
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels

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

Gwent Police

Clerk: S. Hughes

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: P. Yandle

90/2019

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.

91/2019

PUBLIC MATTERS

(i) Antisocial Behaviour in Senghenydd

A representative of Senghenydd Youth Drop In Centre (SYDIC) attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding a number of young people displaying antisocial behaviour on and around Senghenydd Square. A number of incidents that have recently taken place were highlighted and discussed. Members were informed that the situation is getting worse, measures need to be put in place and more targeted work is required. Due to the funding and staffing issues of SYDIC, Members were asked for their input on how the situation can be addressed.

Members asked the Clerk to write to the Senior Youth Service Manager at Caerphilly County Borough Council to highlight the increase in antisocial behaviour from young people in Senghenydd and to ask what the intentions are for this area to alleviate this problem.

The Police informed that they are aware of the individuals concerned and the situation is in the final process of being dealt with. They also informed that they are working with SYDIC to address problems with antisocial behaviour.

A Member asked if there was a small intervention scheme or targeted piece of work that could be put in place to deal with this particular issue. It was agreed for Dave Brunton (SYDIC) to liaise with Councillor L. Binding.

92/2019 **POLICE MATTERS**

Two representatives of Gwent Police attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (a) A number of dwelling burglaries have been reported. Response Officers are patrolling Abertridwr and Senghenydd during the evening and early hours of the morning.

Members received a written report on the following matters:

- (b) Antisocial behaviour – 6 calls in 28 days.
- (c) Volume crime – 9 calls in 28 days.
- (d) Looking at the demand there are no repeat locations.
- (e) Antisocial behaviour at Parish Place, Senghenydd – patrols will continue.
- (f) Antisocial behaviour in Senghenydd is in the process of being dealt with.
- (g) An off-road bike operation is being arranged for the beginning of December.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (i) Dangerous parking on the junction outside the SPAR in Abertridwr. Caerphilly County Borough Council Enforcement has been requested for this area.
- (ii) Decommission of all CCTV systems in Abertridwr and Senghenydd as part of Caerphilly County Borough Council's draft budget proposals for 2020/21. Members asked for a letter of support from the Police.
- (iii) Public confidence is an issue in the Aber Valley.

93/2019 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2019**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 10th October 2019 were approved as a true record.

94/2019 **MATTERS ARISING**

- (i) Minute reference: 84/2019 (ii)
A site meeting with Officers from Caerphilly County Borough Council was held at Plas Cwm Parc in Senghenydd regarding vehicle access. Members were informed that vehicles should not park any nearer to the flats but should have access in an emergency.

- (ii) Minute reference: 84/2019 (iii)
Members were informed that the work scheduled at the old Welsh School site has not been completed. Councillor J. Roberts is liaising with Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (iii) Minute reference: 88/2019 (a)
The large pooling of water that occurs outside the doors of Abertridwr Library during wet weather has been reported to Caerphilly County Borough Council. Members asked the Clerk to contact CCBC for an update.
- (iv) Minute reference: 88/2019 (b)
Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council for an update on the request for weeding and tidying the area at the side of Abertridwr Library.

95/2018

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- (i) The Chairperson attended the Armistice Day Remembrance Service at Senghenydd Cenotaph on Sunday 10th November 2019 and laid a wreath on behalf of the Community Council.
- (ii) Members approved annual leave for the Clerk (10th February 2020 – 16th February 2020) and agreed to change the date of the Community Council meeting which is due to be held on Thursday 13th February 2020.

96/2019

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 332 and a 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 expenditure:
 - (i) British Telecom – £52.24 (including VAT).
- (b) Members approved Playworks One payroll administration – Clerk's salary and related costs for Month 7.

(4) Correspondence

(a) Letter of Resignation – Councillor A. Diblasi

Members received a letter of resignation from Councillor A. Diblasi from his role as a Community Councillor for Aber Valley Community Council, Senghenydd Ward.

(b) Abertridwr and Senghenydd CCTV Review

Members received an e-mail from the Control Room Manager for Caerphilly County Borough Council informing that the CCTV systems at Abertridwr and Senghenydd are due for a review. All interested parties are being contacted for their views to enable them to make an assessment on the continued use of the CCTV systems. Members of Aber Valley Community Council strongly agreed that there is a justified need for the CCTV systems in Abertridwr and Senghenydd. Members asked the Clerk to respond to the e-mail, giving the reasons why the CCTV should remain.

(c) Community Cleansing Team

Members received a letter from the Waste Strategy and Operations Manager for Caerphilly County Borough Council informing that the Community Cleansing Team will be working in the Aber Valley during the week commencing 9th December 2019. Councillor J. Roberts to co-ordinate areas for inclusion on the schedule.

