
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels

Councillors: M. Battle, D. Berry, L. Binding, A. Diblasi, E. P. Prendergast,
T. Richards, J. Roberts, M. Stretch, J. Taylor, P. Yandle

Clerk: S. Hughes

Apologies: None

69/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and Officers were 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.

70/2019 PUBLIC MATTERS

(i) Crime and anti-social behaviour in the Aber Valley

Members of the public attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Aber Valley. It was agreed for this item to be discussed under Police Matters.

(ii) SYDIC

Councillor M. Battle, Councillor J. Roberts and Councillor M. Stretch declared an interest.

A member of the public attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the current financial situation of Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre (SYDIC). Members were informed that although SYDIC is looking at different funding avenues, the current situation is not sustainable. Members advised that they are aware of the financial concerns of SYDIC. Members also showed support for SYDIC and acknowledged the important service it provides for young people in the Aber Valley.

71/2019 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MEETING
HELD ON 9TH JULY 2019

The minutes of the Community Council Financial Assistance Meeting held on 9th July 2019 were approved as a true record.

72/2019

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH JULY 2019

The minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 9th July 2019 were approved as a true record.

73/2019

MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Minute reference: 63/2019 (ii)

The illicit tipping in the rear lane of Coedcae Road, Abertridwr has been cleared.

- (ii) Minute reference: 66/2019 (5) (a)

Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council for an update on the request for litter bins on the route between Abertridwr and Penyrheol.

Members also raised concerns regarding overflowing litter bins and dog litter bins in the Aber Valley, over a prolonged period of time. The issue has been reported to Caerphilly County Borough Council and the bins are now being emptied. Members have been notified that the person employed by Caerphilly County Borough Council to empty the bins in the Aber Valley is on sickness leave and no arrangements have been put in place to cover the area in the interim. Members asked the Clerk to report the issue to Caerphilly County Borough Council and request that arrangements are put in place to ensure all litter bins and dog litter bins are emptied on a regular basis and not left until they are reported as overflowing.

- (iii) Minute reference: 67/2019 (a)

Councillor J. Roberts is liaising with Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding vehicle access at Plas Cwm Parc – work in progress.

- (iv) Minute reference: 67/2019 (c)

Members confirmed that the area of land at the end of Lower Francis Street in Abertridwr is not owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

- (v) Minute reference: 67/2019 (d)

Councillor J. Roberts is liaising with Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the old Welsh School site – work in progress.

74/2019

POLICE MATTERS

Two Officers from Gwent Police (CSO Megan Kerswell and CSO Claire Eyles) attended the meeting.

- (i) Crime and antisocial behaviour in the Aber Valley

Members of the Community Council expressed serious concerns regarding the significant amount of crime and antisocial behaviour issues in the Aber Valley and highlighted a number of reports they have received from members of the public

including antisocial behaviour, car theft, car damage, break-ins and animal cruelty. Members asked the Officers of Gwent Police if they are aware of all the incidents that have recently taken place in the Aber Valley and asked what is being done with regards to proactive policing.

The Officers of Gwent Police informed Members that a 'Demand' app is used to identify priority areas for policing. They advised that the crime and anti-social behaviour calls for Aber Valley is lower compared to other areas in Caerphilly. Both the Officers of Gwent Police and Members stressed the importance of reporting all incidents. It was noted that some members of the public are afraid to report incidents to the Police due to fear of retribution or intimidation.

Members of the Community Council and members of the public highlighted the need for the Police to be visible in the Aber Valley in order to build confidence and trust with residents. The Officers of Gwent Police advised that their role includes getting back into engagement.

The Officers of Gwent Police advised Members to urge residents to remove tools from their vehicles overnight.

Following questions from a Member, Caerphilly Borough Council have confirmed that all CCTV cameras are working in the Aber valley, however a defect has been found in one of them which will be replaced or repaired to provide a better picture.

The following suggestions were put forward:

- (a) Members suggested that the Neighbourhood Inspector attends a public meeting in the Aber Valley – the Officers of Gwent Police to make a request and inform the Community Council of the decision.
- (b) The Officers of Gwent Police suggested a monthly report is e-mailed to the Community Council to keep Members informed of police matters in the Aber Valley and surrounding areas so that they can keep members of the public updated – the Officers of Gwent Police to make a request and inform the Community Council of the decision.
- (ii) The Officers of Gwent Police also reported on the following matters:
 - (a) A significant arrest has been made in the Aber Valley.
 - (b) Over the last 28 days Gwent Police has received 10 calls regarding anti-social behaviour, 2 of the calls were made in the last 7 days.
 - (c) Car theft is high throughout the whole of Caerphilly.
 - (d) A new scheme for schools called 'Mini Police' has been trialled in a few areas.

75/2018

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson had nothing to report.

CLERKS REPORT**(1) Current Financial Situation**

- (a) Councillor J. Roberts has examined and authorised the Community Council's accounts.

Members received a copy of the income and expenditure to date, bank statement number 329 and 330 and a bank reconciliation – Members discussed and approved the Community Council's accounts.

(2) Income

- (a) The following income has been received:

- (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £19,000. The second instalment of the 2019/20 Community Council Precept.

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members approved the following expenditure:

- (i) British Telecom – £52.24 (including VAT).
(ii) UK Laser Supplies – £37.22 (including VAT).
(iii) Viking Direct – £78.08 (including VAT).

