

**Cyngor Tref Rhydaman
Ammanford Town Council**



**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ammanford Town Council on
Monday 26th January 2026 at 6.00pm via Teams**

The Chair, Cllr. C Higgins presided over the meeting.

Members Present

Cllr C Higgins (Chair)
Cllr A Jones
Cllr C Hope
Cllr C Evans
Cllr D Harries
Cllr E John
Cllr N Morgan
Cllr LI Davies
Cllr W Erasmus (joined late)

Also Present

J Gazette – Clerk & RFO
G Ware – Estate and Administration Officer / Minute taker
R Finch - Deputy Clerk

Minute 0126012026 Apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies: Cllr D Harries – Work commitment. Cllr H Howells
Absent: Cllr J Owen, Cllr L Brodrick.

Minute 0226012026 Declarations of interest.

No new declarations of interest were made

Minute 0326012026 To consider policing matters.

An overview of policing matters was received and noted by Members.

Minute 0426012026 Public participation.

There were no members of the public present.

Minute 0526012026 To receive County Councillor's report

Members commented that reports from County Councillors should be more detailed, noting that numerous County Council budget meetings had taken place but had not been adequately reported back to the Town Council.

It was agreed that Cllr C Evans and Cllr D Harries would be requested to provide more detailed reports in future.

Resolved unanimously.

Minute 0626012026 To Receive Clerk & RFO Report

The Clerk & RFO's report was received.

Minute 0726012026 Confirmation of the minutes of the following meetings:

Full Council Meetings

- i) 3 November 2025 – Proposed by Cllr A Jones, seconded by Cllr C Evans. **Resolved.**
- ii) December 2025 – Proposed by Cllr C Evans, seconded by Cllr N Morgan. **Resolved.**
- iii) 12 January 2026 – Proposed by Cllr C Evans, seconded by Cllr L Davies. **Resolved.**

Personnel Committee

- i) 15 September 2025 – Proposed by Cllr A Jones, seconded by Cllr C Hope. **Resolved.**
- ii) 20 November 2025 – Proposed by Cllr C Hope, seconded by Cllr C Evans. **Resolved.**
- iii) 14 January 2026 – Proposed by Cllr C Evans, seconded by Cllr C Hope. **Resolved.**

It was **RESOLVED** to vary the order of business and to consider **Item 9 before Item 8.**

Minute 0826012026. Budget, Reserves and Precept 2026/27

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was held on 12 January 2026 to consider the draft budget. The meeting was quorate. Following consideration, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the draft budget, as set out below.

The approved draft budget was presented again on 26 January 2026 due to the low number of Members present at the EGM on 12 January 2026. No further decision was required, as the budget had been lawfully approved at the quorate meeting on 12 January 2026.

i) Budget 2026/27

The total expenditure budget for the financial year **2026/2027** was approved at **£602,456.19.**

ii) Reserves 2026/27

At the date of the meeting, total reserves stood at **£273,816.58**. Following the approved allocation of reserves to the **River Way Park project**, remaining reserves were forecast to be approximately **£161,645.71**.

The split between **general reserves and earmarked reserves** was confirmed.

RESOLVED

iii) Precept 2026/27

The precept requirement for the financial year **2026/2027** was approved at **£511,447.25**. Members noted that this represented a **7.94% increase** on the previous year and requested that this be clearly stated within the budget documentation.

RESOLVED

Minute 0926012026 To Consider request from Ammanford Football Juniors SLA contribution

Members considered representations from the Club regarding the Service Level Agreement (SLA). It was noted that the Club expressed concerns that payment of the full SLA cost would be unfair to its members, on the basis that members already contribute through council tax. Members further noted that other clubs meet the full SLA cost, and that the proposed charge represents a 5% increase on the previous year.

Following consideration, Members confirmed that the SLA charge would remain payable in full and that no amendment would be made to the agreed charge. The decision was confirmed as final.

The Proper Officer was requested to formally notify the Club of the Council's decision.

