
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON THURSDAY 11TH MARCH 2021

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels

Councillors: D. Berry, L. Binding, 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.

17/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

18/2021 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.

19/2021 POLICE MATTERS

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

- (a) In the last month, 22 calls have been received in relation to off-road bikes in the Aber Valley, mainly behind Senghenydd Rugby Club and on the cycle track. Members were informed that the Police conducted an off-road bike operation in the Aber Valley, but unfortunately no off-road bikes were

seen on that day. It was highlighted that the Police are relying on intelligence from members of the public in relation to where the off-road bikes are being stored and who the owners are.

It was noted that the Community Council has received correspondence from members of the public expressing their concerns regarding off-road bikes in the Aber Valley.

- (b) There has been a rise in anti-social behaviour in the Aber Valley, particularly on Senghenydd Square. Members were informed that the Police have spoken to the parents of some of the young people concerned and are also working with the Youth Offending Team regarding this situation.
- (c) Two motorbikes stolen from Senghenydd have been located.

20/2021 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2021**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 11th February 2021 were approved as a true record.

21/2021 **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 11.

(4) Correspondence

- (a) Caerphilly County Borough Council: Community Cleansing Team

Notification had been received that the Community Cleansing Team will be working in the Aber Valley during the week commencing 30th March 2021. Members were asked to identify and prioritise any areas that require additional cleansing so they can be incorporated in a schedule of works for the week concerned. It was agreed that any areas for inclusion on the schedule should be forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible.

- (b) Caerphilly County Borough Council: Household Waste Recycling Centre Booking System
Members were informed that a public consultation has been launched to seek resident's views on the introduction of a booking system for the Household Waste Recycling sites in Caerphilly county borough.
- (c) Natural Resources Wales and the Co-production Network for Wales Project
Members were invited to attend a virtual workshop co-hosted by Natural Resources Wales and the Co-production Network for Wales. Members were informed that the purpose of the workshop is to share understanding of some of the scheduled forestry operations that will be undertaken in 2021/22 across the Southern Ebbw area (Llanbradach, West End South and The Wylie South) and, more importantly, the challenges and opportunities that this work might have for neighbours and the people who use these woodlands on a regular basis. Members asked the Clerk to contact Natural Resources Wales to clarify the boundary of the area concerned.
- (6) A.O.B.**
- (a) Internal Audit 2020/21
It was confirmed that Mr Terry Williams has been appointed to undertake the internal audit for the year ended 31st March 2021.
- (b) Application for Co-option – Abertridwr Ward
Members agreed to co-opt Paul Yandle as a Community Councillor for the Senghenydd Ward.
- (c) Financial Administration
Members approved the following items to be earmarked from the 2020/21 budget to the 2021/22 budget for projects that have been authorised but not completed and for invoices that will not be processed, before 31st March 2021:
- (i) £8,800.00, for the opening, closing and cleaning of the toilets in Abertridwr Park (January 2021 – December 2021).
- (ii) The remaining balance of the Forward Work Programme budget at 31st March 2021.
- (d) Banking Arrangements
Members discussed the banking arrangements and approved a change of account signatories for the Aber Valley Community Council Co-operative Bank accounts. It was agreed for the following Members to be appointed as account signatories:
Councillor E. P. Prendergast
Councillor J. Taylor
Councillor C. Bishop
Councillor M. Stretch
Councillor D. Berry
Members authorised the Clerk to complete the necessary paperwork.

(7) Planning Applications

No planning applications received.

22/2021 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

There was no report from the Chairperson.

23/2021 MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

- (a) The embankment area at the top of Church Road, Abertridwr (opposite the Royal Hotel) was discussed. It was highlighted that Councillor L. Binding and Councillor J. Roberts have reported this area to Caerphilly County Borough Council on a number of occasions, but no work has been undertaken. Members asked Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request this area is cleared and cut back.
- (b) The condition of the murals on the bridge at Aberfawr Road in Abertridwr and the bridge in front of Station Terrace in Senghenydd was discussed. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to ask if they can be steam cleaned.
- (c) Concerns were raised regarding a build-up of traffic outside Nant-y-Parc Primary School in Senghenydd. Caerphilly County Borough Council has advised they will monitor the area.

24/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th April 2021** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council