. Philpin, C. Smith

In Attendance: Geraint Thomas, Clerk

Gail Jewell RFO – online

Mrs V. Ryan member of the public observing the meeting

1.101 The Council undertook a period of silent reflection

Noted

2.102 Apologies for absence:

Cllrs C. Webster, D. Harrison, S. Richmond

3.103 Representation from members of the Public

NONE

4.104 Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs.I Spiller,T.Berrow and J-P Blundell as Members of the Borough Council

Cllrs I Spiller and M. Smith declared that they are members Bridgend Town Council
Cllr, I Spiller declared a prejudicial interest as a Member of Bridgend County Borough Council Planning Committee
Cllr I Spiller declared a prejudicial interest in a quotation being received for the Council to undertake at a location in Broadlands.
Cllr, C .Davies declared a prejudicial interest in matter being discussed relating to Maes yr Haul School.
Cllr C. Davies declared that he would be seeking clarification on a possible declaration he may have if he attends meetings of the Joint Working Group with Penybont FC, in his capacity as a Cabinet Member for Regeneration in BCBC

5.105 To receive a report from the Chair of the Council in relation to events

DRAFT

The Chair reported the following successful events that had been attended to date

LCC Fireworks Display

Bridgend Town Council Remembrance Sunday parade and Service

LCC Remembrance Day parade and Service
The opening of a new garden at Cefn Glas School

RESOLVED to accept the report from the Chair with thanks

6.106 Approval of Minutes

The Draft minutes were circulated beforehand

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 19th October 2026 without any points of clarification being raised.

7.107 To receive quotations

The Clerk referred to the following quotations Received

1. Blandy Road /Dove Close path
    a. Quote received for £25677.51 with 50% being recovered from BCBC Rights of Way
2. "H "signs outside nos.1.2.and 3 Carn Wen Broadlands
    a. Quote received in the sum of £200
    b. (Cllr I Spiller left the meeting when this quotation was being considered)
3. 3-year defibrillator service/inspection package
    a. Quote received in the sum of £2565

RESOLVED to accept the quotes referred to above, pay them accordingly and the appropriate recharge be made to BCBC as indicated

8.108 To receive Draft minutes and any recommendations and or comments from Committees

RESOLVED to note the following minutes
Special Finance and Facilities meeting held on the 13th October 2026
Bio-diversity and Allotments Committee held on the 29th October 2026

DRAFT

9.109 To consider the re-designation of the Bryntirion Master Plan Working

Group to the Joint Working Group with Penybont FC and to receive an update on the meeting held on 5th November 2026

The Clerk referred to this and the background thereto at Council

The Clerk also indicated that there had been a positive initial Joint Working Group on the 5th November 2026 and referred to the terms of reference for the Group referred to at the meeting that needed confirmation by the Council

RESOLVED to

1. **Redesignate the Bryntirion Master Plan Working Group to the Joint Working Group with Penybont FC**
2. **To allow an increase in the Council representatives attending such meetings, Cllrs M. Smith and Z. Blundell wished to attend Cllr C. Davies is to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer of BCBC as to his name going forward.**
3. **The terms of reference documents for the redesignate group be duly accepted by the Council**

10.110 To consider a report from Finance and Facilities Committee regarding Budget and Precept 27/28 (reference Finance and Facilities Cttee 12th November 2026)

This important matter received detailed discussion at the meeting and it follows the following statement made by the Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee as follows:

"In my capacity as Chair of the Finance and Facilities Cttee, I would report on the subject of presenting a report to the Full Council on the Budget/Precept 27/28, the Committee were faced with difficult challenges in its preparation.

You All have been circulated with the information that was considered by the Finance and Facilities Cttee last Thursday 12th November 2026.

The initial draft stated that there would need to an uplift in the Precept of 25.2% which the Committee felt could not be justified considering the current cost of living and the already agreed items for this Council to provide for in 2027/28.

DRAFT

Consequently, the Committee went through each of the Council's heads of account line by line, reducing /adjusting the initial draft issued accordingly.

The Committee meeting went on until just after 9 pm and the outcome therefrom covering the points referred to earlier was that the Committee was able to reduce the initial uplift from 25.2% to 22.7%.

This included raising the Bryntirion Masterplan back to £65,000 reserve, and holding earmarked reserves for the costs association with improving Barnes Avenue, Laleston & Chestnut Bush parks for which we are awaiting invoices from BCBC – this equates to £54,361 in total.

The committee felt that Council should consider the levels of general and earmarked reserves, consideration would need to be given to further lowering the level of reserves retained, which has already been undertaken in the calculation of the Precept for 27/28, and detailed consideration be given to whether or not the replacement/repairs to the Fitness Trail at Maes yr Haul is deemed appropriate at this current time".

