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**ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER**

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**MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE,**  
**ON FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

**PRESENT:**

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels

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

Gwent Police

Clerk: S. Hughes

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: E. P. Prendergast

**100/2019 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.

**101/2019 PUBLIC MATTERS**

There were no public matters.

**102/2019 POLICE MATTERS**

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

(a) Antisocial behaviour in Senghenydd:

Members were updated on the current situation regarding the antisocial behaviour in Senghenydd. They were informed that the group of youths are known to the Police and the situation is being dealt with, but it is a slow process. The Police are offering reassurance to shop owners on Senghenydd Square. Members were also informed that the group of youths are now targeting residents lower down in the Aber Valley.

The Police asked Members of the Community Council to fund a mobile camera to be installed 'on loan' to homeowners who are victims of crime. Members were advised that the Police would be in charge of the camera but it would be owned by the Community Council and only used within the Aber Valley. Following a discussion Members asked Clerk to check the

legality of the camera before a final decision is made. PC Iwan Adams agreed to send an e-mail to the Community Council providing detailed information about the camera in order for the Clerk to seek advice.

The Police informed Members that they are working with SYDIC and also looking at different community projects to reduce the antisocial behaviour. Members were also advised that Police patrols in the Aber Valley will continue.

- (b) The Mini Police Initiative will be introduced to schools in the Caerphilly area to build a rapport with children.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (i) Attempted mugging in Senghenydd. The Police informed Members that it had not been reported to them.

**103/2019**     **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were approved as a true record with the following amendment:

Apologies were received from Councillor M. Battle.

**104/2019**     **MATTERS ARISING**

- (i) Minute reference: 94/2019 (ii)  
Members were informed that the work requested at the old Welsh School site has been completed.
- (ii) Minute reference: 94/2019 (iii)  
Members received an update from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the pooling of water that occurs outside Abertridwr Library doors during wet weather. This request has been referred to Education (the Library Service) for action and it is in the process of being actioned.
- (iii) Minute reference: 88/2019 (f)  
Members were informed that the petition to call on Caerphilly County Borough Council not to go ahead with the proposed decommissioning of CCTV cameras in Senghenydd and Abertridwr, as part of the budget proposals for 2020/21, has been distributed to local shops and organisations in the Aber Valley. The petition will be collected and handed in to Caerphilly County Borough Council at the Council meeting in February. During the discussion under Police Matters, PC Iwan Adams agreed to ask for a letter of support from the Inspector so that it can be presented with the petition.

**105/2019**     **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

There was no report from the Chairperson.

**(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 333 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) Wales Audit Office – £199.10.

- (b) Members approved Playworks One payroll administration – Clerk's salary and related costs for Month 8.

**(4) Correspondence**

- (a) Llamau: Christmas Appeal

Members received a letter from Llamau requesting a donation towards a Christmas present for their young people and to give them an opportunity to enjoy a Christmas meal with their housemates. It was agreed to donate £100.

- (b) Welsh Government: Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2020/21

Members were informed that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2020/21 is £8.32.

- (c) Senior Youth Service Manager, CCBC: Antisocial Behaviour in Senghenydd

Members discussed the response from the Senior Youth Service Manager for Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the antisocial behaviour by young people in Senghenydd. Members were informed that Councillor L. Binding has been liaising with Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre and the Director of Social Services for Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the situation.

- (d) Power of People: Local Electricity Bill – Motion Request

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**(5) A.O.B.**

- (a) Application for Co-option – Abertridwr Ward

Members agreed to co-opt Charlotte Bishop as a Community Councillor for the Abertridwr Ward.

(b) Code of Conduct Training

Members were notified of Code of Conduct Training to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and agreed that Councillor C. Bishop should attend as it is beneficial for those who have been newly elected

(c) Representatives of the Community Council on Outside Bodies

Members were appointed to serve as representatives of the Community Council on the following outside bodies:

- (i) Town and Community Councils Joint Liaison Committee:  
Councillor M. Stretch and Councillor D. Berry
- (ii) Community Council Liaison Sub Committee:  
Councillor M. Stretch (Reserve: Councillor D. Berry)
- (iii) School Governor at Ysgol Ifor Bach – deferred to the next meeting.
- (iv) School Governor at Cwmaber Junior School – deferred to the next meeting.

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

Members received a report detailing all the communication between the Community Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request all the raw data / readings that have been taken in the process of monitoring the wall.

**(6) Planning Applications**

*Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussion.*

- (a) Case Ref. 19/0969/RET  
Location: Brynlethrydd Bungalow, Commercial Street to Allotment Gardens, Senghenydd, Caerphilly CF83 4HJ  
Proposal: Retain and complete detached outbuilding
- (b) Case Ref. 19/0962/NCC  
Location: 66 Ty'n Y Parc, Abertridwr, Caerphilly, CF83 4ED  
Proposal: Vary condition 08 of planning consent P/99/0840 (Erect residential development of 8 houses including roads, sewers, fences and all engineering works) to convert garage into a kitchen area and provide extra car park space

**107/2019 COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2020/21**

Members received a draft budget for 2020/21. Following a discussion it was agreed to increase the sum allocated to Special Projects to £30,000 by earmarking any unspent monies from 2019/20 and taking the remainder from reserves.

**108/2019**     **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported the following matters:

- (a)    Illicit tipping in the lane that joins High Street and Clive Street in Senghenydd.
  
- (b)    The new street sign at Parc Terrace in Senghenydd has not been put in place – the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request an update.

**109/2019**     **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020** at Abertridwr Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**  
**Aber Valley Community Council**