Members also noted that licensing arrangements would be reviewed as part of future discussions. It was further agreed that improvements were required to the Council's documentation, including ensuring that current public liability insurance is held on file for each club and that the formal agreement relating to clubs' maintenance cost contributions be reviewed and updated accordingly.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

18.25 Cllr W Erasmus joined the meeting.

Members sought clarification regarding the budget line indicating that the Cricket Club undertakes its own maintenance and is therefore not required to pay an SLA. Members questioned how the Council could be assured that maintenance works are completed to an appropriate standard. It was agreed that the required standard of maintenance be clearly defined and documented.

Members also discussed the appropriateness of operating under a Licence rather than a Lease, including consideration of issues relating to exclusive use of areas, which may restrict the Council's ability to host events during sporting seasons.

It was further noted that insurance arrangements should be reviewed to ensure adequate cover is in place. Members acknowledged the importance of ensuring that arrangements continue to deliver wider community benefit.

RESOLVED

Minute 1026012026 To agree and adopt following Co-Option policy/Guide for applicants and the Public Notice

i) Co-Option policy

Members considered the Co-Option Policy. A question was raised regarding whether the policy could state that applicants should be as local as possible. The statutory eligibility requirements for appointment as a councillor were reiterated.

RESOLVED

ii) Co-Option Guide for applicants -

Members considered the Co-Option Guide for applicants. It was suggested that the guide should clearly state that Council meetings are held on Mondays and that an allowance is payable.

RESOLVED

iii) Co-Option Public Notice -

Members considered the Co-Option Public Notice. It was agreed that the Proper Officer would ensure the notice is widely advertised and that the Co-Option Guide is clearly linked within the notification.

RESOLVED

Minute1126012026 Update to Council on Recruitment

Cllr C Hope, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported that following the recruitment process, the following officer appointments had been made:

- Estate and Administration Officer – Geena Ware
- Deputy Clerk – Roisin Finch

Minute 1226012026. To receive information on Welsh town be crowned the first UK Town of Culture

The Clerk provided information regarding the opportunity for a Welsh town to be crowned the first UK Town of Culture. The information distributed explained the stages of the application. Members were invited to consider whether officers should be tasked with progressing with an application.

Following consideration, Members decided not to progress the opportunity at this time, noting the anticipated officers workload and the need to undertake further work within the community before committing resources.

18:55 Callum Higgins dropped out of the meeting.

It was proposed that Cllr C Hope chair the meeting. **Resolved.**

18.58 Calum rejoined the meeting

Minute 1326012026. To receive information Local Places for Nature – Orchard

The Clerk advised Members that legal matters relating to land ownership require resolution prior to the establishment of the orchard and confirmed that discussions are ongoing with the County Council. It was AGREED to defer the following agenda items pending clarification:

- i) Community Consultation – Brynmawr
- ii) Orchard Planting – Proposed Options

RESOLVED

Minute 1426012026. To consider the continued use of the Recreation Ground for Funfairs and family fun days

Members considered requests from two organisations to host a fun fair. It was noted that one organisation had assumed sole provider status; however, Members confirmed that there is no requirement for a single exclusive provider.

Members noted that fairground operators operate under Guild arrangements, within which Fallon's hold exclusive Guild rights to operate in Ammanford. Members further noted that disputes have arisen nationally regarding event rights and that Guild arrangements should be recognised.

The proposed September event was noted as not conflicting with sporting use of the Recreation Ground. It was further noted that a proposed May event would conflict with the annual football festival and that advertising for the May event had taken place prior to Council approval.

Alternative locations were considered; however, it was agreed that other parks were not suitable. Members suggested that the applicant explore the option of partnering with the football festival.

RESOLVED

Minute 1526012026 Planning Applications

- i) **PL/10278**

Description: LDO – Commencement Notice Approval – A1 to A3 16 Quay Street, Ammanford, SA18 3DB

Listed week: 15–26 December

Location: Ammanford

- This application has already been refused by CCC.

- Councillors suggested that planning applications are forwarded straight after the Clerk receives them so that action is completed in a timely manner.

- Agreed to move on from planning section and not comment on the other applications in this meeting.

ii) PL/10393

Retrospective removal of boundary wall to allow off street parking due to restrictions on street parking.

