
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE,
ON THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2020

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels

Councillors: M. Battle, D. Berry, L. Binding, C. Bishop, T. Richards,
J. Roberts, M. Stretch, J. Taylor, D. Tolley

Clerk: S. Hughes

33/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members agreed to suspend the six month rule for Councillor E. P. Prendergast as she is unable to attend meetings held by remote video conference.

34/2020 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.

Declarations were made during the course of the meeting.

35/2020 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH MARCH 2020

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 12th March 2020 were approved as a true record.

36/2020 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE DELEGATED POWERS DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Members agreed to delegate all powers of Aber Valley Community Council to the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the Clerk during Covid-19 restrictions.

37/2020 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Current Financial Situation

Members were updated on the current financial situation and were informed that Councillor J. Roberts has examined and approved the accounts for the current financial year.

(2) Income

(a) Members noted the following income:

- (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £20,000.

(3) Expenditure

(a) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £866.05
- (ii) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £600.00
- (iii) Councillor C. Bishop (for A&J Suppliers) – £78.00
- (iv) Sharon Hughes (for Amazon) – £21.59
- (v) Payroll – Month 12
- (vi) Payroll – Month 1
- (vii) Payroll – Month 2
- (viii) Payroll – Month 3

(b) Members approved the following expenditure:

- (i) Information Commissioner – £40.00
- (ii) Terry Williams – £150.00
- (iii) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £260.00
- (iv) Digital Systems UK – £7.98

(4) Applications for Financial Assistance

(a) Members considered the following application for financial assistance and resolved as follows:

- (i) Marie Curie Hospice – £50.00.

(b) Members approved a replacement cheque for the following two organisations:

- (i) Nazareth Social Group – 2019/20 financial assistance award.
- (ii) Senghenydd Rugby Club (Senghenydd Sirens) – 2019/20 financial assistance award.

Members agreed that in future any misplaced cheques will not be replaced.

(c) Members discussed the recommendations to amend the practice for considering applications for financial assistance for the current financial year. It was agreed to consider all applications for financial assistance at a

special meeting of the Community Council to be held in October 2020 and then as customary in January 2021.

(5) Correspondence

(a) Caerphilly County Borough Council – Caerphilly Payphone Consultation

Members received notification from BT listing a schedule of telephone boxes for removal. Members objected to the removal of the payphone/telephone box on Abertridwr Square as it is of use to the local community and it is the only public payphone in the Aber Valley covering both Abertridwr and Senghenydd. Members asked the Clerk to submit their objection to Caerphilly County Borough Council.

(6) A.O.B.

(a) Audit

- (i) Members received and approved the Internal Audit Report for the financial year ended 31st March 2020.
- (ii) Members received and approved the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2020.
- (iii) Members received the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2020 and completed the Annual Governance Statement.
- (iv) Members approved the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2020 and authorised the Chairperson to sign the approval and certification section. The Clerk informed Members that arrangements will be made for the Chairperson to sign the Annual Return on behalf of the Community Council as soon as practicable and then the Annual Return and supporting documents will be submitted to the External Auditor.

(b) Change of Postal Address for Aber Valley Community Council

Members noted that the postal address for Aber Valley Community Council, Abertridwr Library, does not have a post-box and there is no indication of when the library will reopen. Members considered and agreed the following changes:

- (i) The postal address for the bank and BT to be changed to the home address of the Clerk.
- (ii) The postal address for all other correspondence to be changed to the home address of Councillor J. Taylor, as a temporary measure during Covid-19 restrictions.

(c) Banking Arrangements

Members approved a change of account signatories and authorised users for the Aber Valley Community Council Co-operative Bank accounts to include the Clerk as an authorised user. Members agreed for the Clerk to complete the necessary paperwork.

(7) **Planning Applications**

None.

38/2020 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chairperson expressed thanks to all the volunteers, key workers, Members and residents of the Aber Valley for their ongoing support during such unprecedented times.

With approval from the Chairperson the following issues were raised:

- (a) Members were informed that the Aber Valley Arts Festival is cancelled for this year.
- (b) Members raised concerns regarding the activities taking place in the old quarry behind High Street in Abertridwr. It was noted that there are different organisations involved including South Wales Fire service, Gwent Police, Natural Resources Wales and Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Councillor J. Roberts declared a personal interest for the following item:

- (c) Members were informed that Senghenydd Health Centre is still closed and raised concerns from residents of Senghenydd that it is not going to re-open. It was noted that Councillor J. Roberts has sent correspondence to the Aneurin Bevan Health Board and the Practice. A petition to call on the Practice and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board to re-open Senghenydd Health Centre, with appropriate safety restrictions, as soon as possible has been placed in Cavanna's in Senghenydd. Members asked the Clerk to write to the Aneurin Bevan Health Board and the Practice to voice their concerns and seek clarification with regards to re-opening.
- (d) Members discussed the 'switch off' which is part of a two year phased programme by Caerphilly County Borough Council to turn off street lights between midnight and 5.30 am. Concerns were raised that this is going to have an impact on crime rates and accidents. It was noted that concerns have also been shared by residents following the switching off of the lights in Abertridwr and Senghenydd. Members asked the Clerk to write to Caerphilly County Borough Council to voice their concerns, to ask if an impact assessment can be carried out in light of Covid-19 and to also ask whether any alternatives to a complete blackout can be considered.

39/2020 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 13th August 2020** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council