

---

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

---

**MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE,**  
**ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

**PRESENT:**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: D. Berry, T. Richards

**52/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors and Officers are 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.

**53/2018 UNITED WELSH – COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CO-ORDINATOR**

Clare Bradwick-Lidster, the Community Investment Co-ordinator for United Welsh, attended the meeting to discuss Fit and Fed which will be running in Abertridwr YMCA during the summer (week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018) and to also get some links into the local primary schools.

**54/2018 ILLICIT TIPPING IN THE ABER VALLEY – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Two Officers from Caerphilly County Borough Council, Lee Carpenter the Environmental Health Officer and Mark Miller the Principal Refuse and Cleansing Officer, attended the meeting to discuss issues regarding illicit tipping and litter in the Aber Valley.

The following issues were highlighted:

- (i) Illicit tipping in rear lanes:  
Members requested the use of portable surveillance cameras and suggested the possibility of a joint venture with the local authority in relation to surveillance. Lee Carpenter informed Members that the Community Council would have to contact the local authority to make a request but he is of the understanding that there is no budget for it. The Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to find out the legality of using covert surveillance cameras in rear lanes to monitor illicit tipping.

- (ii) **Illicit tipping figures:**  
Members discussed the number of prosecutions for illicit tipping in the Aber Valley during the last ten years. Mark Miller informed Members that 42 instances of illicit tipping were reported to Caerphilly County Borough Council in 2017/18. Lee Carpenter informed Members that he has investigated a large number of illicit tipping instances, although some of these instances were a mis-presentation of waste. Both Officers stated that illicit tipping complaints are investigated but people are unwilling to give witness statements and evidence to support enforcement.

Members thanked the Officers for their help in the following areas which have regular occurrences of illicit tipping and asked for Enforcement in these areas to spot check on a regular basis:

- The rear of High Street, Abertridwr
- The lane behind Cavanna's on Senghenydd Square
- The rear of William Street, Abertridwr
- Top Rock area

- (iii) **Staffing of litter pickers:**  
Members informed Officers that when a litter picker in the Aber Valley is on holiday or ill there is no replacement provided and bins overflow. Mark Miller informed Members that when a litter picker post becomes vacant it is not being replaced. Also when a litter picker is on annual leave or ill there is no provision in place to replace them due to the limited number of staff in the service area. Members were also informed that if a litter issue is reported to Caerphilly County Borough Council the litter should be picked up the following day. Mark Miller agreed to look into putting a larger bin outside the Doctors Surgery on Abertridwr Square. Members suggested using young offenders to litter pick in the Aber Valley – the Clerk to contact Rhodri Lloyd to make enquiries.
- (iv) **Wheelie bins not being collected:**  
Members reported that a number of brown wheelie bins on the main walkway through the Aber Valley are not being collected because they are being contaminated by passers by using the bins to put their rubbish in. Mark Miller informed Members that refuse and cleansing will take the clear plastic bags.
- (v) **Free Caerphilly County Borough Council collections:**  
Members were concerned that the free council collections service is not advertised enough and suggested that it is advertised in the next edition of Newline – Mark Miller to organise.
- (vi) **General waste issues:**  
Members reported clearly labelled black bags are not being collected – Members to forward the address to Mark Miller for investigation.

**55/2018**

## **PUBLIC MATTERS**

Two members of the public attended the meeting and the following issues were raised:

- (i) **Illicit tipping (builder's rubbish) on the land behind the Windsor Hotel –**  
Councillor J. Taylor to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council Property Services Department.

- (ii) An area of land behind Caerphilly Road, Senghenydd has been fenced off – Councillor J. Roberts to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council Property Services Department to make enquiries.
- (iii) Untaxed vehicles in the Aber Valley – the Clerk to contact the DVLA and the Police to request enforcement.
- (iv) Fires are being lit on a regular basis at Orbit House, Caerphilly Road, Senghenydd – the Clerk to report to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (v) Illicit tipping at the end of Tan-y-Bryn, Senghenydd – Councillor M. Stretch to report to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (vi) A tractor has been going through the Valley and tipping rubbish on the mountain – Members are dealing with this matter.
- (vii) Parking issues at Stanley Street, Senghenydd.
- (viii) Overhanging tree on the land between 23 and 25 Stanley Street, Senghenydd – Councillor J. Taylor to make enquiries as to who owns the land.
- (ix) A grit bin was requested for Stanley Street, Senghenydd – the Clerk to find out if Stanley Street is on the list for a grit bin.

**56/2018**

**THE APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were approved as a true record.

**57/2018**

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were approved as a true record.

**58/2018**

**MATTERS ARISING**

- (i) Minute reference: 46/2018 (ii)  
Councillor J. Roberts informed Members that he had contacted Jason Lear, Building Control Officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council, to request an inspection of the wall at St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr. Councillor J. Roberts also reported the wall opposite number 3 and requested an inspection due to the level of cracks in the wall.
- (ii) Minute reference: 46/2018 (iv)  
Councillor A. Diblasi is liaising with Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the refreshment of the double yellow lines at Bryngelli Terrace, Abertridwr.
- (iii) Minute reference: 49/2018 (b)  
Councillor J. Roberts informed Members that he had looked into previous correspondence regarding the public right of way at the end of St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr and it is Claimed Right of Way 143. Members were also informed that it will take a considerable time to deal with issues relating to Rights of Way due to a large back-log.

- (iv) Minute reference: 50/2018 (3) (i)  
Members authorised the Clerk to pay the replacement invoice at the agreed price of £600 for various planting works undertaken at Abertridwr Park.
- (v) Minute reference: 50/2018 (6) (a)  
Members received a breakdown of the costs for the opening, closing and cleaning of the toilets in Abertridwr Park from Caerphilly County Borough Council. 83% of the hourly rate is labour and 17% is on-costs materials and equipment. Members were informed that the Friends of Abertridwr Park Association will possibly be looking at taking over the running costs of the toilets. Members were concerned that the toilets were not open on a Sunday.

