

In line with the Welsh Government's 'Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021' requirement for all 730 Town and Community Councils in Wales to electronically publish the key information and the outcome of their Council meetings within 7 days of the meeting, early, truncated and unsigned Minutes of the reformed Full Council Meeting of Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry (DWR) Community Council held on Tuesday, 30 June 2026 at 6.00pm, are published here

Present:

Cllr Lee Cecil, Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones, Cllr Zoe Hower, Cllr Kev Ingram, Cllr Phil Rosser, Cllr Kevin Stanworth and Jessica Thomas (Clerk)

Also in attendance was PCSO Ellie Morgan, PCSO563 Anthne and Laura Thomas (CCBC Play Sufficiency Team)

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

A. Apologies / Introductions

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting for Cllr Amanda McConnell.

B. Police Update

PCSO Ellie Morgan provided an update for the area. Recorded crime related to off-road biking, animal welfare and neighbour disputes. There was only 1 incident of anti-social behaviour recorded, PCSO Ellie advised that this number would be higher, but the reports for incidents we were aware of were recorded as noise complaints. Due to recent incidents of individuals setting fires, PCSO Ellie has been in contact with the fire service to ensure updates are received. Patrols will increase in these areas. Cllr Zoe Hower noted that residents have noticed the presence of police and it is well received. PCSO Ellie advised that they are continuing to use speed guns and agreed that the feedback and engagement with residents have been very positive.

Cllr Lee Cecil and Cllr Zoe Hower continue to direct residents to 101 for reporting issues for action to be taken. PCSO Ellie confirmed that more reports will result in more patrols.

Following the recent incident involving the group of off-road bikers, Cllr Kevin Stanworth advised that the gangs had not returned to the area and only individual rider have been seen.

C. Declarations of Interest

None.

D. Minutes and matters arising

The Council has agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 26 May 2026 were correct, and they were duly signed by the Chair.

E. Chair and County Members' Update

None.

F. Clerk's Report

- a. Statement of transactions has been presented and agreed by all Councillors.
- b. All documents have been submitted to Audit Wales
- c. The training log has been updated for Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones who attended Nature Project Management.

G. Current Projects

- a. ASB / Off road biking deterrent / Traffic calming / Safe Routes in Communities / Speed Watch

Cllr Zoe Hower has organised a petition to be signed accompanied by comments on how resident's lives are affected by this. The petition was submitted to CCBC Full Council Meeting by County Cllrs Chris Morgan & Amanda McConnell on the same day as this meeting. Councillors agreed they will await the response on this. A plan has been agreed for the next steps if an appropriate outcome is not received following the petition.

A recent incident involving a van belonging to Ryan Landscaping Ltd. Details were provided to the police, who have since spoken with the director. He advised he will address the matter with the driver.

- b. Defibrillator Supplies & Contracts
The defibrillator at the hall is now working and back online.
- c. Renewals
Cllr Lee Cecil discussed the energy performance certificates that were complete on a number of residents' homes last year. He requested that the Clerk contact Cllr Amanda McConnell to discuss potential next steps to support residents further with the energy efficiency of their homes.
- d. DWR Leaflets
The leaflets have now been delivered to residents in Draethen & Rudry. Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones has received the remainder of the leaflets and will deliver these to Waterloo.

H. Items for Discussion

- a. Go Safe / Speed Awareness
No further update required, as this matter was covered under an earlier item.
- b. Beach / Draethen Land ASB
Cllr Lee Cecil advised that a meeting took place earlier in the day with the police and a few residents to discuss the ongoing issues at "The Beach" in Draethen. The meeting was positive and Cllr Lee Cecil will continue to liaise with Inspector

Richard Tovey. He also advised that the clerk has consulted One Voice Wales from a biodiversity standpoint to discuss the potential harm that is being caused to wildlife and habitats in this area.

- c. Barrier in Rudry – Removal
An FOI request was sent to CCBC on Cllr Chris Morgan's advice to establish who installed the barrier. We await a response but will chase this once the timescale has passed.
- d. Draethen Litter Bin & Bench
Cllr Lee Cecil advised that the bin was replaced, and he has been advised by Cllr Chris Morgan that the bench should be returned in the next couple of weeks.
- e. Holly Bush Pub, Draethen
Cllr Lee Cecil provided an update. The investors meeting was well attended. They discussed and suggested 4 options for the new owner and await a response. Unfortunately, the owner is unwell at the moment, so they will await his return to full health before progressing with discussions.
- f. Festive Lighting for Waterloo
RHJ spoke with Gareth Fleming – no attachments suitable to another post. They could make some changes to a lamp post but will cost £2000 - £3000. Discussed a tree, potential location needs to be near a power source. RHJ will obtain a quote.
- g. £500 Cost of Living Crisis Project Small Grants Scheme
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones suggested that this grant could be applied for to pay for future sessions for the community with CCBC Play Sufficiency Team. All agreed to apply for this.
- h. Outcome of meeting with Total Energies
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones attended a site meeting held to discuss the ongoing highway flooding problem at the Cray Valley site on 9 June. Attendees included Marc Boussemart of Total Energies and their Environment Consultant, County Councillor Amanda McConnell and County Councillor Chris Morgan, officers from Caerphilly CBC, and invited residents from Waterloo.

Residents and Councillors informed Mr Boussemart of the impact, frequency and causes of the highway flooding. He acknowledged the issue and noted he was not aware of the increase or the level of disruption to residents.

He set out an approach, supported by the local authority, to improve matters. This includes increasing the flow from the secondary culvert and undertaking work on the conifers along the site and the boundary with The Meadows, which are contributing to the problem. Cllr Heaton-Jones highlighted the ongoing detrimental impact of the conifers on neighbouring residents.

Total Energies is seeking tenders for the works and Mr Boussemart will update once contractual arrangements are finalised. It was emphasised that the works need to start before the Autumn and Winter rains come. Cllr Heaton-Jones will be following up on progress.

- i. SLCC Membership Renewal
The clerk advised that SLCC membership is due for renewal the fee is £158. All agreed.
- j. Bursary form to be signed for training
Cllr Lee Cecil signed the bursary form for recent training.
- k. Clerk overtime hours for June
Cllr Lee Cecil advised that the clerk has undertaken additional hours, totalling 13 hours for June. All agreed.

I. Planning Applications

The following planning application was received after the agenda had been issued. Due to the statutory 21 day response window, members agreed to discuss it under agenda item 9. Planning Applications.

26/0426/HH – 2 Rhyd Y Gwern Lane, Draethen

Concerns were raised regarding visibility and the appearance of the proposal within the conservation area. Having reviewed the plans and an alternative suggested by an architect the council has consulted, Councillors resolved to object to planning application in its current form, based on planning grounds. Councillors further resolved that the application be called in from delegated decision to full committee decision. A formal response letter will be issued to CCBC Planning Department.

J. Biodiversity

The biodiversity package for bulbs has been approved, and we should expect to receive these late August / early September.

K. Exclusion of Press and Public

None.

L. Exempt Items

None.

M. Public Participation – For Information Only

A decision was made at the meeting held on Tuesday, 28 April 2026 to hold one play session. Laura Thomas from CCBC Play Sufficiency Team attended the meeting to give Councillors information regarding these sessions. Cllr Zoe Hwer will share posters and information within the community. Laura Thomas will send information for a decision to be made at a future meeting regarding ongoing sessions. Cllr Phil Rosser raised concerns of how the sessions will be inclusive. Laura Thomas reassured Councillors that they have provisions in place to help make the sessions inclusive.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Full Minutes when agreed and signed will be on the Council's website as soon as possible.