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

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**MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE,**  
**ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

**PRESENT:**

Chairperson: Councillor L. Binding

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

Clerk: S. Hughes

*The meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020. The Regulations make temporary provision in relation to local authority meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic. Statutory requirements placed on local authorities by existing legislation to admit the public and press in person to certain meetings and to provide facilities to inspect certain documents in person at offices of the authority are relaxed for the duration of the Regulations.*

**68/2020**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Daniels and E. P. Prendergast.

**69/2020**      **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.

**70/2020**      **POLICE MATTERS**

C.S.O. Megan Kerswell from Gwent Police attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- a) Two successful warrants in the Aber Valley.
- b) 13 calls have been received for people breaching Covid-19 rules in the last month, for which warnings were given.

- c) A number of issues have been reported in and around Abertridwr Park. The swing was set fire to and has since been removed. Wheelie bins have been stolen from Aberfawr Road and set alight near the Park. Members were informed that the Police have viewed CCTV footage but they are unable to identify the youths in question.
- d) Foot patrols were undertaken on Halloween and Bonfire Night, no issues were reported.
- e) At the end of October, joint patrols with the Youth Workers from SYDIC were undertaken to keep in touch with the local attendees. Members were informed that funding is being sought to put on an event closer to Christmas with SYDIC.
- f) Reports have been received that the Leigh Social Club in Senghenydd has not been abiding to Covid-19 restrictions, however Trading Standards and Licencing have informed the Police that they visited the premises a few weeks ago and have no concerns.
- g) Speed checks were conducted on High Street before the local lockdown came into place. There are two and a half hours to complete before the averages are collated and sent to Go Safe.
- h) Caerphilly County Borough Council has been contacted to repair the speed calculator at the bottom of Bryngelli Terrace in Abertridwr.

Members thanked C.S.O. Megan Kerswell for the written report they received prior to the meeting and reported on the following Police matters:

- (i) Concerns were raised regarding Class A drugs in the Aber Valley. Members were informed that warrants will continue and it was highlighted that the Police rely on intelligence from members of the public.
- (ii) A number of van break-ins have been reported. Members were advised that an update on this issue will be reported at the next Community Council meeting.
- (iii) Members raised concerns that, compared to previous years, there has been an increase in antisocial behaviour in the Aber Valley. Members were advised that a comparison on the figures would be undertaken and presented at the next Community Council meeting. A Member raised a query on 'demand' and asked if a patrol plan could be put in place if the figures have increased. It was agreed that C.S.O. Megan Kerswell would liaise with Councillor J. Roberts.

71/2020

**TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved as a true record.

72/2020

**MATTERS ARISING**

- (i) Minute reference: 63/2020 (i)  
Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr. It was noted that a response has not been received from Caerphilly County Borough Council in relation to the request made to monitor the top part of the wall. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to ask if this request has been undertaken and, if so, to provide the data.

73/2020

**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 7.

**(4) Correspondence**

- (a) Caerphilly County Borough Council: Abertridwr and Senghenydd CCTV Systems

Members received notification from Caerphilly County Borough Council that the CCTV systems at Abertridwr and Senghenydd are due for an annual review. All interested parties are being contacted for their views on the requirement of the CCTV in order to make an assessment on their continued use. Members strongly agreed that there is a justified need for the CCTV systems in Abertridwr and Senghenydd and asked the Clerk to respond to Caerphilly County Borough Council, giving the reasons why the CCTV systems should remain.

- (b) Llamau: Christmas Appeal

Members considered a letter from Llamau requesting a donation to ensure all their young people receive a Christmas present and to give them the opportunity to enjoy a Christmas meal with their housemates. A donation of £200 was agreed.

- (c) Post Office: Local Public Consultation Decision

Members received confirmation that the Post Office will be proceeding with the relocation of the Abertridwr Post Office to The Square, Abertridwr,

Caerphilly, CF83 4DH, (in the former Panteg Hotel), where it will operate as one of their new Post Office branches.

**(4) A.O.B.**

**(a) Caerphilly County Borough Council Statutory Consultation**

Members discussed the Statutory Consultation received from Caerphilly County Borough Council and asked the Clerk to respond accordingly.

**(b) Draft Budget Proposals 2021/22**

Members considered the draft budget proposals for 2021/22. Following a discussion it was agreed to set up a sub group to examine a number of potential projects put forward at the meeting.

Members discussed opening the toilets in Abertridwr Park, from January to December 2021, and asked the Clerk to obtain costs from Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Members were informed that no applications have been received for the funding set aside to provide 4 further defibrillators for constituted groups or organisations within the Aber Valley. It was highlighted that the closing date for applications is 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**(6) Planning Applications**

*Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussion.*

**(a) Case Ref. 20/0873/FULL**

Location: The Old Barn, Graig-yr-hufen Road, Senghenydd, Caerphilly, CF83 4BW

Proposal: Erect a double garage to the rear of the existing property

**74/2020 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

There was no report from the Chairperson.

**75/2020 MEMBERS MATTERS**

**(a)** Members were informed of a grant application to the Arts Council For Wales led by Undercurrents, who are working in partnership with Caerphilly Arts Development and a not for profit community arts group, to undertake an arts related project in the Aber Valley.

**(b)** Members were made aware that there is no longer a School Crossing Patrol Officer at Nant-y-Parc Primary School in Senghenydd. Concerns were raised highlighting that Nant y Parc Primary School drive is close to a crossroads and two bus stops. Parking in the bus stops and close to road junctions causes congestion, forcing buses out to the road. Members also highlighted that there are no controlled or uncontrolled crossing points on the main road or adjacent roads. There is also a 'blind spot' in the area. It was agreed for a petition to be organised to call on Caerphilly County

Borough Council to reinstate the School Crossing Patrol Officer at Nant-y-Parc Primary School in Senghenydd. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to raise their concerns and to also call for the reinstatement of the School Crossing Patrol Officer in this area. County Borough Councillors advised Members that they had not been notified or consulted on the removal of the School Crossing Patrol Officer and would contact Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding this issue.

**76/2020**

**DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

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