



Clydach Community Council

Annual Report 2024 – 2025

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About Clydach Community Council

The Council as a Corporate Body

A Community Council is a corporate body with a legal existence of its own which is quite separate from that of its members. Its lawful acts, assets and liabilities are its own and not those of its individual Members. Any decisions taken by the Community Council are the responsibility of the whole body, and it is irrelevant if any particular Member agreed or disagreed with any particular proposal.

Clydach Community Council is the first tier of local government serving the Clydach area. Its role is to represent the interests of residents, manage certain local facilities, and support community wellbeing.

A Community Council can legally raise money through the Precept – a levy which its residents pay through the Council Tax. It also has a range of powers which allows it to spend this public money on the services which it provides. These may include the provision of Playing Fields, Playgrounds, Public Parks, and Community Centres. Parish/Town Councils were established in 1894 by an Act of Parliament and were further reformed into Community Councils by the Local Government Act 1972, when Wales was divided into communities.

The Community Council has a duty to ensure that the rules for the administration of the Council are followed – the Council must appoint a Chair, appoint a Clerk, appoint a Responsible Financial Officer, appoint an independent and competent internal auditor, hold an Annual Meeting of the Council and keep records of all decisions related to Council business.

Council meetings are held once a month on the third Tuesday, except for August when the Council is in recess. The council also hold Open Spaces and Building Management Committee meetings and Events and Projects Committee meetings on the second Tuesday of the month.

The Community Council is an elected tier of local government. There are sixteen Community Councillors elected or co-opted as Members of Council to represent around 5,845 registered voters.

Unlike County Borough Councillors, they receive no direct salary and are only able to accept limited remuneration or expenses.

Clydach Community Council is split into four wards with a total of 16 councillors split between the wards.

Clydach	6
Glais	1
Graigfelen	4
Vardre	5

Councillors as Individuals

Community Councillors are elected by the electors of the community under Section 16 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 every 5 years. A Councillor can also be returned by local by-election or co-option. Anyone elected as a councillor cannot act as a councillor until they have signed the formal declaration of acceptance of office. This includes an undertaking to abide by the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the Council. Members are also required to declare any interests which they have, for example, in any associations or affiliations with groups, bodies or individuals. It is the individual Councillor's duty to declare an interest and leave a meeting if any issue being discussed could be perceived as securing any type of advantage to the Member.

Councillors have a duty to act properly and responsibly in their role as a councillor, both in person and when corresponding through social media or other means, and a responsibility to attend community council meetings when summoned to do so. When summoned to a meeting, Councillors will have been provided with an agenda, minutes, and reports. This allows them to prepare for the meeting and ensure that they are properly informed on the matters to be discussed.

They have a responsibility to act on behalf of the whole electorate, take an interest in all issues equally, and represent the views of the wider community in the discussions.

During 2024 – 2025 the Council comprised of the following members:

Julian Nicholds (Chair)

Susan Powell (Vice Chair)

John Hill

Steven Weller

Eve Jackson

Dylan Williams

Jason Price

Katrina Davies

Andrew Harris

Roger Smith

Gareth Turner

Ian James

Richard Bevan

The Chair

The Chair is elected by the Members at the Council's Annual Meeting and serves for 12 months. The Chair is in a position of authority in presiding at meetings of a community council. With the advice of the Clerk, the Chair is responsible for ensuring that effective and lawful decisions are taken at the meetings of the Council. There are several aspects to being a good Chair including a commitment to the role, a willingness to appreciate the views and experiences of others and the ability to manage meetings in an orderly manner.

It is important that there is mutual respect between the Chair and the Clerk and between the Chair and the other Members. The Chair has a casting vote in the event

of a tied vote. No single individual councillor (including the Chair) can decide on behalf of the Council.

The Chair is responsible for involving all councillors in discussion and for ensuring that Members keep to the point. The Chair is often the public face of the Council and, in this respect, will be expected to convey the corporate view and not his/her personal view.