- (b) Members approved Playworks One payroll administration – Clerk's salary and related costs for Month 4 and Month 5.

(4) Correspondence

- (a) Insurance 2019/20

Members received the insurance renewal documents from Zurich Municipal for 2019/20 and approved the policy premium in the sum of £715.63.

- (b) Festive Lighting 2019

Members received a quotation from Elsbury Access Platforms for the installation, removal and storage of the festive lighting for 2019/20. Members agreed for Elsbury Access Platforms to provide the festive lighting service for the Christmas 2019 period – the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements and confirm the 'switch on' date.

- (c) One Voice Wales Membership

Members were informed of the next One Voice Wales quarterly meeting. Members resolved not to join One Voice Wales.

- (d) Undercurrents Aber Valley Festival 2019 Opening and Prize Giving

Members received an invitation to the Undercurrents, Arts in the Aber Valley, Festival Opening and Prize Giving to be held on Saturday 12th October 2019 in Abertridwr Community Centre at 3.00 pm.

(5) A.O.B.

(a) Universal Colliery Disasters Memorial Service – Monday 14th October 2019

Members agreed to lay a floral tribute at the Annual Service of Remembrance to be held on Monday 14th October 2019 and make a donation of £20 to support the upkeep of the Memorial Garden.

(b) Community Recognition Awards 2019

Members received and discussed the nominations for the Community Recognition Awards. *Councillor P. Yandle declared an interest in the nominations for Abertridwr Adult and left the room whilst the discussion for this award took place.*

The following Community Recognition Awards for 2019 were agreed:

Senghenydd Adult:	Maria Pitten
Abertridwr Adult:	Ken Gough
Senghenydd Young Person:	Seren Cole
Abertridwr Young Person:	Dylan Bishop

Members agreed to present the recipients of the Community Recognition Award with a glass plaque and a cheque for £25.00 – the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

This year Members agreed to introduce a Special Recognition Award to celebrate those former Aber Valley residents who have made outstanding contributions to their field, whilst never forgetting the role the Aber Valley has played in their lives. Members agreed to present the Special Recognition Award for 2019 to Geraint Watkins.

Members agreed to present the recipient of the Special Recognition Award with a plaque – the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

(c) Community Council Presentation Evening

Members discussed the arrangements for the Presentation Evening to be held on Thursday 26th September 2019. Members asked the Clerk to arrange accordingly and agreed that any subsequent costs be reimbursed.

Members asked the Clerk to purchase the Welsh cakes from The Oasis Coffee Shop and delegated powers to the Chairperson to approve the cost.

(d) Spring Flowers at Senghenydd Cenotaph

Members agreed for Maria Pitten, the 1st Senghenydd Scout Group Leader, to organise the planting of the daffodil bulbs to be placed around the Cenotaph in Senghenydd and also agreed for any subsequent costs to be reimbursed.

(6) Applications for Financial Assistance

Members considered the following applications for financial assistance and resolved as follows:

- (a) SYDIC – Members agreed to provide a Management Support Grant in the sum of £2,500. *Councillor M. Battle, Councillor D. Berry, Councillor J. Roberts and Councillor M. Stretch declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.*

- (b) Aber Valley Community Allotment – £100.00
- (c) Caerphilly & District Twinning Association – £50.00
- (d) Aber Valley Carnival – £400.00
- (e) Aber Valley Christmas Tree Festival (c/o Undercurrents) – £400.00.
Councillor M. Battle, Councillor J. Roberts and Councillor J. Taylor declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

(7) Planning Applications

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussion.

- (a) Case Ref. 19/0618/FULL Site Area: 1009m²
Location: Ty Cae Bach, 18 Cae Bryn, Abertridwr, Caerphilly, CF83 4DA
Proposal: Erect two storey side extension

77/2019

DEFIBRILLATORS

Members agreed, in principle, to fund three external defibrillators for the Aber Valley and asked the Clerk to obtain costings.

78/2019

MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported the following matters:

- (a) Three Members attended the March in support of the campaign for Welsh independence.
- (b) Traffic disruption at Graig-y-Fedw, Abertridwr due to Gas roadworks – Members asked the Clerk to contact Wales and West Utilities to ask them to notify residents of any future planned gas roadworks.
- (c) The Health Board are looking into the viability of using the College in Abertridwr.
- (d) Buses are continually running late or not turning up – Members were advised to contact Stagecoach directly with specific details.
- (e) A discussion took place regarding the wall at St Anne’s Garden’s in Abertridwr – Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council with the following questions:
 - (i) What are the contingencies for when the wall falls down?
 - (ii) Have you got an up to date risk assessment for the wall?
 - (iii) Have you got an insurance policy for the wall?
- (f) Members asked the Clerk to move Police Matters to item number 4 on the Agenda, after Public Matters.
- (g) There is no street sign at Parc Terrace, Senghenydd – the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request a free-standing street sign or for a street sign to be placed on a lamppost.

- (h) The Connect2 service, to complement existing transport services, has not yet commenced.
- (i) The Friends of Abertridwr Park Association met with Simon Beacham (Area Parks Officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council) and Groundwork Caerphilly to discuss the proposed memorial garden project on the old bowling green area in Abertridwr Park.

79/2019

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 10th October 2019** at Senghenydd Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council