
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2017

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Berry

Councillors: M. Battle, L. Binding, E. P. Prendergast, T. Richards,
J. Roberts, M. Stretch, J. Taylor

Clerk: S. Hughes

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: D. Daniels, A. Diblasi

88/2017 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.

89/2017 PUBLIC MATTERS

(i) SYDIC

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

Dave Brunton attended the meeting to discuss the response from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the current funding situation of SYDIC.

Members asked the Clerk to respond to Christina Harray, Corporate Director Communities for Caerphilly County Borough Council, to request a detailed explanation of what youth provision will be provided in the Aber Valley/Senghenydd and to ask the following questions:

- What level of youth provision will be provided?
- How will the youth provision be delivered to the young people in the Aber Valley/Senghenydd?
- What targets are being set?
- What are the outcomes of the targets?
- Some officers were meant to be staying in post until December but have moved on to new jobs – how many in number and what has happened to the salaries that they would have had if they had stayed in post until the end of their contract?

Members asked the Clerk to contact Steffan Lewis AM to find out what Legacy funding is available, what the funding should support and how it can be accessed.

Members asked the Clerk to contact the Chair of the Audit Committee, Councillor Margaret Sargent, to request an audit cost comparison for in house youth service provision and external youth provision.

90/2017 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY 2017**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th May 2017 were approved as a true record.

91/2017 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 13th October 2017 were approved as a true record.

92/2017 **MATTERS ARISING**

(i) Minute reference: 78/2017

Members were informed that Tim Stephens, Development Control Manager for Caerphilly County Borough Council, was unable to attend the meeting as he had not had the opportunity to discuss in detail the condition of the wall at St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr with his colleagues due to other work commitments.

Members asked the Clerk to contact Tim Stephens to request a convenient date and time that he can meet with Members to discuss the concerns they have previously raised and to receive the latest safety assessment and monitoring report for the wall at St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr. Members also requested for a Highways Engineer to also attend the meeting.

Members approved the following motion:

The Council notes that:

1. The highway retaining wall in St. Anne's Gardens, part of which collapsed over a year ago, is in a dangerous and deteriorating condition because parts of it are leaning outwards over the pavement below.
2. Caerphilly County Borough Council claims to be monitoring its condition but, because of the bushes which overhang the top of the wall, it is impossible to gauge how much it is leaning at its highest.

This Council believes that Caerphilly County Borough Council has the responsibility for ensuring the safety of those who use the road and we fear that the wall will collapse and that when it does it could kill, and or injure, road users.

This Council therefore calls on Caerphilly County Borough Council to make the safety of the wall an urgent priority and make it safe before the wall collapses further.

(ii) Minute reference 83/2017 (i)

A response has been received from Caerphilly County Borough Council confirming that that all 4 CCTV cameras in Abertridwr are operational. They are monitored as part of the existing CCBC system of 150+ cameras. All recordings are kept for a period of 31 days unless requested by a relevant Authority. If requested, footage is kept for a period of 6 months.

- (iii) Minute reference 85/2017 (a)
A response has been received from Caerphilly County Borough Council informing that Bryngelli Terrace has not been identified as a resurfacing candidate for the 2018/2019 financial year. Bryngelli Terrace is categorised as a “secondary walking” route due to the proximity of the school and as such is inspected on a 3 monthly basis and any defects deemed actionable will be identified and repaired as necessary.

93/2017 **POLICE MATTERS**

There was no representative of Gwent Police in attendance.

94/2017 **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

The Chairperson attended the following events:

- Universal Colliery Disaster Memorial Service on 10th October 2017.
- Service of Remembrance in Abertridwr Community Centre on 9th November 2017.

95/2017 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported the following matters:

- (a) Two dog litter bins have been burnt in Abertridwr Park – they have been reported to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (b) Members asked the Clerk to contact Simon Beacham, Senior Parks Officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council, to arrange a meeting to set up a Friends of Abertridwr Park Association.
- (c) The toilets in Abertridwr Park closed at the end of October.
- (d) Councillor J. Roberts attended the Aber Mill Care Home Open Day.
- (e) Councillor J. Roberts has contacted Rhodri Lloyd, Special Projects Officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council, regarding an artist re-doing the bridge at West-side Senghenydd and enquired about steam cleaning the bridges.
- (f) Members asked the Clerk to arrange a Forward Work Programme meeting.
- (g) Members asked the Clerk to invite Andrew Whitepark to the next Community Council meeting to thank him and celebrate his many years of service selling poppies.

96/2017 **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 307 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) British Telecom – £52.24 (including VAT). This payment is made by direct debit.
- (b) Members approved Playworks One payroll administration – Clerk’s salary and related costs.

(4) Correspondence

(a) Free Planning Training

Caerphilly County Borough Council is offering two free spaces to a Planning training workshop for Community and Town Councillors at Penallta House on Wednesday 13th December 2017 – Councillor J. Taylor will be attending.

(b) Royal British Legion’s ‘Silent Soldier’ Concept

Members were made aware of the Royal British Legion’s ‘Silent Soldier’ concept, which marks the sacrifice of those who fell in the four years leading up to Armistice in November 2018.

(c) Cardiff Conservation Volunteers

Members received information from Cardiff Conservation Volunteers, a registered charity group working with people and local authorities and voluntary organisations to enhance and protect the local environment.

(5) Any Other Business

(a) Aber Valley Community Council – Co-option

Members agreed co-opt Paul Yandle to the Aber Valley Community Council, Abertridwr Ward – the Clerk to notify him accordingly.

(b) Christmas Competition

Members agreed not to hold a Christmas competition this year and review it for next year.

(c) Local Model Resolution Protocol

Members agreed to adopt the Model Local Resolution Protocol that has been drawn up by One Voice Wales for use by Community and Town Councils when dealing with low level complaints.

(d) SYDIC Annual General Meeting

Members are invited to the SYDIC AGM which will take place on Monday 4th December 2017 in Senghenydd Community Centre at 6.00 pm.

(e) The Process for Applications for Financial Assistance

Members requested to defer this item to another meeting.

(f) Aber Valley Christmas Tree Festival

Councillor E. P. Prendergast declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

Members considered a request for financial support towards the Aber Valley Christmas Tree Festival to be held in Beulah Chapel in Abertridwr from 8th – 10th December 2017.

It was agreed that the Community Council would contribute up to £400 towards the event.

(6) Planning Applications

None.

97/2017 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th December 2017** at Senghenydd Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council