
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON THURSDAY 13TH JULY 2017

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Berry

Councillors: M. Battle, S. Cuddihy, D. Daniels, A. Diblasi,
E. P. Prendergast, T. Richards, J. Roberts, J. Taylor

Clerk: S. Hughes

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: L. Binding, M. Stretch

54/2017 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.

55/2017 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LATEST SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF THE WALL AT ST ANNE'S GARDENS, ABERTRIDWR – CCBC

Tim Stephens, Development Control Manager for Caerphilly County Borough Council, attended the meeting and gave the following update on the latest safety assessment of the wall at St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr:

Markers on the wall are used to assess movement. Building Control and engineers have looked at the wall and are satisfied that it is not moving and from a public safety point of view everything is under control.

With regards to the wall on the left hand side of the road a regime has not been set up for monitoring it – Tim Stephens to discuss the situation with engineers.

Councillor T. Richards gave an update on how the wall was built.

Mr Parry, a resident of St Anne's Gardens, attended the meeting and Members suggested that a separate meeting is arranged between Tim Stephens and Mr Parry.

Members asked Tim Stephens to provide a further update on the wall at the next Community Council meeting.

56/2017 PUBLIC MATTERS

A member of the public attended the meeting.

57/2017 **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING**

The minutes of the Finance meeting held on 22nd June 2017 were approved as a true record.

58/2017 **MINUTES OF THE LAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 22nd June 2017 were approved with the following amendment:

52/2017 (4) (a) Aber Valley Arts Festival 2017 – Financial Assistance
Members agreed to support the request for financial assistance in the sum of **£1,500.**

59/2017 **MATTERS ARISING**

- (i) Minute reference: 51/2017 (a)
An Officer of Caerphilly County Borough Council was unable to attend the meeting to discuss concerns relating to the renewal/upgrades of bus stops in the Aber Valley, but can provide some observations on particular areas of concern – Members to report any issues relating to the renewal/upgrades of bus stops in the Aber Valley to the Clerk.
- (ii) Minute Reference 51/2017 (c)
The Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to obtain an update on the current situation regarding the sighting of rats on the area of land that adjoins the lane leading from Lower Francis Street to Tridwr Road, Abertridwr.
- (iii) Minute Reference 51/2017 (d)
Councillor A. Diblasi to liaise with Councillor J. Roberts regarding additional bus services in the Aber Valley.
- (iv) Minute Reference 51/2017 (g)
Members are requested to provide specific dates, times and service numbers of late buses in order for Stagecoach Bus Company to investigate issues relating to the punctuality of buses.

60/2017 **POLICE MATTERS**

P.C.S.O. Ian Williams attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (a) CCBC will not allow planning permission to increase the wall height at Parish Place, Senghenydd – P.C.S.O. Ian Williams to liaise with Councillor J. Roberts.
- (b) Parking tickets have been issued to vehicles parked on the junctions at Thomas Street, the SPAR and William Street in Abertridwr.
- (c) A vehicle was recovered from School Street, Senghenydd.
- (d) Information on warrants requested.

Members reported on the following Police matters:

- (i) No white road markings on the junction at St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr – P.C.S.O. Ian Williams informed he is still awaiting a response from Caerphilly County Borough Council. Councillor T. Richards to liaise with P.C.S.O Ian Williams.
- (ii) A car with no registration plates at Plas Cwm Parc, Senghenydd.
- (iii) Parking issues outside Cwmaber Infants School and Cwmaber Junior School – Members asked P.C.S.O. Ian Williams to target these areas at the beginning of the next school term.
- (iv) A car with a flat tyre has been parked in the turning circle at the end of Graig-y-Fedw, Abertridwr for some time.
- (v) Members thanked P.C.S.O. Ian Williams for his work in the Aber Valley.

61/2017

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- (a) The Chairperson attended the Mayors Charity Launch on 28th June 2017.
- (b) The Chairperson attended the St Cenydd Presentation Evening.