It was clarified by the Clerk that even though the Finance and Facilities Cttee had plenary delegated powers, the Council would need to decide on the precept and any reserves referred to in the process. The Finance and Facilities did not have the power to decide on Budget and Precept other than to make the Council aware of the discussions held.

During the proceedings the RFO, who was on- line ,was updating the spreadsheet that had been circulated to All councillors in advance of the meeting. Cllr I Spiller also had access to the spreadsheet.

In relation to the request of the Headteacher for financial assistance for renewing the Fitness trail at the school it was **RESOLVED** not to accede to the request based on alternatives being available. Cllr J.P Blundell proposed writing to the governors to confirm the position and report back to council.

Even though Cllr C. Davies declared a prejudicial interest in respect of the foregoing matter he did not leave the meeting, and subsequently provided additional information regarding the school's financial position and that governors were not aware of the head teachers approach to council.

DRAFT

Following the discussion and proposed adjustments to the suggested Budget for 27/28 and reducing the level of both general and earmarked reserves effectively meant the precept for 2027/28 would be reduced from a 22.7% initial increase to a 7.9% increase.

A recorded vote was exercised by the Council on this important subject

Those accepting the Precept increase of 7.9% = 6 Councillor
Cllrs. I Spiller. V. James, M. Fouracre, M. Smith, S. Philpin, T. Berrow

Those against the Precept increase of 7.9% = 4 Councillors
Cllrs C. Smith, J-P Blundell, Z. Blundell, C. Davies.

The Clerk indicated that the details of the Budget and Precept Calculation will be placed on the Council's Website in due course.

RESOLVED that the Budget for 27/28 as adjusted and presented at Council be accepted and that the precept required to meet the Council's budget for 27/28 be increased by 7.9% above that which was applicable in 26/27 amounting to £352,506.00

11.111 To note the following: HMS Urge Bench at the RBL Wales Festival of Remembrance

Cllr I Spiller referred to this matter with appreciation for what had been presented by the Royal British Legion at its recent Remembrance Event.

RESOLVED to note

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12.112 To Receive the Clerk's general report

The Clerk referred to the following matters

He wished to record his thanks to the RFO for the work undertaken in the preparation of the accounts and Budget /Precept setting for 2027/28

Boundary Review undertaken by BCBC

The Clerk informed the Council that the outcome of the above had been accepted by BCBC at its Council

RESOLVED to note the report with thanks

DRAFT

13.113 To receive correspondence

The Clerk referred go an email received from the Chair of the National Allotments Society in respect of a former Allotmenteer.

The Clerk stated that the matter was still a concern for the NAS and therefore should not be discussed by Council in any detail.

RESOLVED to refer the email and its contents for consideration at the Biodiversity and Allotments Committee meeting scheduled for the 28th January 2027

Draft Charter between BCBC and Town and Community Councils

RESOLVED that this matter be referred to the December meeting of the Council

14. 114 To consider any Planning Matters

Planning applications were circulated prior to the meeting and the comment received is indicated below. Cllr I Spiller left the meeting before this item was considered.

P**lanning Application**	**Comment**
Application No.: P/26/557/FUL Applicant: Mr M Rahman Location: 11 Coed Caer Odin,Cefn Glas, Bridgend CF31 4TN Proposal: Single Storey Rear Extension Date: 5th November 2026	No Comment
Application No: P/26/549/FUL Applicant: Mrs K. Norman Location: 8 Coleridge Close, Cefn Glas, Bridgend CF31 4QB Proposal : First floor side extension incorporating flat roof dormers supported by pillars and associated works Date: 11th November 2026	No Comment
Application No:T/26/34/TPO Applicant: W. Sargent	No Comment

DRAFT

Location: 4 Laleston Court,Llaeston Bridgend,CF31 0HG Proposal: Crown reduction to one oak tree	

15.115 To consider, if necessary, the changing of the scheduled date of the December meeting

RESOLVED TO not bring forward the date of the 17th December 2026 Council meeting

16.116 To make a presentation to Cllr S. Philpin of her medallion as Past Chair of the Council 25/26

The Chair was pleased to present to Cllr S. Philpin with her medallion as Past Chair of the Council during the municipal year 2026/2027.

RESOLVED to note with appreciation

17.117 If appropriate, consider passing the following resolution:

That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.

The motion was not passed

There being no further business to be transacted, Council meeting ended at 8.10pm

Next meeting will be on the 17th December 2026

Chair signature for approval…….

DRAFT

DRAFT