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# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **73/2021      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Cole, D. Daniels, E. P. Prendergast, T. Richards, M. Stretch and P. Yandle.

Members of the Community Council agreed to suspend the six month rule for Councillor T. Richards as he is unable to attend meetings held by remote video conference due to technical issues.

#### **74/2021      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.

#### **75/2021      PROPOSALS FOR AN ENERGY PARK AT TYWN HWYEL – BUTE ENERGY**

Representatives of Bute Energy attended the meeting to begin a process of discussion with Members of the Community Council regarding the proposed Twyn Hywel Energy Park Project. Members were provided with an overview of the project, background information and the project timeline. It was explained that the proposal is to employ wind turbines with heights of up to 200m at Twyn Hywel, with the optimal efficiency in generating renewable electricity. Members were

advised that this would be the most efficient way to generate electricity in this location, without any need for a financial subsidy and will assist the surrounding local councils to deliver their commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Members sought clarification and further information on number of issues and the representatives of Bute Energy responded to the points raised. Members raised a number of concerns including visual impact, pollution, noise impact, allocation of funding and the historical impact.

A number of concerns were also raised in relation to the environmental impact and the impact on wildlife. In response to the concerns raised, Members were informed that the process will aim to minimise the environmental impact of infrastructure and in turn support the local economies surrounding Twyn Hywel. Members were further informed that over the last two years detailed technical and environmental assessments of the site have been undertaken and much more detailed assessment work will continue through to the point of lodging the future planning application.

It was noted that a series of community consultation days will take place to seek the views of local communities and residents.

**76/2021**

### **POLICE MATTERS**

There was no representative of Gwent Police in attendance. Members received a written report from C.S.O. M. Kerswell.

Members asked the Clerk to report the following Police matters:

- (i) Activity in Abertridwr Park all through the night – vehicles are entering the park during the early hours of the mornings.
- (ii) Front gates have been broken into at Aberfawr Road, Abertridwr and the wheelie bins have been set on fire.
- (iii) Reports of a mugging at Abertridwr Park.
- (iv) The play equipment in Abertridwr Park has been vandalised – do the Police have access to the Library CCTV, and if so does it assist with the issues in this area?
- (v) Have the Police called into Abertridwr Library to talk to the staff to see if they have had any issues with anti-social behaviour?
- (vi) Has the Police Liaison Officer attended any of the local schools to deliver the presentation on the dangers of drug use?

**77/2021**

### **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved as a true record.

78/2021

**DBS PROVISION**

A request was made for the Community Council to become a DBS provider. It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting, as further information was required in order to make a decision.

79/2021

**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 noted the following expenditure:
  - (i) Zurich Municipal – £757.29 (approved under delegated powers).
  - (ii) Payroll – Month 6.

**(4) Correspondence**

- (a) Caerphilly County Borough Council: Engagement Event - Gwent Wellbeing Assessment  
Members were invited to an engagement event on the Gwent Wellbeing Assessment.
- (b) Universal Colliery Disasters Annual Remembrance Service  
Members agreed to donate £50 to the Aber Valley Heritage Group in respect of the Universal Colliery Disasters Annual Remembrance Service.

**(5) A.O.B.**

- (a) Armistice Day  
Members agreed to purchase two wreaths to lay at the Abertridwr Service of Remembrance and at the Senghenydd Cenotaph to remember those killed in action during the wars.
- (b) Christmas Lighting

Members received an update on the Christmas lighting. It was noted that arrangements have been made for an additional lamp-post figurine in Senghenydd.

(c) Training

Members agreed to increase the training budget for the next financial year to £100 per Member.

(6) Planning Applications

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussion.

The Community Council noted the planning applications.

**80/2021**      **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

An apology for absence was received from the Chairperson.

**81/2021**      **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) It was noted that the CCTV system at Abertridwr and Senghenydd is due for an annual review. Members put forward their views for the continuing need for the existing cameras and asked the Clerk to respond to Caerphilly County Borough Council in order for them to make an assessment on their continued use.
- (ii) Members received an update on the Undercurrents grant applications.

**82/2021**      **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson  
Aber Valley Community Council