
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESENT:

Vice Chairperson: Councillor J. Taylor

Councillors: D. Berry, C. Bishop and J. Roberts

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.

61/2021 TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2021/22

It was moved and seconded that Councillor J. Taylor be appointed Vice Chairperson and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

62/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Daniels, E. P. Prendergast, T. Richards, M. Stretch, D. Tolley and P. Yandle. An apology for absence was also received from C.S.O. M. Kerswell (Gwent Police).

63/2021 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.

64/2021 POLICE MATTERS

Members received a written report from C.S.O. M. Kerswell.

A representative of Gwent Police attended the meeting and highlighted the following matters.

- (a) Drug dealing on the cycle track and by the park. The Police have been patrolling the area, with no success. Members were advised that the patrols will continue.
- (b) The Police School Liaison Officer will be attending local schools to deliver a presentation on the danger of drug use.
- (c) The figures for antisocial behaviour, public order offences, criminal damage, theft and drug offences over a 28 day period were noted. It was highlighted that the figures show anti-social behaviour has decreased.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (i) Delivery drivers parking on the double yellow lines and the pavement area at the junction next to the SPAR in Abertridwr. Members were informed that the Civil Enforcement Officers for Caerphilly County Borough Council have advised the Police that the delivery drivers are they are entitled to park on the double yellow lines, and there is no time limit for this. However, the Police will ask them to park further away from the junction to help with unnecessary obstruction.
- (ii) Gas canisters have been found in Abertridwr Park. Members were advised that the Police will patrol this area.
- (iii) Dangerous parking on the junction leading from Graig-y-Fedw to Graigwen Crescent in Abertridwr.
- (iv) Dangerous parking on Senghenydd Square, particularly during school finish times. Members were advised that the Police will work alongside Civil Enforcement Officers to deal with this issue.
- (v) Further information was requested in relation to an article published in the South Wales Argus which highlighted the areas across Gwent which have seen the highest number of crimes reported in one month. It was reported that there were 15 incidents of crime on or near High Street in Abertridwr between 1st July 2021 and 31st July 2021, the most in the Caerphilly borough. The representative of Gwent Police advised Members to e-mail C.S.O. M. Kerswell for further information.

65/2021

SYDIC SUMMER UPDATE

M. Thorne (Senior Youth Worker, SYDIC) attended the meeting to thank Members of the Community Council, on behalf of the young people and volunteers at SYDIC, for the financial assistance towards summer holiday activities for the young people in the Aber Valley. Members received an overview of the activities that took place including skateboarding, quad biking, music and film making and a graffiti workshop and watched a video of the young people taking part in the various activities. Members also received an update on the re-opening of SYDIC following the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

66/2021 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY 2021

The minutes of the Applications for Financial Assistance meeting held on 8th July 2021 were approved as a true record.

Members were advised that the further information requested from Macmillan Cancer Support has not yet been provided, so the financial assistance has not been issued.

67/2021 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY 2021

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 8th July 2021 were approved as a true record.

68/2021 CO-OPTION – ABERTRIDWR WARD

Paul Cole was appointed as Community Councillor for the Abertridwr Ward.

69/2021 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) The following income was noted:
 - (i) £20,000 – the second instalment of the 2021/22 Community Council Precept.

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
 - (i) BT – £52.24 (direct debit).
 - (ii) Samsung A12 mobile phone – £149.99.
 - (iii) EE SIM contract – £20 per month (direct debit).
 - (iv) Elite Paper Solutions – £16.20 (removal of confidential waste).
 - (i) Payroll – Month 04.
 - (j) Payroll – Month 05.

(4) Applications for Financial Assistance

- (a) Members considered the application received and resolved as follows:
- (i) Pipers Funeral Services – deferred until the further information requested has been received.

