



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, 28 July 2026 at 6.00pm, are published here

Present:

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

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 Zoe Hewer, Cllr Amanda McConnell & Cllr Phil Rosser.

B. Police Update

No police representatives were in attendance. The police report was received prior to the meeting. No new concerns raised.

C. Declarations of Interest

None.

D. Minutes and matters arising

The Council has agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 30 June 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. The Audit Notice has been published for dates 20th July to 14th August 2026.

G. Current Projects

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

Cllr Lee Cecil advised that following on from his meetings and communication with Newport City Council, bollards and signage has now been installed at the passing point in Draethen, which has been regularly used by visitors to the area as a parking space. These measures have been introduced to deter parking at this location.

- b. Renewals

Cllr Lee Cecil is arranging a meeting with Cllr Amanda McConnell to discuss this and what options are available. This will then be discussed when the information is available.

H. Items for Discussion

- a. Go Safe / Speed Awareness

Cllr Lee Cecil advised that the petition was received and considered by CCBC, and they have subsequently responded to say there is nothing which can be done at this time by CCBC. Councillors discussed the potential for local MSs to visit the area in order to see the scale of the issue directly.

- b. Beach / Draethen Land ASB

Cllr Lee Cecil advised that he continues to liaise with Inspector Richard Tovey on this matter. He noted that the “no camping” and “no fires” sign is in place but is being ignored. Access is currently gained via a public footpath that runs through privately owned land. Cllr Lee Cecil is obtaining letters from Caerphilly CBC and Newport CC stating that camping and fires are never permitted on their land. CCBC have already confirmed their position on this. Recent incidents involving fires were reported, with one group being moved along. Cllr Kevin Stanworth expressed concerns that a fire in close proximity to the field, particularly in such dry conditions, poses a significant fire risk. Cllr Lee Cecil discussed the possibility of obtaining a contact in the fire brigade via PCSO Ellie Morgan.

- c. Barrier in Rudry – Removal

An email has been sent to chase up the FOI request, awaiting a response.

- d. Draethen Litter Bin & Bench

Resolved

- e. Holly Bush Pub, Draethen

Cllr Lee Cecil has advised that he has a meeting with two Plaid Cymru MSs on Friday to discuss this matter. He has also requested a meeting with the Planning Manager and will work with CCBC to consider strategic options in relation to the LDP.

- f. Festive Lighting for Waterloo

Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones continues to liaise with Gareth Fleming from CCBC. A case is being put forward to Gareth’s manager for a Christmas Tree to be sited in Waterloo. Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones will send over details, including costs, once received.

- g. Wales' Miners Memorial located in Senghenydd
Cllr Lee Cecil informed Councillors of the Memorial in Senghenydd, explained that it has no dedicated funding and is maintained entirely by volunteers. New wood chippings were required recently, and volunteers paid a significant amount for these. Membrane is now needed, Cllr Lee Cecil has checked with CCBC, but they have no availability. Cllr Kev Ingram advised he has a contact in CCBC who may be able to provide chippings in the future. Cllr Lee Cecil proposed donating £250 to support this. Councillors agreed to allocate a Chair's Allowance of £250 for 2026/27 and approved its use to support the purchase of membrane for the memorial. Cllr Kev Ingram also suggested that the group of volunteers reach out to local community councils. Cllr Lee Cecil will pass on the suggestion.
- h. Defibrillator in Waterloo
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones advised that an error has been identified on the defibrillator battery in Waterloo. As the battery is only one year old, Councillors agreed to pursue a warranty claim for a replacement.
- i. Microsoft 365 Renewal
Costs £84.99 for a personal licence for 1 year – Approved.
- j. Audit Fees 2022/23 2023/24 & 2024/25
Approved the following costs:
22/23 - £543.25
23/24 - £567.27
24/25 - £331.28
- k. Budget Q1
All Cllrs confirmed that expenditure for the first quarter was as expected.
- l. Clerk's Hours
Cllr Lee Cecil reported that he had met with the Clerk to discuss the contracted hours. He advised that an increase of 2 hours per week had been agreed as an appropriate proposal, subject to Council approval. All agreed to the increase.

I. Planning Applications

26/0446/HH- Primrose Cottage Yew Tree Cottage To The Row – Noted
26/0485/FULL- Rudry Parish Hall Garth Place To Rhydri Primary School – Noted

J. Biodiversity

Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones reported that he has been in further discussions with Total Energies regarding a piece of land in Waterloo which has become overgrown and reclaimed by nature. Total Energies have advised that they no longer wish to retain the land and are looking into their ownership of it. They have indicated to Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones that if they were to transfer it to the community, they would not want to incur any costs in doing so. Councillors noted that, subject to feasibility, the land could support future biodiversity plans and may be suitable to be managed by a resident group established by the Council.

K. Exclusion of Press and Public

None.

L. Exempt Items

None.

M. Any Other Business – For Information Only

Cllr Kevin Stanworth advised that there is an upcoming meeting scheduled for August on Van Road. Landowners, NRW, CCBC and other relevant parties are expected to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to establish ownership and liabilities.

Cllr Kev Ingram advised that he has resigned from TCCLC and a new representative would be needed.

Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones recently raised several highway concerns, including traffic issues in Rudry, the need for signage in Waterloo and also a request for a visibility mirror.

Cllr Kev Ingram advised Councillors to complete the boundary review survey individually.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

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