From 1 May 2021, the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 sets out a statutory requirement that: As soon as reasonably practicable after a meeting of a community council, and in any event before the end of seven working days beginning with the day on which the meeting is held, the council must publish electronically a note setting out—

(a)the names of the members who attended the meeting, and any apologies for absence;

(b)any declarations of interest;

(c)any decision taken at the meeting, including the outcomes of any votes.

Barry Town Council meets this duty by publishing this information in the form of draft meeting minutes which will be displayed electronically within 7 working days after the meeting. It should be noted that these minutes are DRAFT and not agreed until the next meeting.

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7:02PM

PRESENT: Councillor N Hodges (Chairperson) together with Councillors Aviet (Vice Chair), Dancey, Hennessy and McKinney.

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas Thorne - Cemeteries Manager
Courtney Parker - Administrator
Councillor Johnson – Observer
Councillor Payne – Observer
Councillor S Hodges – Observer

A261. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors E J Goodjohn and Iannucci-Williams.

A262. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

A263. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

RESOLVED: that the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 be received and noted.

A264. STANDING ORDER 3(o)

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 3(o) be received and noted.

A265. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 JUNE 2026**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee held on 1 June 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

A266. **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 JULY 2026**

RESOLVED: That the budget monitoring report to 31 July 2026 be received noting the projected net overspend of £3,444 in 2026/27.

A267. **TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL**

RESOLVED: that the Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial (1691 – 1708 inclusive) be granted to those named on each transfer request.

A268. **GRANTS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL**

RESOLVED: that the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial (14107 – 14112 inclusive) be granted to those named on the interment forms.

Councillors Payne and McKinney joined the meeting at 7:12pm

A269. **CEMETERY UPDATE**

The Cemeteries Manager provided a brief update on the report, informing Members that the Sexton roles are now successfully in place. JV Trees have been undertaking works to grind down tree stumps.
The recruitment of two new Cemetery Operatives has also been completed, with both positions now appointed to. The second Cemetery Operative is due to commence on 14 September.

The recent exhumation was completed smoothly and in accordance with all relevant legal requirements.

The Chair then raised concerns regarding the illegal scattering of ashes and emphasised the importance of maintaining accurate records of all interments and burial records, particularly for historical purposes.

RESOLVED: That Members received and noted the report.

Councillor S Hodges joined the meeting at 7:21pm

A270. **FACILITIES UPDATE**

The Cemeteries Manager provided a brief update on the report. He advised Members that, following further building reports being obtained, the Lodge had been confirmed as habitable.

Councillor Hennessy questioned the possible cause of the cracks within the Lodge.

The Cemeteries Manager advised that previous reports had indicated that the cracks may have resulted from historic drainage issues and were not believed to have been caused by problems with the foundations.

RESOLVED: That Members received and noted the report.

A271. **BABY GARDEN MEMORIAL ENHANCEMENT CONSULTATION RESULTS**

The Cemeteries Manager provided Members with a breakdown of the results received from the Baby Garden Memorial Enhancement consultation.

The Cemeteries Manager advised that the next step would be to prepare a financial report for presentation to the Committee. He also advised that the Council would look to undertake the majority of the works internally.

RESOLVED:

1. **That Members received and noted the report.**
2. **That Members noted the results of the public consultation relating to the proposed enhancements to the Baby Memorial Garden at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.**
3. **That Members agreed that the enhancement project should proceed using the options that received the greatest level of support through the consultation process.**
4. **That officers be authorised to develop detailed proposals and obtain quotations based upon the consultation outcomes for future consideration by Committee.**

A272. **REPORT ON CHANGING 'NO MOW MAY' TO BIODIVERSITY AREAS**

The Cemeteries Manager provided Members with a breakdown of the report, advising that the cut and collect service undertaken by the Vale is usually carried out around September.

The Cemeteries Manager explained that designated areas would be used for biodiversity purposes, where no interments could take place.

Councillor Dancey queried why the biodiversity areas needed to remain uncut for a period of three months. The Cemeteries Manager advised that when the grass is left for longer than one month, the increased length of the grass makes it more difficult and less productive to cut.

The Chair added that “No Mow May” was simply a title and that the proposal was to introduce designated biodiversity areas. The Chair supported the proposals and was pleased that the arrangements would be reviewed.

Councillor Johnson commented that the outcome was important, not just the process, and that it was important to find a balance between delivering biodiversity and maintaining the cemetery to a high standard.

The Cemeteries Manager added that, in relation to biodiversity, the Globally Responsible Committee had obtained wildlife cameras to be used within the biodiversity areas of the cemetery.

Councillor Dancey commented that it would be a good idea to share footage captured by the wildlife cameras with the public.

Councillor Aviet agreed and emphasised the importance of ensuring that the graves within the cemetery are maintained to a high standard.

RESOLVED:

1. **That Council approves the cessation of participation in the No Mow May, Let It Bloom June and Knee-High July initiatives at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.**
2. **That officers be granted discretion to determine the timing and management of biodiversity areas in consultation with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cut and Collect programme.**
3. **That the contents of the report be received and noted**
4. **That the proposed arrangements be agreed and reviewed following the first cut and collect cycle.**

A273. <u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u>

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee will be agreed at the Annual Meeting on Monday 2 November 2026.

A274. <u>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC</u>

RESOLVED: That in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, 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 are excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

A275. **REPORT OF VEHICLE MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

The Cemeteries Manager provided Members with an update following the previous Committee resolution regarding vehicle management measures at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.

Members considered the options available, including protective bollards, height restriction barriers and a one-way traffic system.

Following discussion, Members agreed that the proposed height restriction barriers and one way traffic system were not considered suitable. Members supported the use of protective bollards at identified locations within the cemetery and requested that a further quotation be obtained for consideration.

RESOLVED:

1. **That Members received and noted the report.**
2. **That Members approve the installation of protective bollards at the agreed locations within Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, subject to a further quotation being obtained.**
3. **That the findings of the feasibility assessment relating to height restriction barriers and a one-way traffic system be noted, with neither option to be progressed.**

A276. **1ST CADOXTON RANGERS**

The Chair commented that this is an age group that Members are very happy to support and assist in providing opportunities for.

RESOLVED: That Members agreed that the current hire fee of £11.50 per week for 90 minutes use of the hall be maintained, with the fee to be reviewed in 12 months.

A277. **PORTHKERRY AGREEMENT 1 APRIL 2026 – 31 MARCH 2029**

RESOLVED:

1. **That Members received and noted the report.**
2. **That Members approved the Porthkerry Cemetery Agency Agreement income levels.**
3. **That Members authorise the Chief Officer to seal the Porthkerry Cemetery Agency Agreement 1 April 2026 – 31 March 2029.**

Meeting Closed at 8:04pm

Signed …….. (Chairperson) Dated ……..