(5) Correspondence

(a) Zurich Municipal: Insurance Policy – 2021/2022

Members were advised that the Community Council's insurance policy is due for renewal on 30th September 2021. Members considered the quote from Zurich Municipal and asked the Clerk to obtain a quote from another provider for comparison and consideration. Delegated powers were given to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to authorise the provider and the term of agreement for the Community Councils insurance.

(b) Elsbury Access Platforms: Christmas Lighting – 2021 Festive Period

Members agreed for Elsbury Access Platforms to provide the festive lighting service for the 2021 Christmas period and authorised the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

A discussion ensued on the current Christmas lighting arrangements for Abertridwr and Senghenydd. It was agreed for the provision on one extra Christmas figurine in Senghenydd and Members asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements. Delegated powers were given to the Chair and Vice Chair to approve any associated costs. Members also asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Elsbury Access Platforms to consider the Christmas lighting arrangements for the 2022 Christmas period.

A Member suggested displaying a Christmas banner across the highway in Abertridwr and Senghenydd to wish residents Seasons Greetings from Aber Valley Community Council. Following a long discussion it was also suggested that the banners could be displayed on a building in Abertridwr and Senghenydd. Members asked the Clerk to investigate the suggestions raised and liaise with Councillor D. Berry in relation to location. Delegated powers were given to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to approve the location and any associated costs.

(c) Caerphilly County Borough Council: Employment Land Review

Members were informed that Caerphilly County Borough Council has commissioned BE Group to undertake an Employment Land Review for the County Borough. The views of Members of Aber Valley Community Council were sought regarding supply and demand/need for employment sites and premises in the area. Following a discussion, it was agreed that there is not much scope in the Aber Valley.

(d) Caerphilly County Borough Council: Statutory Consultation for the inclusion of taxi EV chargers and bay markings in CCBC's Off-Street Parking Places Order

The views of Members of Aber Valley Community Council was sought in relation to the proposed change to the Off Street Parking Places Order, by 15th September 2021, to enable them to progress the Order. There were no observations made.

(e) Welsh Government: Multi Locations Briefing Note

Members noted a briefing document to support the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, specifically in relation to section 47 relating to multi-location meetings.

(f) Bute Energy: Request to attend a meeting

Members agreed for a representative of Bute Energy, a renewables developer looking to submit a planning application for a wind farm on the common at Eglwysilan, to attend the next Community Council meeting to begin a process of discussion.

(6) A.O.B.

(a) Defibrillator

Members were advised that the defibrillator to be situated on the Windsor Hotel, Pub in Senghenydd has not yet been installed due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and access to the location. Alternative locations were suggested but considered not suitable. It was agreed for the installation of the defibrillator to be postponed until access is available or an alternative location is found.

(b) Flowers at Senghenydd Cenotaph

Members discussed the provision of spring and summer flowers at the Cenotaph in Senghenydd and agreed for the Clerk make the necessary arrangements through Caerphilly County Borough Council.

(c) Community Council IT Equipment

Members were informed that the supplier for the Novotel L14 laptop is experiencing extended delivery timescales of up to 5 months and Caerphilly County Borough Council have sourced have an alternative device. Members agreed for the Clerk to purchase a Lenovo ThinkBook 15 laptop and agreed to allocate the additional funds from the Community Council's reserves.

(d) Banking Arrangements

Members agreed for the Clerk to set up online banking.

(e) Training

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

(7) Planning Applications

No planning applications.

70/2021 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report from the Chairperson.

71/2021 MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

- (a) A discussion took place regarding the main entrance doors to the flats in Plas Cwm Parc, Senghenydd. Members have been informed by residents that the hooks used to keep these doors open have been removed by the Council. It was recognised that this has been done as a security measure, however it was highlighted that there are a number of residents with disabilities or mobility issues who are struggling to use the doors. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to ask if the doors can be addressed and if there are any other options that can be considered, such as automatic doors.
- (b) Concerns were raised as a Member has been contacted by a number of residents regarding the closure of day centres.

72/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 12th October 2021** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council