
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

Councillors: D. Berry, C. Bishop, P. Cole, 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.

83/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

84/2021 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.

During the course of the meeting Councillor C. Bishop declared a personal interest in the application for financial assistance from Aber Valley Minis & Juniors FC (Foodbank) and took no part in the discussion.

85/2021 POLICE MATTERS

There was no representative of Gwent Police in attendance.

A member of the public attended the meeting to raise serious concerns regarding antisocial behaviour in Senghenydd and to request that a strategy is put in place. Members were provided with details of the antisocial behaviour and it was emphasised that residents are feeling intimidated by the young people concerned. Following a long discussion, Members asked the Clerk to contact the Police to raise the following questions:

- Are the Police dealing with this issue?
- Can the Police contact the parents of the young people concerned?
- Are the Police working closely with SYDIC to deal with this issue?
- Are the Police checking the CCTV on Senghenydd Square?
- Has there been an increase in reports for antisocial behaviour in the Aber Valley?

A discussion took place regarding Police attendance at the Community Council meetings. Members asked the Clerk to seek confirmation of attendance prior to each meeting and to request a written report if the Police are unable to attend. Members also advised of a new Inspector and made a request for their attendance at the next Community Council meeting.

86/2021 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH OCTOBER 2021**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 12th October 2021 were approved as a true record.

87/2021 **APPOINTMENT OF CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Members of the Community Council were informed that the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer handed in her formal resignation to the Chairperson on 25th October 2021. It was noted that the length of notice required is one month, however it was agreed that she would remain in post until the appointment and training of a new Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer has been undertaken.

Members agreed for the Clerk to advertise the post of Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer at Scale LC2 (18-23) £12.98 to £14.42 per hour, for 50 hours per month.

It was agreed that the following Members would sit on an Appointments Committee in order to make a recommendation for the appointment of a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer at the next Community Council meeting:

- Councillor J. Taylor – Vice Chair
- Councillor C. Bishop
- Councillor M. Stretch
- Councillor D. Tolley
- Councillor D. Daniels – Chairperson (Reserve)

88/2021 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – ABERTRIDWR PARK**

A proposal was put forward to provide benches in the dog walking area at Abertridwr Park. Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed for Councillor C. Bishop to order two benches through Caerphilly County Borough Council's Parks Department.

It was also agreed for Councillor C. Bishop to apply for a Keep Wales Tidy starter garden package on behalf of the Community Council.

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) Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee – £100
 - (ii) Payroll – Month 7.

(4) Applications for Financial Assistance

- (a) Councillor C. Bishop declared a personal interest in the application for financial assistance from Aber Valley Minis & Juniors FC (Foodbank) and took no part in the discussion.

Members considered the following applications for financial assistance and resolved as follows:

- (i) Aber Valley Minis & Juniors FC (Foodbank) – £2,000
- (ii) Llamau – £200

(5) Correspondence

- (a) One Voice Wales: Model Local Resolution Protocol
The Community Council adopted the Model Local Resolution Protocol.

(6) A.O.B.

- (a) Defibrillators
Members agreed for the remaining defibrillator to be placed on the Windsor Pub in Senghenydd and asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements. Members also agreed for the Clerk to purchase and replace any defibrillator pads that are due to expire.

(b) Notice of Vacancy – Abertridwr Ward

Members were informed that Councillor P. Yandle handed in his formal resignation. Members asked the Clerk to write a letter to Councillor P. Yandle to thank him for his service to the Community Council and the Aber Valley.

(6) Planning Applications

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions.

The Community Council noted the following planning applications.

- (a) Case Ref. 21/0988/NOTA Site Area: 250m²
Location: Graig-yr-hufen Farm, Graig-yr-hufen Road, Senghenydd, Caerphilly, CF83 4BW
Proposal: Erect machinery/fodder storage building.
- (b) Case Ref. 21/0978/COU Site Area:565m²
Location: Salvation Army Church Hall, High Street, Senghenydd, Caerphilly, CF83 4GG
Proposal: Change the use of existing property from a D1 (non-residential institution) to an A1 (funeral directors) to include the erection of a new double garage to the rear of the site and new driveway/accessed from highway, works to include new doorway into main hall on side elevation off driveway.
- (c) Case Ref. 21/1016/NCC Site Area: 10578m²
Location: Land At Grid Ref 310978 191842 Graig-yr-hufen Road, Senghenydd
Proposal: Vary condition 01 of planning consent 16/0385/FULL (Erect a single wind turbine of up to 77m tip height and associated infrastructure) to extend the period of time within which development can commence by a further three years.

90/2021 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

An apology for absence was received from the Chairperson.

91/2021 MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) Members discussed producing an Aber Valley directory to signpost what is available in Abertridwr and Senghenydd. It was suggested that a small committee be set up to take this forward. It was agreed to put this as an item on the agenda for the next Community Council meeting, for further discussion.

- (ii) A number of concerns were raised regarding the bus service. It was highlighted that the buses are frequently running late or not turning up and it was felt that the Senghenydd bus service is more affected than other areas. Members asked the Clerk to write to Stagecoach to ask what they are doing to alleviate these problems.
- (iii) Illicit tipping on Senghenydd/Nelson Mountain. Members asked the Clerk to report this matter to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (iv) Tree planting in the area was discussed and Members were informed that Undercurrents are submitting an application to the Arts Council for Wales, and if successful part of that will be about trees and planting. It was also agreed for Councillor M. Stretch to find suitable sites for the Local Places for Nature Garden package.

92/2021

DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council