
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY 2020

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels

Councillors: M. Battle, D. Berry, C. Bishop, E. P. Prendergast, J. Roberts,
M. Stretch, J. Taylor

Clerk: S. Hughes

Gwent Police

The Chairperson welcomed the newly elected Community Councillor for the Abertridwr Ward, Councillor Charlotte Bishop, to the Community Council meeting.

01/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Binding and T. Richards.

02/2020 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.

03/2020 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no public matters.

04/2020 POLICE MATTERS

A representative of Gwent Police attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (a) Crime prevention events are being organised to look at vehicle crime and vehicle theft.

The following written report was received from CSO Megan Kerswell:

- (b) ASB and vehicle damage is ongoing in the Aber Valley, however it has significantly dropped.

- (c) An off-road bike operation was conducted on 15th December 2019 around Caerphilly and Bedwas – no bikes were seized.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (i) Members requested an update on the antisocial behaviour on and around Senghenydd Square. Members were advised that CSO Megan Kerswell will e-mail the Community Council to provide an update on the current situation.
- (ii) Vehicles are causing a dangerous obstruction by parking on the junction at Graig-y-Fedw leading to Sunny Bank in Abertridwr.
- (iii) Vehicles are causing an obstruction by parking on the junction at King Street in Abertridwr.

05/2020

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2019

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 13th December 2019 were approved as a true record.

06/2020

MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Minute reference: 102/2019
Members received an update from Caerphilly Neighbourhood Policing Team regarding the request for funding for CCTV cameras to assist with antisocial behaviour in the Aber Valley. Members were informed that funding has been sourced and the device has been purchased. The cameras will now be used to prevent and disrupt ASB across the Caerphilly Wards including the Aber Valley.
- (ii) Minute reference: 104/2019 (i)
Members received an update on the works undertaken at the old Welsh School site in Senghenydd.
- (iii) Minute reference 104/2019 (ii)
Members received an update from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the pooling of water that occurs outside the doors of Abertridwr Library during wet weather. Maintenance work was scheduled to take place in December 2019, but it was postponed due to inclement weather. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council for an update.
- (iv) Minute reference: 104/2019 (111)
Members agreed for 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, to be handed in to Caerphilly County Borough Council at the Full Council meeting to be held in February.

- (v) Minute reference: 106/2019 (5) (d)
Members received a response from Caerphilly County Borough Council advising that the request for the raw data / readings that that have been taken during the process of monitoring the wall at St Anne's Garden's in Abertridwr is being dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act.
- (vi) Minute reference: 108/2019 (b)
Members were advised that Caerphilly County Borough Council has ordered the new street sign for Parc Terrace in Senghenydd.

07/2020 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

There was no report from the Chairperson.

08/2020 **CLERKS REPORT**

(1) **Current Financial Situation**

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) Digital Systems UK – £19.02.
(ii) The Society of Local Council Clerks – £126.00
(iii) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £260.00

- (b) Members approved Playworks One payroll administration – Clerk's salary and related costs for Month 9.

(4) **Correspondence**

- (a) **Caerphilly County Borough Council: BT - Removal of Public Payphones**

Members received notification from BT with a schedule of telephone boxes they wish to remove under the 90 day consultation process. Members agreed that the telephone box in Senghenydd is not needed.

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

Members discussed the request 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 contact Power of People to ask if the Local Electricity Bill is still ongoing, due to the fact Parliament was dissolved and a new one has been elected.

(5) A.O.B.

(a) Election of Vice Chairperson

Councillor L. Binding was elected as Vice Chairperson for Aber Valley Community Council.

(b) Application for Co-option – Senghenydd Ward

Members agreed to co-opt David Tolley as a Community Councillor for the Senghenydd Ward.

(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) School Governor at Ysgol Ifor Bach – Councillor C. Bishop
- (ii) School Governor at Cwmaber Junior School – deferred to the next meeting.

(d) Christmas Lighting – Electricity Contribution

Members agreed to pay a donation of £50.00 to Cavanna's on Senghenydd Square as the Community Council's Christmas lights attached to their premises is connected to their electricity supply.

(e) Internal Auditor 2019/20

Members agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to appoint an Internal Auditor for the financial year ending March 2020.

(f) Precept 2020/21

Members approved the annual estimates for 2020/21 and confirmed the Precept amount of £40,000 – the Clerk to inform Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Members also approved the budget plan for 2020/21.

Members agreed for the Clerk's laptop to be repaired or replaced as necessary.

(6) Planning Applications

None.

09/2020

MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported the following matters:

- (a) Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council for confirmation that Bryngelli Terrace, Abertridwr is included on the resurfacing schedule for the next financial year.

- (b) Members discussed the zebra crossing at High Street in Abertridwr (at the bottom of Bryngelli Terrace) and asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request a 20mph zone in that area.
- (c) Members discussed the review of double yellow lines and asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to ask if High Street in Abertridwr (between Abertridwr Square and the junction at Bryngelli Terrace, on the side of the odd numbers) is included in the review. If it is not included in the review, Members asked the Clerk to make a request for it to be added.
- (d) Members discussed the lack of traffic enforcement in the Aber Valley. It was agreed that the County Borough Councillors would raise this issue at their meeting with the Chief Executive.
- (e) Members questioned whether the culverts in Abertridwr and Senghenydd have been inspected and cleaned and asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to make enquiries. It was advised that any blocked culverts are reported directly to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (f) Members asked for details on the commencement of the electric buses. Councillor J. Taylor agreed to make enquiries and report back to Community Council.
- (g) The area of land near the transmitter mast on the road between Senghenydd and Nelson has been partially blocked with earth and stones. It has been reported to Caerphilly County Borough Council.

10/2020 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 20th February 2020** at Senghenydd Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council