The Clerk

The Clerk is employed by the Council to provide administrative and professional support for the Council's activities. Any other members of staff employed by the Council are responsible to the Clerk who is their line manager.

The Clerk's primary responsibility is to advise the Council on whether its decisions are lawful and to recommend ways in which discussions can be progressed. The Clerk takes their instruction from the Council and not from any individual Councillor. It is the Clerk's duty to implement the decisions taken by the Council, although certain actions can be delegated by the Council, so that the Clerk may act on their behalf.

The Clerk for Clydach Community Council is also the Council's Responsible Financial Officer. The role involves a broad spectrum of work and responsibilities, including financial management, personnel management, administration, estates management, project management, and health and safety.

Whilst it is good practice for the Clerk to consult on the content of an Agenda with the Chair, the Clerk has the final say as the Council's "proper officer" and legal signatory of the agenda. All correspondence for the Council should be addressed to the Clerk.

Key contact information

The council's office is based in Forge Fach Resource Centre and is manned Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays between the hours of 9am and 2pm.

The main email address for the council is mail@clydach.wales

The telephone number is 01792845566

The website address is <http://www.clydach.wales>

Functions carried out by the Council

The Council acts as the voice of the community, representing local views to external bodies, including the principal authority. It is a statutory consultee on planning applications and provides comments on proposed developments affecting the area.

The Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of community facilities and assets, which include Forge Fach Resource Centre, Vardre community halls, meeting rooms, Forge Fach Play Park, and open spaces including Cae Charles and Waverley Park. It ensures these facilities are maintained for public use and community benefit.

The Council organises and supports local events and initiatives designed to bring residents together, promote community spirit, and enhance local engagement.

The Councils Vision

The councils' vision is to create a thriving, inclusive and empowered community Clydach, where all residents can access the services and opportunities they need to live well and participate actively in civic life.

Financial Information

The precept for the 2024–2025 financial year was **£170,672**.

Additional income generated from room leases, hall and meeting room hire, and events totalled **£128,607**.

Total staffing costs amounted to **£60,513**, while other expenditure totalled **£184,347**.

Community Fund

Every year the Clydach Community Council accept applications from local not for profit groups and charities.

Grants are given to sporting groups such as the local rugby, football, sub aqua, tennis, and bowls clubs. Craft groups such as artists, patch workers and felt makers. Children and young people groups like the Brownies, Scouts, dance groups, Air & Army Cadets, and youth clubs. Adult groups like the Over 50's group, WI, OAP groups, Choirs, and the Ramblers. This fund is decided twice a year

Applications for the first round are submitted between 1st May and 31st July.

Applications for the second round are submitted between 1st October and 31st December.

Staying connected with the Community

The Council aims to engage with its community as much as possible and this is done through the monthly meeting, notice boards and our website which also allows for local community groups to post.

Review of 2024 – 2025

During the 2024 – 2025 financial year the council had many changes. Increased demands on the Community council saw an increase in staff from one part time Clerk and RFO and two Caretakers to one full time Clerk and RFO, one Assistant Clerk, one Admin assistant and three Caretakers.

The Community Council held many events including:
Clydach in Bloom
Summer Fete on Waverley Park

Christmas Parade

Cinema events

90 years of the Clydach Baths celebrations

Engagement with river Trust Adopt a Tributary

January 2025, we held weekly Warm Space community facility with free warm soup and hot Drinks.

Local Places for Nature Pack received for creation of Wildlife Garden

The Council also supported the annual Remembrance Service parade held on Sunday 10 November.

Strategic Plan 2025 – 2028

In 2025 the Community Council have produced a three-year Strategic Plan.

The main objectives of the plan are:

- 1. Empowering Residents:** Enable residents to actively shape their community through improved engagement and access to resources.
- 2. Fostering Inclusion:** Build a sense of belonging and equality by embracing diversity and addressing barriers to participation.
- 3. Growing Council Services:** Develop and enhancing services that respond to community needs and support long-term growth.