
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE,
ON THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels

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

Clerk: S. Hughes

59/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E. P. Prendergast.

60/2020 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, Officers and Clerk.

No declarations of interest were made during the course of the meeting.

61/2020 POLICE MATTERS

There was no representative of Gwent Police in attendance.

Members asked the Clerk to contact Gwent Police to request a written report if an Officer is unable to attend the next Community Council meeting.

Members discussed the increase in anti-social behaviour throughout the Aber Valley over the recent months. Concerns were raised as the data indicates antisocial behaviour is worse now than it has been over the past ten years.

62/2020 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 10th September 2020 were approved as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Minute reference: 55/2020 (b)

Concerns were raised regarding the response from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the condition of the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request that the top part of the wall is regularly monitored and the data is provided to the Community Council. Members were advised that a response is awaited from Caerphilly County Borough Council in relation to the request for an explanation regarding the two separate legal issues on different dates in 2005 and 2011/12, filed under the same reference numbers.

- (ii) Minute reference: 55/2020 (c)

Members discussed the response from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the ongoing condition of the wall at Abertridwr Park. It was highlighted that Caerphilly County Borough Members had not yet been made aware of what option has been chosen for the reinstatement of the wall. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to clarify which option is being taken forward.

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

- (a) Members received an update on the current financial situation. It was noted that Councillor J. Roberts has received and authorised the Community Council's accounts including a bank statement, balance sheet and bank reconciliation.

(2) Income

- (a) It was noted that no income has been received.

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Payroll – Month 6.

(4) A.O.B.

- (a)
- Representatives of the Community Council on Outside Bodies

Members were appointed to serve as representatives of the Community Council on the following outside bodies:

School Governor at Nant-y-Parc Primary School – Councillor D. Berry.
School Governor at Cwmaber Junior School – Councillor C. Bishop.

- (b)
- Armistice Day – November 2020

Members agreed for the purchase of two wreaths to lay at the Abertridwr Service of Remembrance and at the Senghenydd Cenotaph to remember

those killed in action during the wars and asked the Clerk to arrange accordingly.

(c) Universal Colliery Disasters Memorial Service

Members were informed that due to Covid-19 restrictions members of the public are unable to be invited to the memorial service for the Universal Colliery Disasters. The Heritage Committee alone will hold the service and invite members of the public to join via Facebook Live to remember those lost in the tragedies of 1901 and 1913. Members agreed for the purchase of flowers to be placed at the memorial, adhering to consideration of the Covid-19 restrictions.

(6) Planning Applications

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions.

(a) Case Ref. 20/0623/FULL

Location: 33 St Anne's Gardens, Abertridwr, Caerphilly, CF83 4BS
Proposal: Erect single storey side extension

(b) Case Ref. 20/0765/COU

Location: Graig-yr-hufen Farm, Graig-yr-hufen Road, Senghenydd, Caerphilly, CF83 4BW
Proposal: Convert barn to provide a new 2-bedroom family home (C3 use) with associated car parking and external space

65/2020 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Members were informed that Senghenydd Health Centre is re-opening on 13th October 2020.

66/2020 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

- (a) Members were made aware of a joint application being submitted by Taff Valley Activity Centre and SYDIC for a small lottery backed grant for small heritage projects, with the aim of restoring the public footpath between Abertridwr and Rhydyfelin. Members agreed for the Clerk to write a letter of support on behalf of the Community Council.
- (b) Overgrown trees and bushes in the area at Nant-y-Parc Primary School in Senghenydd was reported. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request the area is cut back.
- (c) Members were informed of Illicit tipping on the banking area opposite Parc Terrace in Senghenydd. It was agreed that Councillor D. Berry would report this issue to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (d) Councillor J. Roberts updated Members on the Keep Wales Tidy Local Places for Nature project. Members were reminded that the garden wildlife package is subject to a number of conditions including confirmation of garden location and evidence of landowner's permission. Members considered and agreed to use the banking area opposite Parc Terrace in

Senghenydd. It was confirmed that Councillor J. Roberts will liaise with Caerphilly County Borough Council, Keep Wales Tidy and the Environmental Group to take the project forward. Members discussed delivery and storage options and agreed for Councillor J. Roberts to use his home address.

- (e) Members were informed of illicit tipping behind Abertridwr Community Centre and were advised that it had already been reported to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (f) Illicit tipping in the rear lane of High Street, Abertridwr (behind the old cycle shop) was reported. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (g) Concerns were raised regarding an increase in illicit tipping in the Aber Valley. Members agreed to report illicit tipping on an individual basis but highlighted the need for a long term strategy.
- (h) Members raised concerns regarding two vans parked on the left hand side of the road just after the entrance to Abertridwr, behind the fence adjoining the pavement. It appears that individuals are living in the vans. It was agreed that the County Borough Councillors would contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to gain clarification and update Members at the next Community Council meeting.
- (i) Members agreed to set aside funding for four further defibrillators for constituted voluntary groups and organisations within the Aber Valley. It was determined to set aside £800 for each defibrillator. Members discussed the criteria and highlighted the need to for the groups and organisations to work with others in the Aber Valley, to maximise the availability of the defibrillators, however applications will be considered on their own merit.

67/2020 DATE OF NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12th November 2020** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council