## **59/2018 POLICE MATTERS**

There was no representative of Gwent Police in attendance.

## **60/2018 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chairperson attended the following events:

- (i) Community Allotment Open Day
- (ii) Beulah Tea for the Elderly

## **61/2018 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 314 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) Data Protection registration renewal – £40.00.

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

### **(4) Correspondence**

- (a) Senghenydd Waterplay Feature – Financial Assistance

Members discussed a letter from S.A.L.T. (Senghenydd & Abertridwr Linking Together) requesting financial assistance for the Senghenydd Waterplay Feature and were informed that Caerphilly County Borough Council has advised that £3,000 match funding is available.

It was agreed that the Community Council would support the request for financial assistance and match fund £3,000.

(b) SYDIC Summer Scheme – Financial Assistance

*Councillor M. Stretch, Councillor J. Roberts and Councillor M. Battle declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.*

Members discussed a letter from SYDIC requesting financial assistance of £1,250 to put on activities and workshops during the summer holidays for the young people in the Aber Valley.

It was agreed the Community Council would support the request for financial assistance in the sum of £1,250.

(c) Future of Universal and Welsh National Mining Memorial Garden and Aber Valley Heritage Museum

Members received a letter from Jack Humphreys, Chair of the Aber Valley Heritage Group, informing Members that he is currently arranging a meeting at Senghenydd Community Centre for Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 2.30 pm with representatives of Caerphilly County Borough Council, Hefin David AM and CISWO to discuss the long term future of the above projects. The Clerk to respond to confirm Members will attend the meeting.

(d) Walking Through Time

Members discussed a letter from Jack Humphreys, Chair of the Aber Valley Heritage Group, requesting regarding financial assistance for the Walking Through Time Project. At the Forward Work Programme Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Members agreed to financially support the project in the sum of up to £2,000, to be given at the end of the project if required. The Aber Valley Heritage Group have informed that they are now in a position where they are shortly completing the pilot project and are requesting financial assistance of up to £500.

It was agreed the Community Council would support the request for financial assistance in the sum of £500. The remainder of the reserved amount to be put back into the Forward Work Programme budget.

(e) One-Way System in Senghenydd

Members received an e-mail from Caerphilly County Borough Council informing that they are unable to support the request to create a one-way system in Senghenydd at the present time.

(f) Report of Delegated Power Decision, Former Ysgol Ifor Bach (Upper site)

Members discussed an e-mail from Caerphilly County Borough Council who is seeking an “in principle” decision to support the potential asset transfer of the Ysgol Ifor Bach (upper site) to the 1<sup>st</sup> Senghenydd Scout Group.

Members were concerned about the deteriorating condition of the Ysgol Ifor Bach site, which would be improved with an asset transfer to the 1<sup>st</sup> Senghenydd Scout Group. Members understood the issues for Senghenydd Community Centre, who presently accommodate the Scouts, but acknowledged that the 1<sup>st</sup> Senghenydd Scout Group cannot provide all the activities they want at Senghenydd Community Centre. Members felt they could not stand in the way of the aspirations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Senghenydd Scout Group and supported the potential asset transfer of the Ysgol Ifor Bach (upper site) to the 1<sup>st</sup> Senghenydd Scout Group.

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

**(a) Audit 2017/18**

Members were informed the Notice of the annual audit of accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 has been received from BDO LLP, on behalf of the Auditor General of Wales and the notice of appointment of date for the exercise of electors' rights has been displayed.

The Annual Governance Statement was answered by Members and completed at the community council meeting.

Members considered and approved the annual return for submission to the auditor and authorised the Chairperson to sign the approval and certification section – the Clerk to submit the Annual Return and supporting documentation by 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018.

The internal audit report was presented at the meeting stating that there is an excellent level of record keeping and reporting to the Aber Valley Community Council.

**(b) Community Council Presentation Evening**

Members agreed to hold a Community Council Presentation on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**(c) Community Recognition Awards**

Members agreed for the Community Recognition Awards nomination forms to be distributed and any nominations to be brought to the next meeting for recipients to be agreed.

**(6) Planning Applications**

**(a) Case Ref. 18/0453/FULL**

Location: Land Rear Of 153 Commercial Street Senghenydd Caerphilly  
Proposal: Extend existing detached garage.

**(b) Case Ref. 18/0294/RM**

Location: Land At Grid Ref 311540 190782 Kingsley Place East UI Senghenydd

Proposal: Seek approval of the reserved matters regarding details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in relation to planning consent 16/0189/NCC (Vary conditions 3 and 4 of planning application 07/0673/NCC (residential development) to extend the period for the submission of reserved matters).

**62/2018**

**MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported the following matters:

(a) Any issues regarding Rights of Way to be sent to Councillor J. Roberts.

(b) Speed lines requested outside the Royal Hotel in Abertridwr. Members acknowledged that Caerphilly County Borough Council no longer provides traffic mirrors.

**63/2018**      **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

(a) Friends of Abertridwr Park – Public Liability Insurance

*Councillor L. Binding and Councillor D. Daniels declared an interest.*

Members were informed that the Friends of Abertridwr Park Association have had their first official meeting and at present they have no funds for Public Liability Insurance. Members agreed, in principle, to support a request for financial assistance from the Friends of Abertridwr Park Association towards Public Liability Insurance.

It was agreed that Councillor Paul Yandle will attend the Friends of Abertridwr Park Association meetings to represent the Community Council.

**64/2018**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018** at Abertridwr Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

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