

---

# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

---

### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

#### PRESENT:

Chairperson: D. Daniels

Councillors: D. Berry, C. Bishop, P. Cole, R. Gater, 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.*

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor R. Gater to Aber Valley Community Council.

#### **01/2022**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

#### **02/2021**      **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.

#### **03/2021**      **POLICE MATTERS**

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

- (i) An update meeting had been held earlier that day with SYDIC, County Borough Members, Caerphilly County Borough Youth Service, Parent Network and other agencies to discuss the current situation in relation to the antisocial behaviour in Senghenydd. It was noted that the new restrictions in

SYDIC have meant that young people are out on the streets. It was agreed that strategies need to be put in place for young people to divert them from getting into trouble. The need to be proactive as well as reactive was highlighted. Members were informed that a further meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

- (ii) Between October and December 2021 there were 16 calls for antisocial behaviour for Commercial Street in Senghenydd alone.
- (iii) Between 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 there were 3 reports in total for the Aber Valley.
- (iv) The Police are aware of the antisocial behaviour issues in Abertridwr Park and the surrounding area. Members were informed that the Police will continue with their patrols that have been allocated to the Aber Valley and this area will be added to the list.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (a) Cars racing at the Four Terraces in Senghenydd.
- (b) A land issue at the top of High Street in Senghenydd, animals were affected and harmed. Members were informed that the Police are aware of the situation and are in contact with the owners.
- (c) Outreach work with SYDIC is being undertaken in Abertridwr Park. Concerns were raised regarding the lighting in the Park. It was explained that the Park is very dark in the evenings, which makes it very difficult and uncomfortable to speak to the young people. A Member asked if sensor lighting or a security light could be put in the Park. It was agreed that the Police would contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to discuss the situation.

**04/2021**      **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

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

**05/2021**      **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) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £260.00. Room rental at Abertridwr Library.

(b) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Payroll – Month 09.

**(4) Applications for Financial Assistance**

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

- (i) Tenovus Cancer Care – £50
- (ii) Urdd Gobaith Cymru – £50

**(5) Correspondence**

(a) The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils

Members discussed the consultation on The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils. It was noted that the consultation, which is seeking views on draft statutory guidance for Community and Town Councils, closes on 17th March 2022. It was agreed for Members to have more time to read through the draft statutory guidance and present any views under Members Matters at the next meeting.

**(6) A.O.B.**

(a) Toilets in Abertridwr Park

Members received a quote from Caerphilly County Borough Council to open, close and clean the toilets in Abertridwr Park for 2022/23. It was noted that a 7 days annual charge from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 would be £8,930.19 plus any % increase. It was agreed to defer this item to the February meeting to allow time to consider other options.

(b) Christmas Lighting – Electricity Contribution

Members agreed to pay a donation of £50.00 to Cavanna's on Senghenydd Square as the Community Council's Christmas lighting attached to their premises is connected to their electricity supply.

(c) Internal Auditor 2021/22

Members considered and agreed the appointment of Mr Terry Williams to undertake the internal audit for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. It was agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

(d) Precept 2022/23

Members received and considered a report on the precept estimates for 2022/23 including:

- Budget 2021/22
- Expenditure up to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Estimated Expenditure from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022
- Financial Statement 2021/22
- Bank Reconciliation – January 2022
- Proposed Budget for 2022/23
- Precept Recommendations for 2022/23

Members were informed that Caerphilly County Borough Council has given notice that the council tax base for the Aber Valley is 2,016.21 Band D equivalent dwellings. It was highlighted that the Community Council is required to submit the Precept figure for 2022/23 by 31st January 2022, in order to expedite the setting of next year's Council Tax.

Members were advised that the Affiliations/Meetings budget has increased as Aber Valley Community Council is now a member of One Voice Wales.

It was noted that there is a new budget heading for Training. Members were asked to recall that it was agreed to allocate a £100 training allowance per Member for 2022/23. Members were advised that £200 has also been allocated for Clerk's training.

Members were advised that the IT budget has increased due to the introduction of multi-locational meetings and the potential need for additional IT equipment.

The Maintenance budget has been introduced to include the cost for the maintenance of Hendre play area and the cost for opening, closing and cleaning the toilets in Abertridwr Park for 2022/23. It was highlighted that in previous years the cost for opening, closing and cleaning the toilets in Abertridwr Park was taken out of the Forward Work Programme budget, which was set up as a project to develop Abertridwr Park and the surrounding area. The remaining balance in the Forward Work Programme budget has been carried forward every year in order to continue with the project, however the remaining balance at the end of the 2021/22 financial year will not cover the costs for opening, closing and cleaning the toilets in Abertridwr Park for 2022/23.

Members were advised that the Christmas Lighting budget includes costs for replacement or additional Christmas lighting.

It was noted that the Special Projects budget is set at £10,000 for 2022/23. Members may wish to consider carrying over any unspent monies (due to the Covid-19 restrictions) from the 2021/22 Special Projects budget at the end of the financial year.

Members approved the annual estimates for 2022/23 and confirmed the Precept amount of £40,000, giving a Band D equivalent property paying £19.84.

**(6) Planning Applications**

There were no Planning Applications.

**06/2022 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

It was noted that at the Community Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 delegated powers were given to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to negotiate extending the end date of employment for Mrs S. Hughes, Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, if necessary.

It was proposed to extend the end date of employment for Mrs S. Hughes, Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This was unanimously agreed.

**07/2022 MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) A request had been received from SYDIC for the lighting to be turned on at the MUGA in Senghenydd Park. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to make enquiries.
- (ii) A query was raised in relation to the College building in Abertridwr and the Member was advised that any options would have to be explored with Coleg-y-Cymoedd.
- (iii) It was reported that the light near Plas Cwm Parc and Kingsley Place in Senghenydd is still not working. It was agreed that Councillor J. Taylor would report it to Caerphilly County Borough Council upon receipt of the lamppost number.
- (iv) Land slippage near Senghenydd Rugby Club was reported. County Borough Members advised that this issue is being dealt with.
- (v) Members were advised that the litter picker for Senghenydd will not be in work for a number of weeks. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request that cover be put in place in the interim.

**08/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022** by remote video conference.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

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