
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON THURSDAY 10TH JUNE 2021

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels.

Councillors: D. Berry, L. Binding, C. Bishop, J. Roberts, J. Taylor, D. Tolley and P. Yandle.

Councillor T. Richards attended part of the meeting but had to leave due to technical difficulties.

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.

41/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. P. Prendergast and M. Stretch.

42/2021 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.

Declarations of interest were made during the course of the meeting and are detailed under the respective item.

43/2021 POLICE MATTERS

There was no representative of Gwent Police in attendance.

44/2021 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13TH MAY 2021**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th May 2021 were approved as a true record.

45/2021 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH MAY 2021**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 13th May 2021 were approved as a true record.

46/2021 **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 approved the following expenditure:
- (i) Information Commissioner – £40.00 (data protection fee renewal).
- (b) Members noted the following expenditure:
- (i) Payroll – Month 02.

(4) **Applications for Financial Assistance**

- (a) Members considered the following applications for financial assistance and resolved as follows:
- (i) Aber Valley YMCA – £5,000 (to run summer holiday activities for young people in the Aber Valley).

Councillor C. Bishop declared an interest in the following application as a representative of the Community Council on the Aber Valley Communities Partnership Board.

- (ii) Aber Valley Communities Partnership for Aber Valley Splash Park – £3,000.

(5) Correspondence

(a) Community Cleansing Team

Members were informed that the Community Cleansing Team will be working in the Aber Valley during the week commencing 19th July 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 Councillor J. Roberts would coordinate areas for inclusion on the schedule and forward them to Caerphilly County Borough Council.

(6) A.O.B.

(a) Aber Valley Community Council Telephone Provision

Members discussed the current telephone provision for the Community Council and it was agreed that the current provision of a BT landline in the Community Council office was no longer fit for purpose. Members asked the Clerk to obtain costings for a mobile phone package for consideration and approval at the next Community Council meeting.

(b) One Voice Wales – Community Council Representative

It was agreed that Councillor C. Bishop would represent the Community Council at One Voice Wales meetings including Area Committee meetings, larger Council meetings and any conferences.

(7) Planning Applications

None.

47/2021

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson enquired as to whether the Community Council could meet face-to-face, rather than remotely, from September 2021.

The Clerk informed Members that One Voice Wales recommends Community Councils continue to meet remotely at present, not only because of Covid-19 and the Health & Safety restrictions that the pandemic imposes, but also because the Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 makes it a requirement for Community and Town Councils to allow remote access to physical meetings for any Councillor, member of the public or press, if requested. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into the provision and technology required to hold hybrid meetings.

48/2021

CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT – CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer left the meeting whilst this item was being discussed.

Following consideration of the report the following recommendations were agreed:

1. Aber Valley Community Council agreed to the Clerks role being set at Scale point (18-23) from 1st June 2021.
2. Aber Valley Community Council agreed the new Contract of Employment and Job Description for the Clerk of the Council.
3. Aber Valley Community Council instigated a 14 day review period in which time the Clerk may object or raise queries in regards to recommendations 1 and 2.
4. Further work will be agreed in regard to potential future pension contribution liability.
5. Further work will be agreed in the formulation of policies as identified (further report to follow by Clerk).

An additional recommendation was also agreed for the Clerk to commence on scale point 19 and the cost implications be adjusted to reflect the increase.

49/2021

MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

- (a) A discussion took place regarding Senghenydd Health Centre. Concerns were raised regarding access to the services, particularly for vulnerable people. It was highlighted that there are no appointments available at Senghenydd Health Centre and for appointments at Nantgarw Road Medical Centre, where patients are being asked to attend, there is an extremely long waiting list for appointments including urgent appointments. Concerns were also raised regarding accessibility to Nantgarw Road Medical Centre. Members asked the Clerk to write a letter to the Chief Executive of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to raise their concerns and to request a copy of the Risk Assessment for Senghenydd Health Centre. It was also agreed that Councillor J. Taylor would ask the Regional Senydd Member to take this issue forward with the Health Board and Minister.
- (b) Confirmation has been received that the roads at Bryngelli Terrace, Cross Street and Williams Street in Abertridwr will be resurfaced this summer.
- (c) Following the vandalism to the toilets in Abertridwr Park, they have now been repaired and re-opened.
- (d) Further information was requested from Members in relation to the blocked culvert at Nant-y-Parc in Senghenydd.
- (e) A discussion ensued in relation to Aaron Ramsey, who was born in Caerphilly and attended Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. It was highlighted that Aaron Ramsey is a professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Serie A club Juventus and he is currently playing for Wales in the European

Championships. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to highlight his tremendous success in his football career and to ask that they recognise his achievements.

50/2021 **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

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

The meeting closed at 9.42 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council