
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE,
ON THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2020

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels

Councillors: D. Berry, L. Binding, C. Bishop, T. Richards, 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.

77/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Battle, E. P. Prendergast and J. Roberts.

78/2020 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 at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

79/2020 POLICE MATTERS

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

- a) An incident involving a large number of youths, approximately 14-15 years of age, fighting on High Street in Abertridwr. Two males were arrested at the scene and both were found to be in possession of a knife. It was confirmed that there were no injuries to any member of the public.

- b) A motorbike stolen from outside a house in Windsor Place, Senghenydd.
- c) Two garages have been broken into and motorcycles have been stolen, at Commercial Street and School Street in Senghenydd.
- d) There have been a few incidents of dwelling break-ins and shed break-ins throughout Caerphilly. The need to be vigilant and to ensure all doors, garages and sheds are secure was emphasised.
- e) In relation to ASB figures, which was discussed at the last Community Council meeting, the figures were collated from 2017 to 2020 and included in a written report. It was noted that this month there has been 2 calls for ASB.

Members reported on the following Police matters:

- (i) Vandalism of the community Christmas tree in Senghenydd.

80/2020 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MEETING**

The minutes of the Application for Financial Assistance meeting held on 8th October 2020 were approved as a true record.

81/2020 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2020**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th November 2020 were approved as a true record.

82/2020 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2020**

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

83/2020 **MATTERS ARISING**

In line with Standing Order number 9b it was noted that no discussion of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting shall take place except in relation to their accuracy. Therefore, it was agreed that matters arising will not be included on the agenda for future meetings.

- (i) Minute reference: 72/2020 (i)

Members raised concerns regarding the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr. It was noted that a response has still not been received from Caerphilly County Borough Council in relation to the request made to monitor the top part of the wall.

(ii) Minute reference: 75/2020 (b)

Members discussed the response from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the request to reinstate the School Crossing Patrol at Nant-y-Parc Primary School in Senghenydd. Members were informed that following the retirement of the School Crossing Patrol (SCP) at Nant-y-Parc Primary School, the site has been assessed in accordance with national Road Safety GB guidelines. The Road Safety GB guidelines prescribe a methodology for assessing vacant SCP sites and use specific criteria linked to the number of pedestrians and vehicles recorded at a site to determine whether an SCP is justified. It was noted that two assessments were undertaken outside Nant-y-Parc Primary School, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, both of which were carried out at the busiest times of the school day. It was evident that the measures put in place by the school to stagger drop off and pick up times has led to a reduction in traffic and pedestrians arriving at the school any one time. The results concluded that the site does not meet the required criteria for the reinstatement of an SCP at this time. However, Caerphilly County Borough Council advised that they will continue to monitor and review the situation in the coming months, particularly in light of any developments with Covid-19 and if staggered times should alter. Concerns regarding problems caused by parking near the school have also been noted and arrangements have been made for Civil Enforcement Officers to visit the area over the coming weeks. Member's raised concerns and highlighted how dangerous the area is. It was strongly agreed that the situation would need to be re-assessed in the coming months.

84/2020

CLERKS REPORT

(1) Current Financial Situation

- (a) Members received the monthly statement of accounts and an update on the current financial situation. Members discussed and approved the Community Council's accounts.

(2) Income

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

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Payroll – Month 8.

(4) Applications for Financial Assistance

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

- (i) Caerphilly and District Twinning Association – £50.00.

(5) Correspondence

Welsh Government: Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2021-22

Members were informed that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137 (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2021-21 is £8.41.

(6) A.O.B.

(a) Toilets in Abertridwr Park

Members received a quote from Caerphilly County Borough Council for the opening, closing and cleaning of the toilets in Abertridwr Park. It was agreed to open the toilets, for seven days per week, from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

(7) Planning Applications

There were no planning applications.

85/2020 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson reported on the Tree to Tree event and expressed thanks to all the volunteers involved.

86/2020 COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET 2021/22

A draft budget proposal report was presented to Members which outlined the current financial situation and the draft estimates for 2021/22. Members discussed and agreed the draft budget proposal for 2021/22.

87/2020 MEMBERS MATTERS

There were no Members Matters.

88/2020 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20th January 2021** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council