New dropped kerbs to allow access to driveway - 82 Wind Street, Ammanford, SA18 3DR

Dyddiad Dechrau Ymgynghori: 20/01/2026

Dyddiad Gorffen Ymgynghori: 10/02/2026

iii) PL/10383 - Change of use from St Johns Ambulance Hall (Sui Generis) to Beauty Salon (Sui Generis) - St Johns Ambulance Hall, Margaret Street, Ammanford, SA18 2NP

Dyddiad Dechrau Ymgynghori: 20/01/2026

Dyddiad Gorffen Ymgynghori: 10/02/202

iv) HTR/1992 - CYNNIG / PROPOSAL

Notice to be published in the South Wales Guardian on the 21st January 2026, publicising the Council's intention to create a new Disabled Badge Holders Only parking bay outside Number 41 Wernoleu Road, Ammanford.

Minute 1626012026 Confidential * To receive and agree Riverway Playground design *** Confidential**

Exclusion of Public and Press

In accordance with **Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**, the following items were considered to be confidential and sensitive in nature. The Public and Press were therefore excluded from the meeting.

The Chair requested an in-camera vote.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

i) Consultation Results

Members received and noted a report summarising 36 consultation responses, which had been circulated to Councillors on 22 January. It was confirmed that the consultation was conducted online only due to time and capacity constraints. Members noted that no significant or unusual issues were raised within the responses.

ii) Riverway Playground – Supplier Comparison

Members considered the supplier comparison report in relation to the Riverway Playground project.

It was noted that four design submissions had been received. The Clerk presented the evaluation report, outlining the assessment of suppliers against the agreed criteria.

Members discussed the importance of viewing design proposals while also acknowledging the need to maintain supplier anonymity within the procurement process. Members noted that, although designs had

not been circulated prior to the vote, the Clerk confirmed that the designs of the recommended supplier would be issued to Members following the meeting.

Members noted that the consultation and procurement process differed from that undertaken for Ammanford Park and discussed the implications of Section 106 funding on the evaluation process. Members further noted that Option A was discounted on the basis that it did not meet British health and safety standards. Clarification was provided that the remaining designs were broadly similar in nature, with differences primarily relating to price. Following consideration, Supplier B was selected.

RESOLVED

i) MUGA letter from residents

Members discussed the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) following receipt of correspondence relating to anti-social behaviour. It was noted that improvements to signage had previously been agreed but not implemented, and that improved signage may assist in addressing current concerns.

It was further agreed that the future of the MUGA be considered by the Assets Committee.

Minute 1726012026 Dates for following meetings to be agreed:

- i) Date of next Full Council Meeting is the 23rd of February 2026.
- ii) Asset Committee meeting Monday 9th February 2026
Members: Cllr A Jones (Chair), Cllr H Howells, Cllr C Evans, Cllr N Morgan, Cllr C Hope
- iii) Personnel Committee meeting Wednesday 11th February 2026P
Members: Cllr C Hope (Chair), Cllr H Howells, Cllr A Jones, Cllr N Morgan, Cllr C Evans
- iv) Well-being Community Engagement and Events Committee Monday 16th February 2026
Members: Cllr C Hope (Chair), Cllr N Morgan, Cllr L Brodrick, Cllr Cllr LI Davies Davies, Cllr H Howells
- v) Environment and Biodiversity Committee meeting Monday 2nd March 2026
Members: Cllr C Evans (Chair) Cllr J Owen Cllr E John, Cllr D Harries, Cllr A Jones

It was decided that the Personnel and Wellbeing Committee meetings would be postponed until March.

Cllr C. Hope expressed concern regarding her availability and advised that, due to existing commitments, she would not be able to attend meetings of the Committees on which she serves until March.

During the discussion, Cllr W. Erasmus made a comment suggesting that if she was unable to commit to her committee responsibilities, she should consider stepping down to allow another Member to

serve. The tone of the comment was considered by those present to be disrespectful and inappropriate.

Following this exchange, Cllr C. Hope left the meeting.

19:57 Meeting Ended.

Signed as a true and accurate record:

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Chair

Date: