
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels

Councillors: M. Battle, C. Bishop, T. Richards, M. Stretch, D. Tolley
L. Binding, J. Roberts and J. Taylor were present from agenda item number 7.

Clerk: S. Hughes

Gwent Police: CSO Megan Kerswell

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

11/2020 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors D. Berry and E. P. Prendergast.

12/2020 **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.

13/2020 **PUBLIC MATTERS**

(a) Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre

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

Dave Brunton, the Project Manager for Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre (SYDIC), attended the meeting to update Members on the work that has been undertaken with certain young people in the Aber Valley to combat their antisocial behaviour. Members were informed that the behaviour of the young people concerned has improved and it was recognised that there has been an overall improvement in antisocial behavior in Senghenydd due to the work undertaken by SYDIC.

Members were informed that the financial situation of SYDIC is still critical. A protest demonstration has been arranged for Saturday 29th February 2020 regarding the possible closure of SYDIC and the effect it would have on the local community.

14/2020 **POLICE MATTERS**

CSO Megan Kerswell from Gwent Police attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (a) Antisocial behaviour is improving in the Aber Valley.
- (b) Vehicle damage is ongoing in the Aber Valley and surrounding areas.
- (c) A number of complaints have been received regarding parking issues in Abertridwr. The areas concerned included High Street, Aberfawr Road, outside Cwmaber Junior School, Graigwen Crescent and Graig-y-Fedw. Members highlighted that vehicles are continuing to cause a dangerous obstruction by parking on the junction at Graig-y-Fedw leading to Graigwen Crescent. CSO Megan Kerswell agreed to monitor the situation.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (i) Members requested an update on the antisocial behaviour on and around Senghenydd Square. CSO Megan Kerswell was unable to provide an update at this time but informed Members that the Police are in the process of dealing with the situation.
- (ii) Vehicles are not stopping at the junction on King Street in Abertridwr, leading from King's Close to Brynhafod Road. CSO Megan Kerswell agreed to monitor the situation.

15/2020 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY 2020**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 9th January 2020 were approved as a true record.

16/2020 **MATTERS ARISING**

- (i) Minute reference: 06/2020 (iv)
Members received a letter from Caerphilly County Borough Council to thank the Community Council for submitting the petition against the withdrawal of CCTV cameras in the Aber Valley, in response to the initial budget proposals and public consultation process. Members were advised that the Leader of the Council issued a statement indicating that a number of proposed reductions for 2020/21 are likely to be withdrawn following feedback from the public and the positive financial settlement announced by Welsh Government. "No reduction in CCTV cameras" was included in the list of key changes. Members will be notified as soon as a formal decision has been made.

- (ii) Minute reference: 06/2020 (v)

Members discussed the information provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council in response to the request for the raw data / readings that that have been taken during the process of monitoring the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr. A Member referred the monitor readings and in particular the 'Location of Targets PDF' which indicated that there were no targets on 14/12/16 because the top of the wall was overgrown. Concerns were raised that there should be targets between 147 and 149. The Clerk confirmed that a request has been made to Caerphilly County Borough Council for targets above 147 and 149 and the up-to-date measurements for them.

- (iii) Minute reference 09/2020 (b)

Members received a detailed response from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the request for the provision of a 20mph zone on High Street in Abertridwr, in the vicinity of the zebra crossing, near the junction with Bryngelli Terrace. Members were informed that the latest traffic survey undertaken in the area was for a complete week in March 2019 near the junction with Brook Street, at which time the speed of traffic did not meet the intervention criteria within the Speed Management Strategy for the implementation of any additional speed reducing measures at that time. Members noted that Officers from the Traffic Management Section have visited the site and determined that although the infrastructure is acceptable, the zebra crossing would benefit from a general refurbishment to improve the visibility of the crossing. The Highways Maintenance Team have therefore been requested to carry out enhancements at the crossing point and a warning sign will be provided on the northbound approach to the crossing when funding becomes available

- (iv) Minute reference: 09/2020 (c)

Members received a response from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the review of the double yellow lines at High Street in Abertridwr. Members agreed for Councillor L. Binding to respond to Caerphilly County Borough Council to clarify the specific requirements.

