
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON THURSDAY 8TH JULY 2021

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor D. Daniels.

Councillors: D. Berry, L. Binding, C. Bishop, J. Roberts, M. Stretch,
J. Taylor, 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.

51/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. P. Prendergast, T. Richards and P. Yandle.

52/2021 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.

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

53/2021 DECARBONISATION PROJECTS – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

V. Camp (Transformation Manager) and A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager) attended the meeting on behalf of Caerphilly County Borough Council to update Members on the Cwm Ifor Solar Farm project. Members were informed that the Cwm Ifor Solar Farm project is a proposal to develop a 20MW solar farm

to the north of Caerphilly town centre, to the north of Heol Las, just above Penyrheol.

The progress on the proposal to date was outlined and Members were advised of the next steps and investment required to take the project forward. The Officers from Caerphilly County Borough Council discussed the high level ideas around the project and sought to identify in what way Members of Aber Valley Community Council would like to be involved as the project progresses.

Members highlighted the importance of consultation and engagement work with the community in relation to the project. The community benefit element of the project was discussed and Members were advised of a range of potential community benefits the project could support. Members were informed that the focus of the consultation and engagement exercise will be to identify which are the preferred options from the community and then build these into the project plan including any financial commitments, one off or revenue, and the impact of those on the financial modelling of the scheme.

Members questioned the safety aspect of the Solar Farm, including theft, vandalism and fire and were advised that these factors are being considered.

Members of Aber Valley Community Council thanked the Officers for attending the meeting.

54/2021

POLICE MATTERS

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

- (a) On-going problems with young people congregating at the underpass by The Leigh Social Club in Senghenydd. Members were informed that a number of young people have been spoken to and the remaining ones will be caught up with. Members were also informed that C.S.O. M. Kerswell and her team are visiting every evening and engaging with the young people concerned.
- (b) Dave Brunton and his team at SYDIC are also still doing their out-reach evenings where they are catching up and engaging with the young people out on the streets. Members were informed that SYDIC has a lot of activities planned for the summer, which will hopefully reduce the anti-social behaviour and it was highlighted that the funding from Aber Valley Community Council has made a big difference.
- (c) The Police are aware of the suspected drug dealing upon the cycle path and minors being offered drugs by older children. It was emphasised that any names, photos, or any kind of intelligence would be a big help. Members were advised that until the Police has any information to go on, they will continue their patrols and engage with those they cross paths with.
- (d) On-going issues regarding anti-social behaviour from children at Bryn Aber in Abertridwr. Members were informed that C.S.O. M. Kerswell has been in

touch with the Housing Officer for Bryn Aber and is hoping to get some funding to do some activities on site during the summer.

- (e) Demand shows that Commercial Street in Senghenydd is the highest location for calls in the last 28 days.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (i) There has been a number of road traffic accidents on the main road coming through the Aber Valley.
- (ii) A number of concerns were raised regarding the issue with drugs in the Aber Valley. Drug wrappers have been found in the bus stop and behind the memorial at the Windsor in Senghenydd. Serious concerns were expressed regarding young children being approached and offered drugs. Members asked if the Police can educate and train more adults and young people through the various organisations in the Aber Valley and also engage with the schools. A Member asked if there is a Substance Misuse Action Team in the borough and was advised that this would be looked into. Members also asked if the Police could contact Aneurin Bevan UHB to see if they would work with them on this issue.

55/2021 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2021**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 10th June 2021 were approved as a true record.

56/2021 **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 had been received.

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members approved the following expenditure:
 - (i) Viking Direct – £8.99. (Office supplies).
 - (ii) Viking Direct – £132.36. (Office supplies).

- (iii) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £260.00. (Room rental at Abertridwr Library).
- (iv) Elite Paper Solutions – £3.56. (Confidential waste bags).

It was also agreed for the Clerk to pay the invoice from Elite Paper Solutions for the removal of the confidential waste bags, upon receipt.

(b) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Payroll – Month 03.

(4) A.O.B.

(a) Aber Valley Community Council Telephone Provision

Members agreed to cancel the BT landline in the Community Council office. Delegated powers were given to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to approve the purchase of a mobile phone and SIM contract.

(b) Aber Valley Community Council IT Equipment

Members agreed to purchase a Novotel L14 laptop through Caerphilly County Borough Council IT Orders Department. Members noted the IT budget and agreed to allocate the additional funds from the Community Council's reserves.

(c) Members Training

It was noted that with approval from the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Cllr. C. Bishop attended the Planning Aid Wales/Once Voice Wales online event (Regenerating Welsh Towns and Communities Post Covid-19) at a cost of £50. Members considered the budget allocation for training and agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next Community Council meeting for further discussion.

(5) Planning Applications

Members noted the following planning application:

- (a) Case Ref. 21/0650/FULL
Location: The Manse Church Road Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4DL
Proposal: Demolish existing detached garage and replace with granny annexe.

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussion.

57/2021

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson discussed the letter of response from Aneurin Bevan UHB regarding Senghenydd Health Centre.

Members noted that the letter stated Senghenydd Health Centre has GP's on site 4 days per week offering pre-booked and same day appointments. Members asked the Clerk to respond to the letter as they have been informed by patients and the Practice that Senghenydd Health Centre is only open for two days per week, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm. It was requested that Aneurin Bevan UHB take this issue is taken up with the Practice to ensure they are open for 4 days per week.

58/2021 **CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT – CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

In line with the 14 day review period, Members discussed and updated the Clerk's Contract of Employment.

59/2021 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) Members were informed that the Bishop of Landaff has asked people from the Church in Cardiff to undertake some work to rejuvenate and re-open St Peter's Church.
- (ii) Resurfacing at Cross Street, William Street, Farm Close and Francis Street in Abertridwr will be undertaken this month.
- (iii) The steps leading to Tan-y-Bryn from Caerphilly Road in Senghenydd is overgrown. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request that this area is cut back.
- (iv) Overgrowth at William Harries Bungalows in Abertridwr. Members were advised that this issue is being addressed.
- (v) The lines on Senghenydd Square have been re-painted.
- (vi) Builders rubbish in the river located between the Panteg and the old Bingo Hall in Abertridwr. It was also highlighted that there is a culvert in this area. Members asked the Clerk to report this issue to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (vii) Councillor C. Bishop provided Members with a summary of the Planning Aid Wales/Once Voice Wales online event (Regenerating Welsh Towns and Communities Post Covid-19).
- (viii) Councillor L. Binding informed Members that this was his last meeting after 13 years of service and his resignation will be tendered to the Clerk and Chairperson after the meeting. He thanked the Clerk and all Members for their support over the years. Each Member and the Clerk expressed their thanks and well wishes to Councillor L. Binding and wished him the very best for the future.

60/2021

DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 9th September 2021** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council