
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Berry

Councillors: M. Battle, L. Binding, D. Daniels, A. Diblasi, J. Roberts,
P. Yandle

Clerk: S. Hughes

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: E. P. Prendergast, T. Richards, M. Stretch, J. Taylor

12/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Clerk.

13/2018 THE WALL AT ST ANNE'S GARDENS, ABERTRIDWR – CCBC

Tim Stephens, Development Control Manager for Caerphilly County Borough Council, attended the meeting to address the concerns raised regarding the wall at St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr and to provide an update to Members on the latest safety assessment of the wall.

Tim Stephens was shown the adoption agreement certificate and map and asked to identify the retaining wall – Tim Stephens was unable to confirm which was the retaining wall and informed Members that he would seek clarification from the Highways Department and Legal Department of Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Tim Stephens informed Members that a camera inspection of the wall has been undertaken and there are weep holes / cavities in walls 7-10. Tim Stephens reported that there has been no movement of the wall and despite the cavities he assured Members that there is no failing, pointing, cracks or bulges in the wall. Tim Stephens stated that the wall is not dangerous from the purpose of the Building Act. Members questioned Tim Stephens on the size of the cavities in the wall but he was unable to provide this information at the time.

Tim Stephens notified Members that Caerphilly County Borough Council is going to continue to monitor the wall every quarter for another year then reduce the monitoring to every six months. Members asked for consideration to be given to cutting back the overgrowth on the wall.

14/2018 **PUBLIC MATTERS**

Members of the public attended the meeting to express their concerns regarding the wall at St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr.

15/2018 **ST PETER'S CHURCH, SENGHENYDD – THE REVD. FR. MARK GREENAWAY-ROBBINS**

The Revd. Fr. Mark Greenaway Robbins attended the meeting to update Members on the current situation of St Peter's Church in Senghenydd.

The Revd. Fr. Mark Greenaway Robbins informed Members that the Church and footprint will be officially handed back to the representative body (The Church in Wales) in April/May. If there is an interest in multi-agency use it would need to be expressed before St Peter's Church is put up for sale. Any monies remaining after the sale of St Peter's Church will be allocated to Eglwysilan Church. Members asked whether any monies will be going into the local community from the sale – The Revd. Fr. Mark Greenaway Robbins to explore the option. Members were also informed that a number of items from St Peter's Church have been allocated to the Heritage Centre.

16/2018 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 11th January 2018 were approved as a true record.

17/2018 **MATTERS ARISING**

- (i) Minute reference: 02/2018

Councillor J. Roberts and Councillor M. Battle declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

Councillor L. Binding and Councillor J. Roberts attended a meeting with the Deputy Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council to discuss the current funding situation of SYDIC and then met with the board of SYDIC/Youth Workers to feed back the outcomes of the meeting.

- (ii) Minute Reference: 09/2018 (d)

A response has been received from Caerphilly County Borough Council informing that the missing lock on the railings gate to the toilets in Abertridwr Park will be replaced.

- (iii) Minute Reference: 09/2018 (f)

A response has been received from Caerphilly County Borough Council informing that the refreshment of the double yellow markings on the junctions at Bryngelli Terrace, Abertridwr has been added to their lining programme and will be carried out before the end of the financial year.

- (iv) Minute reference: 09/2018 (h)

Members requested the meeting to establish a Friends of Abertridwr Park Association be held during the Easter holidays – the Clerk to contact Simon Beacham, Senior Parks Officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council, to re-arrange the meeting.

18/2018

POLICE MATTERS

P.C.S.O. Liam Brown of Gwent Police attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (a) A lot of intelligence has been received regarding cannabis cultivation – warrants have been undertaken in the Aber Valley.
- (b) Your Voice Priority – no anti-social behaviour has been observed in the Aber Valley.
- (c) Litter/illicit tipping at the Four Terraces, Senghenydd – 3 people have been caught and booked.
- (d) Working with SYDIC.
- (e) 8 C.S.O.'s will be attending the Aber Valley Action Day.
- (f) Double yellow lines have been requested around the green area outside Cwmaber Junior School.
- (g) Nitrous Oxide Cylinders are being sold in the Caerphilly area as there is no law against it. Members asked the Clerk to write to Trading Standards to express their concerns regarding the sale of Nitrous Oxide Cylinders/Cream Charges and the use of it by individuals.

Members reported on the following Police matters:

- (i) Vehicles parking on double yellow lines throughout the Aber Valley. P.C.S.O. Liam Brown informed Members that he has been booking vehicles that are parked on double yellow lines and the zig-zag area on the pedestrian crossings.
- (ii) Potholes on the mountain area.

19/2018

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- (a) The Chairperson, Councillor John Taylor and Councillor John Roberts attended Aber Mill Care Home to celebrate a residents 100th birthday.
- (b) The Chairperson attended the SYDIC Directors meeting on 5th February 2018.
- (c) The Chairperson informed Members that Stefan Collins, aged 17, will be representing Aber Valley and Wales in Queensland, Australia in February to play for Wales in the Rugby League Commonwealth Championships.

20/2018

MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported the following matters:

- (a) Illicit tipping at Top Rock Mountain area – the Clerk to report to Caerphilly County Borough Council.

- (b) Illicit Tipping in the lane behind Edwards Terrace, Abertridwr – the Clerk to report to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (c) Litter in the layby on the road leading from Abertridwr to Penyrheol – the Clerk to report to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (d) The Aber Valley Arts Festival will be held on 6th – 13th October 2018.
- (e) Councillor John Roberts attended a meeting regarding the re-development plans in Caerphilly Town – wider consultations will take place in March 2018.
- (f) Councillor J. Roberts attended a meeting with Officers from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the area of land opposite the Panteg in Abertridwr and informed Members that it does not look suitable for development.

21/2018

CLERKS REPORT

(1) Current Financial Situation

- (a) Councillor E. P. Prendergast has examined and authorised the Community Council's accounts.

Members received a copy of the income and expenditure to date, bank statement number 310 and bank reconciliation – Members discussed and approved the Community Council's accounts.

(2) Income

- (a) No income has been received.

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members approved the following invoices:

- (i) British Telecom – £52.24 (including VAT).

- (ii) Elsbury Access Platforms – £978.72 (including VAT)
Placement, removal, storage and PAT testing of the Christmas figurines.

- (iii) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £2,531.50
Opening, cleaning and closing of the toilet block in Abertridwr Park.

- (b) Members approved Playworks One payroll administration – Clerk's salary and related costs.

(4) Correspondence

- (a) Aber Valley YMCA AGM

Aber Valley YMCA Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 26th February 2018 at 8.00 pm.

- (b) Review of the Community and Town Council Sector in Wales

Councillor Dale Berry to attend the Independent Review Panel drop in session in Merthyr Tydfil on Monday 12th February 2018.

(c) Christmas Lights on Senghenydd Square

Members discussed a letter from the Treasurer of Senghenydd Community Centre enquiring whether there is a possibility of extra Christmas lights being placed on Senghenydd Square. Members asked the Clerk to obtain costs and deferred the item to the next Forward Work Programme Committee meeting.

(5) Any Other Business

None.

6. Planning Applications

- (a) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
Obtain a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use as General Industrial (Class B2)
The Senghenydd Minerals Site, Graig-yr-Hufen Road, Senghenydd, Caerphilly

The Community Council does not support the above application – the Clerk to notify Caerphilly County Borough Council.

22/2018 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th March 2018** at Abertridwr Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council