17/2020 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

There was no report from the Chairperson.

18/2020 **CLERKS REPORT**

(1) Current Financial Situation

Members received a copy of the income and expenditure to date, bank statement number 335 and a bank reconciliation. Members discussed and approved the Community Council's accounts.

(2) Income

- (a) Members noted the following income:

- (i) HMRC – £1,033.43.

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members approved the following expenditure:
- (i) British Telecom – £52.24 (including VAT).
 - (ii) Elsbury Access Platforms – £1,308.96. For the installation, removal and storage of the Christmas lighting.
 - (iii) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £5,221.07. For the opening, closing and cleaning of the toilet block in Abertridwr Park for 2018 and 2019.
- (b) Members approved Playworks One payroll administration – Clerk’s salary and related costs for Month 10.

(4) A.O.B.

(a) Review of Electoral Arrangements for the County of Caerphilly Draft Proposals – Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Members discussed the review of the electoral arrangements for the County of Caerphilly draft proposals report by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. It was highlighted that the Commission proposes to reduce the number of County Borough Councillors from three to two in the Aber Valley. Members were advised that the Commission are providing notice of the period for representation which will end on 15th April 2020. After this date the Commission will consider all the evidence and prepare a Final Proposals Report. Members agreed for the Clerk to liaise with Councillor J. Taylor to make a representation to object to the proposal, highlighting the disparity in comparison with other wards.

(b) Representatives of the Community Council on Outside Bodies

A Member was appointed to serve as a representative of the Community Council on the following outside body:

- (i) School Governor at Cwmaber Junior School – Councillor D. Tolley.

(c) Invitation to the Windsor Colliery Re-Dedication Service

Members received an invitation to the Windsor Colliery Re-Dedication Service to be held on Tuesday 24th March 2020, commencing at 1.30 pm.

(6) Planning Applications

None.

19/2020

MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported the following matters:

- (a) A litter pick has been arranged to take place from Ysgol Ifor Bach on Friday 28th February 2020.

- (b) An open day at Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre will take place on Saturday 29th February 2020, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm.
- (c) Caerphilly County Borough Council Ward Members provided an update on their meeting with the Chief Executive. Members discussed the issues that were raised including waste management, the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr and other ward related issues.
- (d) An update was given on the work recently undertaken by the Community Cleansing Team. Members were also made aware that a significant amount of work has been undertaken in Abertridwr Park.
- (e) In view of the recent inclement weather, Councillor J. Roberts informed Members that he had contacted Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) regarding the current situation of the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr. A response was received from CCBC informing that the wall had been inspected and it was deemed satisfactory.
- (f) Councillor J. Roberts has contacted Caerphilly County Borough Council to request a record of any repairs to the drains on the hill leading from Dan-y-Graig to St Anne's' Gardens in Abertridwr during the last 10 years. A request was also made to measure the volume of traffic up and down the hill.
- (g) A brief discussion was held about the possibility of the Community Council developing a Green Plan for the Aber Valley. It would celebrate Green activity already underway whilst seeking ways of further developing new initiatives with the community and wide range of other interested partners. Members supported the idea and Councillor D. Tolley volunteered to produce a discussion document for the next Community Council meeting.
- (h) A discussion took place regarding potential locations for a war memorial in Abertridwr. Members were advised that discussions have been held with the Friends of Abertridwr Park Association regarding the possibility of having a war memorial in old bowling green area at Abertridwr Park.
- (i) Councillor M. Stretch volunteered to undertake an audit of all the allotments in the Aber Valley.
- (j) Members were advised that two defibrillators have now been installed, outside Abertridwr Community Centre and Senghenydd Community Centre.
- (k) Members referred to an e-mail they received regarding Local Places for Nature scheme – a brand-new initiative, funded by Welsh Government, that aims to create, restore and enhance hundreds of habitats across the country. Members agreed for Councillor J. Roberts to liaise with the Clerk to submit an application on behalf of the Community Council.
- (l) A review of the Clerks contract of employment. Members agreed for Councillor L. Binding to coordinate the review.

20/2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12th March 2020** at Abertridwr Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council