Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry Community Council
Rudry Parish Hall
Rudry
Caerphilly
CF83 3DF
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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Tuesday, 27 January 2026 at 6.00pm

The meeting was held as a 'hybrid meeting', thus it was open as an in-person, indoors meeting at Rudry Parish Hall and available by prior request to the Clerk as a remote virtual meeting.

Present:

Cllr Lee Cecil, Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones, Cllr Zoe Hewer, Cllr Kevin Stanworth and Jessica Thomas (Clerk). Cllr Amanda McConnell attended the meeting remotely.

Chair, Cllr Lee Cecil, led the meeting that commenced at 6.00pm

1) Apologies / Introductions
Apologies were received in advance of the meeting for Cllr Phil Rosser.

2) Police Update
PCSO Sarah Barbour provided an update. There were 6 calls for crime during November 2025 and 7 for December 2025. 3 of these calls related to safety awareness. There were no reports of anti-social behaviour in either November or December 2025.
PCSO Sarah Barbour advised that the local policing team now hold a speed gun, and trained officers are available to carry out routine checks in areas identified by DWRCC as a concern.
Cllr Zoe Hewer noted that, in Rudry, there is a high volume of vehicles passing through the village between 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm, many of which are speeding. PCSO Sarah Barbour will suggest that speed checks be carried out during these times, where possible.
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones explained that the issue in Waterloo differs slightly, as vehicles tend to move towards the centre of the carriageway while accelerating up the hill into the lanes. PCSO Sarah Barbour will check this area. PCSO's will also carry out speed checks in Draethen.
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones also reported that a van has been left in Waterloo for approximately 6 weeks as a result of breaking down in the local flooding. PCSO Sarah Barbour will make enquiries and knock on the door of the owner, if the vehicle appears abandoned, CCBC can issue a 7-day notice. Cllr Lee Cecil also provided Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones with a contact in CCBC Highways, Gavin Barry.
Cuppa with a Copper is being held on Thursday.

3) Declarations of Interest
None.

4) Minutes and matters arising
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones advised the minutes from the meeting on Tuesday, 25 November 2025 would need an amendment at 8d to include, "CCBC will carry out regular enforcement patrols to monitor the issue." All councillors agreed to this amendment.

Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones raised concerns regarding the flooding in Waterloo. He has contacted CCBC but has not yet received a response. Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones noted that in an online news article, CCBC stated they are working with Total Energy (the landowners), although in his experience, the company does not respond.
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones has asked Cllr Amanda McConnell for support liaision with CCBC. Arrangements will be made with CCBC officials to hold a site meeting with Waterloo residents to

discuss the ongoing flooding issue and intended action. Residents will be contacted once the arrangements have been finalised.

Cllr Kev Ingram attended the TCCLC meeting. CCBC has decided to increase council tax by 6.25%. Boundary changes were also discussed. Cllr Lee Cecil confirmed that boundary changes would not affect us as we are financially stable and only hold 1 contract, so it would be a case of merging or not with no financial complications.

5) Chair and County Members' Update

None.

6) Clerk's Report

a. Statement of transactions has been presented and agreed by all Councillors.

b. The training log has been updated to include:

i. Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones has completed Biodiversity Part 1

ii. Jessica Thomas (Clerk) has completed Biodiversity Action Plan

7) Current Projects

a. Benches Replacement

Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones, despite persistent efforts, has received no communication from the landowner. As no further progress can be made without a response, it was agreed that this item will now be closed.

b. ASB / Off Road Biking Deterrent / Traffic Calming / Safe Routes in Communities / Speed Watch

The plans discussed with PCSO Sarah Barbour regarding the use of speed guns will be implemented.

Cllr Lee Cecil met with Inspector Richard Tovey, who was very interested and keen to support with these issues.

c. Defibrillator Supplies & Contracts

The cabinet for the defibrillator has now been installed at Branch Cottages. Cllr Kevin Stanworth has requested a training course be held locally as residents would benefit from learning how to use the equipment. All councillors agreed this would be beneficial.

d. Wildflowers, Daffodils & Tete-a-Tete

Jessica Thomas (Clerk) advised that One Voice Wales can carry out free soil testing which would enable us to apply for a grant for seeds and bulbs. All councillors welcomed the support from One Voice Wales. Cllr Kevin Stanworth will meet with One Voice Wales on site.

8) Items for Discussion

a. Energy Supplier – Christmas Lights

Jessica Thomas (Clerk) advised that a supplier has been found who are able to provide a supply to us, however, they are unable to backdate the supply. They have agreed to provide electricity for the Christmas Lights in 2026.

b. Feedback on Rudry & Waterloo Christmas Lights

Cllr Zoe Hewer expressed the positive feedback received by residents of Rudry. There was a great turnout at the switch-on event. Cllr Kev Ingram added that the positive feedback for Rudry had also been expressed by residents outside of the village.

Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones said the residents of Waterloo were very appreciative and also gave positive feedback. He further commended the prompt response from the supplier when an issue arose with the lights.

Cllr Lee Cecil was contacted by a resident of Waterloo who had requested lights to be placed on a tree in Waterloo for Christmas 2026. Cllr Lee Cecil directed the resident to Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones who will liaise with the resident to identify if this would be possible.

c. Go Safe / Speed Awareness
Cllr Lee Cecil has been liaising with Inspector Richard Tovey resulting in Go Safe agreeing to install a recording device to monitor quantity and speed of vehicles passing through Draethen. The report was back within 6 and a half days but unfortunately, covered the end of the village which doesn't usually experience speed concerns. Cllr Lee Cecil has since requested that the equipment be installed on the road into the village from the Maenllwyd Pub. Inspector Richard Tovey has requested this and it should be done early 2026.

d. Beach / Draethen Land ASB
This topic will be discussed in the Cuppa with a Copper session, including putting a plan in place in advance of the Summer.

e. Budget Review Q3 & Precept
Although we are slightly over budget, this was expected due to the Christmas Lights, there is no need to increase the precept for 2026/27.

9) Planning Applications
None

10) Biodiversity
Jessica Thomas (Clerk) will contact One Voice Wales to discuss soil testing and make a start on the wildflowers project.

11) Exclusion of Press and Public
None.

12) Exempt Items
None.

The next meeting is agreed for Tuesday, 24 February 2026 at 6.00pm at Rudry Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Signed: **Date:**