(d) The Wall at St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr

Members received a response from the Planning Services Manager for Caerphilly County Borough Council in response to questions raised by Members at the Community Council meeting held on 12th September 2019, regarding the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr. The response stated that the wall is not showing any discernible signs of movement, there is no risk assessment and the wall is privately owned so any insurance cover is a matter for the owners. Members expressed serious concerns regarding the condition of the wall and the safety of local residents. Members informed that Aber Valley County Borough Councillors have requested a meeting with the Chief Executive for Caerphilly County Borough Council and they will discuss this issue at that meeting.

Members asked the Clerk to provide a report detailing all the communication between the Community Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the wall at St Anne's Gardens.

(e) Local Electricity Bill – Motion Request

Members received an e-mail from the Director for Power of People asking the Community Council to help their campaign for more local, clean energy generation that would benefit local communities and to pass a motion in support of the Local Electricity Bill. Members asked the Clerk to request further information regarding the organisation.

- (f) Community Facilities Programme – Aber Valley Communities Partnership
Members received an e-mail from the Community Grants Unit of the Welsh Government as the Community Facilities Programme has received an application from Aber Valley Community Partnership for the resurfacing of the Senghenydd Waterplay Feature and Aber Valley Community Council was listed as a key partner. Members asked the Clerk to respond to the e-mail to support the application and confirm that Aber Valley Community Council is considered as a key partner as an annual donation is given towards the running costs.

- (g) Civil Parking Enforcement
Members received and discussed an update from Caerphilly County Borough Council on Revenue Civil Parking Enforcement. Aber Valley County Borough Council Members highlighted that a review of the parking in Thomas Street, Abertridwr (outside the shops) has also been requested and will remind Caerphilly County Borough Council.

(5) A.O.B.

- (a) Flowers at the Senghenydd Cenotaph

Members agreed for Caerphilly County Borough Council to supply and deliver the spring and summer flowers at the Cenotaph in Senghenydd – the Clerk to arrange accordingly.

- (b) Reporting on Section 6 – The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Members were informed that the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the section 6 or s6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. The s6 duty requires that public authorities ‘must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems’. As part of the compliance Aber Valley Community Council is required to report on what has been done to maintain and enhance biodiversity. The Clerk to prepare a draft report for comment prior to the Community Council meeting to be held in January 2020.

(6) Planning Applications

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussion.

- (a) Case Ref. 19/0777/CLEU Site Area: 4174m²
Location: Llwynceilyn, Bowls Lane, Penyrheol, Caerphilly, CF83 2TU
Proposal: Obtain a Lawful Development Certificate for existing use as a dwelling house known as Llwynceilyn that was not built in accordance with the approved plans and as such was unlawful; a CLEU had been granted for the lawfulness of the property as a dwelling house and this application seeks confirmation that the conditions attached to the original planning permission which has now lapsed in its entirety do not apply.

97/2019

DEFIBRILLATORS

Councillor D. Berry declared an interest as a Member of the Management Committee for Senghenydd Community Centre.

Members agreed the purchase of 3 defibrillators and 3 stainless steel cabinets with keypad coded locks from Welsh Hearts at a cost of £4,296. Members approved the installation costs and asked the Clerk to liaise with Caerphilly County Borough Council to arrange for a defibrillator to be installed on Abertridwr Community Centre and Senghenydd Community Centre. Members agreed an annual donation, in principle, to Senghenydd Community Centre towards electricity costs for the defibrillator. Members asked the Clerk to also arrange for a defibrillator to be installed on The Windsor Hotel.

98/2019

MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported the following matters:

- (a) Bus 25 to the Heath Hospital is being reinstated on a six month trial period.
- (b) The illicit tipping in the rear lane at Hendre Road in Abertridwr has been cleared.
- (c) Councillor T. Richards has handed in his resignation as a Community Council representative School Governor at Ysgol Ifor Bach.
- (d) A street sign has been ordered for Coronation Terrace in Senghenydd.
- (e) External lighting to the side of Abertridwr Community Centre has been requested.
- (f) In relation to the draft budget proposals from Caerphilly County Borough Council, Members highlighted the potential cuts in the Aber Valley and raised concerns regarding the proposed removal of the CCTV systems in Abertridwr and Senghenydd. It was agreed for the Clerk to liaise with Councillor J. Roberts to organise a petition to call on Caerphilly County Borough Council not to go ahead with the proposed decommissioning of CCTV cameras in the villages of Senghenydd and Abertridwr, as part of the budget proposals for 2020-21.

99/2019

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been changed to **Friday 13th December 2019** at Senghenydd Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council