
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2018**

PRESENT:

Chairperson: E. P. Prendergast
Councillors: M. Battle, D. Berry, L. Binding, D. Daniels, A. Diblasi,
J. Roberts, P. Yandle
Clerk: S. Hughes

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: T. Richards, M. Stretch, J. Taylor
Gwent Police

84/2018 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.

85/2018 PUBLIC MATTERS

Two members of the public attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the current situation of the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr. They asked the Community Council to take an alternative approach on behalf of the residents and members of the public who are being put in danger by having to use the route every day, as they felt that Caerphilly County Borough Council are not taking responsibility for the safety aspect of the wall.

Concerns were raised regarding the deteriorating condition of the wall and the approaching time of year for severe weather conditions.

A proposal was made for the Community Council to write to the Chief Constable of Gwent Police and the Chief Fire Officer to seek their view on the safety aspect of the wall and the danger to people who use that route every day. Members agreed and asked the Clerk to compose and send the letters accordingly.

Councillor L. Binding to liaise with the members of the public regarding putting a petition together to be presented to Full Council at Caerphilly County Borough Council.

86/2018 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 13th September 2018 were approved as a true record.

87/2018

MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Minute reference: 78/2018 (i)
Councillor A. Diblasi has been unable to contact the relevant officer in Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding ongoing issues with brown wheelie bins being misused. Councillor J. Roberts to send an e-mail to Gavin Thomas in Public Services regarding the issue and to request that he contacts Councillor A. Diblasi.
- (ii) Minute reference: 79/2018
Members asked the Clerk to contact P.C.S.O. Andrew Taylor to ask him to attend the next Community Council meeting.
- (iii) Minute reference: 82/2018 (d)
Councillor J. Roberts updated Members on the work undertaken with Bethan Smith, WHQS Environmental Officer for Caerphilly Borough Council. The overgrowth at the Bus Stop on Graig-y-Fedw has been tackled. Members asked the Clerk to contact Bethan Smith to find out if any more works are going to be undertaken around the bus stop area including cutting back the tree branches from the street lights.
- (iv) Minute reference: 72/2018
Correspondence has been received from Caerphilly County Borough Council informing that the overhanging trees blocking access to the roadway in the lane behind Coedcae Road has been instructed as a medium priority which means that the works will be completed between 3 – 18 months. Members were concerned as a previous request was logged on 27th June 2018 and given a target date of within 20 working days. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to ask for an explanation on why the date has significantly changed.

88/2018

POLICE MATTERS

There was no representative of Gwent Police in attendance.

Members Police Matters:

- (i) Concerns were raised regarding vehicles speeding and driving erratically through Thomas Street and High Street in Abertridwr. Members asked the Clerk to report to P.C.S.O. Andrew Taylor and ask for increased patrols in these areas. Members also asked the Clerk to request an initiative with covert speed monitoring.

89/2018

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- (i) The Chairperson attended the Christmas Tree Festival meeting.
- (ii) The Chairperson attended the Community Council Presentation Evening and thanked the Clerk for organising the event, Councillor P. Yandle for providing the entertainment and Councillor D. Berry for his help on the day.
- (iii) Councillor D. Daniels will be representing the Community Council at the Universal Colliery Mining Memorial Service to be held on Monday 15th October 2018 as the Chairperson is unable to attend.

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

- (a) Councillor E. P. Prendergast has examined and authorised the Community Council's accounts.

Members received a copy of the income and expenditure to date, bank statement number 318 and 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 invoices:

(i) Elsbury Access Platforms – £324.00 including VAT. For the purchase of a Christmas figurine.

- (b) Members approved Playworks One payroll administration – Clerk's salary and related costs for Month 6.

(4) Correspondence

- (a) Byelaws – Land Drainage

Members received a copy of the Caerphilly County Borough Council Land Drainage Byelaws 2018, which will be available for public inspection.

- (b) Aber Valley YMCA – Annual Christmas Pantomime

Members considered a request from Aber Valley YMCA for financial support towards the cost of the annual Christmas pantomime.

It was agreed that the Community Council would contribute £250 towards the event.

- (c) Audit for the Year Ended 31st March 2018

Members were informed that BDO, on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales, has completed the audit for the year ended 31st March 2018.

Members were presented with the Issues Arising Report and informed that the Annual Return and Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been displayed. Members approved and accepted the Annual Return.

(5) A.O.B.

- (a) Armistice Day – November 2018

Members agreed to purchase two wreaths to lay at the Abertridwr Service of Remembrance and at the Senghenydd Cenotaph to remember those killed in action during the wars – the Clerk to arrange accordingly.

- (b) The Independent Remuneration Panel Draft Annual Report 2019/20
Members were informed that the Independent Remuneration Panel Draft Annual Report 2019/20 has now been published for consultation and is available on its website through the following link:
<https://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/181002-irp-draft-report-en.pdf>
- (c) Community Recognition Award Plaques
Members agreed to update the community recognition award plaques located in Abertridwr and Senghenydd Community Centres and approved any subsequent costs – the Clerk to arrange accordingly.
- (d) Social Media – A Guide for Councillors
Members were informed of the latest guidance from the WLGA for Councillors/Community Councillors and Social Media and a Councillors Guide to Handling Online Abuse.
- (6) Planning Applications**
- Councillor J. Taylor took no part in any discussions.*
- (a) **Case Ref. 18/0764/COU** Site Area: 125m²
Location: 73 Commercial Street Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4GZ
Proposal: Convert basement to a two bedroom flat

91/2018 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported the following matters:

- (a) Reports have been received of a person sleeping rough in the lane behind Thomas Street, Abertridwr.
- (b) Councillor A. Diblasi is currently liaising with a company called Space Savers who regenerate areas that are not being used. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
- (c) Concerns were raised regarding missed targets for rubbish collection. Councillor A. Diblasi is liaising with Caerphilly County Borough Council and will report back at the next meeting.

92/2018 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th November 2018** at Senghenydd Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council