
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

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

PRESENT:

Chairperson: D. Daniels

Councillors: D. Berry, 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.

93/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

94/2021 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.

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

95/2021 POLICE MATTERS

A representative of Gwent Police (PS Jon Pursey) attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (i) An update was provided regarding the antisocial behaviour in the Aber Valley. An update was also provided on a meeting held with SYDIC, which the County Borough Councillors attended, and it was noted that a further meeting would be held on 13th January 2022 in order to receive an update on the situation. Members were informed that the Police have been working with SYDIC, however the young people causing the antisocial behaviour do

not attend SYDIC and are difficult to engage with. Members were advised that those who have been identified have been or are being dealt with, but it isn't a quick process, especially due to the age of the youths. The representative of Gwent Police gave a commitment that the Aber Valley would be a priority area and highlighted that patrols have been allocated to the area.

An update was also provided in relation to the antisocial behaviour incident involving a bus and Members were advised that the bus driver did not want to make a complaint, however the youths have been identified and antisocial behaviour orders have been issued.

Members were informed that the Police have been speaking to the shopkeepers on Senghenydd Square and have been advised that there has been a reduction in the antisocial behaviour over the last week, however it was noted that this could be due to inclement weather.

The representative of Gwent Police requested assistance from the community by providing names and addresses of those involved or of those on the periphery of being involved.

- (ii) A person was arrested in connection with an issue at Lifestyle Express in Senghenydd.
- (iii) Reports have been received regarding young people smoking drugs behind Senghenydd Health Centre.
- (iv) CCTV is being looked at and Caerphilly County Borough Council has been asked to focus the CCTV on areas relating to the antisocial behaviour issues.

Members thanked the Police for their work in addressing the antisocial behaviour issues in the Aber Valley.

A Member reported the following Police matter:

- (a) A report was noted on social media regarding several youths, seen armed with a hammer, at the Windsor pub area a few evenings ago. The representative of Gwent Police informed Members that he would check the Police log to see if it had been reported.

96/2021 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 11th November 2021 were approved as a true record.

97/2021 **APPOINTMENT OF CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Members of the Community Council were informed that on the 1st December 2021 the Appointments Committee interviewed two candidates for the post of Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, and a recommendation was made in that Mrs J. Lloyd be appointed.

Members unanimously approved the appointment of Mrs J. Lloyd, to commence on Tuesday 4th January 2022. The contract of employment for Mrs J. Lloyd was also approved.

It was proposed that the last day of employment for the current Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs S. Hughes, would be 31st January 2022 and delegated powers be given to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to negotiate extending the finish date if necessary. This was unanimously agreed.

98/2021 CO-OPTION – ABERTRIDWR WARD

Members received one application for co-option. Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Mr R. Gater be co-opted to the Community Council as a Community Councillor for the Abertridwr Ward.

99/2021 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) Defib World (re-imburement to S. Hughes) – £81.99 (defibrillator pads).
 - (i) Payroll – Month 08.

(4) Correspondence

- (a) Asbri Planning: Publicity and Consultation before applying for Planning Permission – Land At Windsor Colliery, Abertridwr

Members discussed the correspondence from Asbri Planning Ltd. giving notice that United Welsh Housing Association is intending to apply for full planning permission for residential development, new access, landscaping, drainage arrangements and associated works on land at Windsor Colliery, Abertridwr. A number of concerns were raised including:

- A significant loss to wildlife in the area.
- Increased traffic in and out of the Aber Valley which will cause significant delays to commuters and residents in general.

- Lack of availability at local schools, dentists and doctors' surgeries.

Members were requested to e-mail their concerns to the Clerk by Monday 13th December 2021 in order for the Clerk to comment directly to the developer on the proposed development prior to the submission of a planning application to the local planning authority, on behalf of the Community Council.

It was highlighted that traffic surveys have been carried out and Members asked the Clerk to request the specific dates and times that these surveys were carried out.

It was noted that Councillor J. Taylor did not take part in any decisions.

(b) Welsh Government: Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2022-23

Members were informed that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2022-23 is £8.82.

(5) A.O.B.

(a) Aber Valley Community Council Directory.

Members discussed producing an Aber Valley community directory to signpost what is available in Abertridwr and Senghenydd and it was agreed that a working group be set up to take this forward. It was further agreed that Councillors J. Roberts, J. Taylor, D. Berry and P. Cole would be part of the working group and the first meeting would be arranged for a date and time to be confirmed.

(b) Hybrid Meetings

It was noted that requests have been made to hold physical Community Council meetings. Members were advised that the Community Council is required to make and publish arrangements for the meetings to take place in a manner which enables people who are not in the same place to meet. Participants (i.e. Community Council members, members of the public and press) must be able to join meetings remotely – even if physical meetings are the preferred mode.

The Clerk advised Members that a number of arrangements would need to be considered including determining a suitable venue for the physical meetings, how remote access will work, ways of working during the meeting and arrangements to support other participants.

Due to the Christmas break and the agenda co-ordination timescale, it was agreed that delegated powers be given to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to confirm the meeting arrangements for the Community Council meeting to be held on 13th January 2022.

(6) Planning Applications

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions.

The Community Council noted the following planning applications:

- (a) Case Ref. 21/1043/FULL Site Area:227m²
Location: 38 High Street, Senghenydd, Caerphilly, CF83 4GG
Proposal: Erect new detached two storey garage
- (b) Case Ref. 21/1110/FULL Site Area: 272m²
Location: 35 The Garth, Abertridwr, Caerphilly, CF83 4ES
Proposal: Erect new rear retaining wall with reprofiling of rear garden

100/2021 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

There was no report from the Chairperson.

101/2021 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) A query was raised in relation to public transport. A Member advised that bus companies decide whether they want to run their services and where there is a gap the local authority can buy in a service, i.e. evenings and Sundays.
- (ii) Concerns were raised regarding the crossing at Nant-y-Parc Primary School in Senghenydd and a query was raised regarding the reinstatement of a School Crossing Patrol (SCP). A Member advised the Community Council that traffic assessments were undertaken outside Nant-y-Parc Primary School during the Covid-19 restrictions and the results concluded that the site did not meet the required criteria for the reinstatement of an SCP at that time. At that time Caerphilly County Borough Council advised that they would continue to monitor and review the situation, in consultation with the headteacher. However, the Headteacher has informed Councillor J. Roberts that another survey has been undertaken but it has still not met the criteria requirements. It was noted that Councillor J. Roberts is taking this issue up with Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (iii) It was noted that a lamppost is not working at Plas Cwm Parc in Senghenydd. Councillor D. Berry to provide the lamppost number for Councillor J. Taylor to report it to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (iv) A discussion took place regarding the possibility of a small bus service at Plas Cwm Parc in Senghenydd and at Bryn Aber in Abertridwr.

102/2021 **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 13th January 2022** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council