62/2017

MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported the following matters:

- (a) Councillor T. Richards to send an e-mail to the Clerk outlining the issues relating to the rights of way at St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr – the Clerk to send an e-mail to the Highways Officer at Caerphilly County Borough Council in relation to this matter.
- (b) Code of Conduct training is to be held on Thursday 27th July 2017 at Penallta House – Members were reminded that they should undertake Code of Conduct training at the start of every term of office.
- (c) Councillor J. Roberts attended the Allotments Open Day and informed that no members of the public attended.
- (d) Members were updated on the current situation regarding the Saw Mills in Senghenydd – due to concerns regarding youths the buildings have been flattened.
- (e) The Panteg in Abertridwr – work in progress.
- (f) Members discussed ongoing difficulties regarding the mountain area.
- (g) A number of new shops have opened in the Aber Valley – Members asked the Clerk to send them a letter of well-wishing.
- (h) Members discussed the reported closing of St Peter's Church, Senghenydd – the Clerk to invite the Rector of the Benefice of Eglwysilan and Caerphilly to the next Community Council meeting for an update regarding the future of St Peter's Church.

- (i) The Aber Valley Male Voice Choir will be holding a concert in Abertridwr Community Centre to raise money towards the repair of the roof on Eglwysilan Church.

63/2017

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 303 and bank reconciliation – Members discussed and approved the Community Council's accounts.

(2) Income

- (a) No income received.

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members approved the following invoices:

- (i) Digital Systems UK – photocopying charges
£6.41 including VAT
- (ii) Caerphilly County Borough Council – office rent
£260.00

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

(4) Correspondence

- (a) Lease Application – Senghenydd Welfare Ground

Senghenydd RFC has submitted an application seeking a lease of a second field on the area known as 'aber' field locally – Members were in support of the application.

Members reported the poor condition of the roadway between the rugby field and Ysgol Ifor Bach – the Clerk to report to Caerphilly County Borough Council.

- (b) Public Spaces Protection Order Relating to Dog Control

Members were informed of the formal consultation on the proposals to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dog control.

Members raised issues regarding the emptying regime of dog litter bins as sometimes they are overflowing and suggested putting notices/stickers on all the dog litter bins to inform members of the public of who to contact if they need emptying – the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to make enquiries.

Members asked the Clerk to put the information on the Aber Valley Community Council Website.

(c) YMCA Youth Activities Fund

Members received a letter of thanks from Aber Valley YMCA for the financial support towards their youth activities fund.

(d) Annual Universal Colliery Memorial Service 2017

The Annual Service of Remembrance for the Universal Colliery Disaster (1914) will take place on Friday 13th October 2017 at the Welsh National & Universal Memorial Garden commencing at 10.00 am – Members will receive official invites early September.

(e) Undercurrents Annual General Meeting

Members were informed of the Undercurrents Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 14th July at 7.30 pm in the Nazareth Community Centre.

(f) Community Media Project

Members received an e-mail from the Communities First Senior Youth & Family Officer who is currently in the process of gathering information to apply for funding that would allow SYDIC to set up a community media project – the Clerk to write a letter of support.

(5) Any Other Business

(a) Town & Community Council's Liaison Committee

Members appointed Councillor A. Diblasi as Community Council representative for the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee and the Town & Community Council Liaison Committee as Councillor T. Richards has had to withdraw – the Clerk to notify Caerphilly County Borough Council.

(b) Community Council Presentation Evening

It was agreed the Community Council would hold the annual presentation evening on Thursday 21st September 2017 in Abertridwr Community Centre – the Clerk to arrange accordingly.

(c) Community Recognition Awards

Members received and discussed nominations for a community recognition award. The following community awards were agreed:

Senghenydd (Adult):	James McLaren
Abertridwr (Adult):	David Jenkins

The following community awards to be deferred to the next meeting as no nominations were received:

Abertridwr: Young Person
Senghenydd: Young Person

(d) CCTV Annual Review

Members received an e-mail from Caerphilly County Borough Council informing the CCTV systems in Abertridwr and Senghenydd are now due for an annual review – Members asked the Clerk to send an e-mail to Caerphilly County Borough Council supporting the continued use of the CCTV cameras in the Aber Valley.

(7) **Planning Applications**

None.

64/2017 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council