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# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

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### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT BEULAH CHAPEL, ABERTRIDWR AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

#### **PRESENT:**

Chairperson: J. Taylor

Councillors: D. Berry, C. Bishop, D. Bishop, P. Cole, D. Daniels, R. Gater, C. Page, E.P. Prendergast, J. Roberts, and M. Stretch.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

#### **41/2022      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Community Safety Warden, M. Reed.

#### **42/2022      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.

Declarations of interest were made during the course of the meeting and are minuted under the relevant item.

#### **43/2022      PUBLIC MATTERS**

There were no public matters.

#### **44/2022      POLICE MATTERS**

Sergeant J. Pursey and C.S.O M. Kerswell (Gwent Police), attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (i) A premises and car damaged at the beginning of May. CCTV had picked up the persons involved, and investigations were ongoing.
- (ii) Reported that 2 men were attacked on a bus. No formal complaint had been made to the Police and the CCTV didn't identify the persons involved.
- (iii) Abuse towards the proprietor of the Chinese takeaway on Gwern Avenue, Senghenydd. The youth has been banned from the shop.

- (iv) A stolen car had been set on fire at the allotments in Abertridwr. Police enquiries were ongoing.
- (v) Antisocial behaviour incident at Commercial Street, Senghenydd. Police reported eggs being thrown at windows. Police investigations ongoing.
- (vi) Police reported an increase in fires in the Aber Valley area. Members discussed a fire hazard behind Ysgol Ifor Bach, which had been alerted to Caerphilly County Borough Council, to request the removal of the waste that had piled up in this area. The Police reported that they were doing joint patrols with the Fire Safety Officer and Community Safety Wardens were also in the area. Police reported that 8 deliberate fires had occurred since the last Community Council meeting.
- (viii) Police reported that the Bingo Hall had been secured, following the recent incident at the premises.
- (ix) Antisocial behaviour incidents on the cycle track in Senghenydd and Abertridwr. Persons had been sworn at by a group of youths.
- (x) Police reported an antisocial behaviour incident in Abertridwr Square last Friday. Police investigations were ongoing.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (a) Members suggested engaging the youths with some manual training.
- (b) A member reported bin fires in Senghenydd. Bins were taken from the back of properties and set alight, in the basketball court area. No CCTV in the area.
- (c) A member enquired whether an extension number could be provided for direct contact with the Police at Bedwas. Police advised to ring 101 and an extension number would be provided to the Community Council members for their use only.
- (d) Members wished to note their thanks to the Police for all their hard work over the last couple of months.

**45/2022**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Community Safety Warden (CSW), Margaret Reed, was not in attendance.

The CSW report, which was circulated to members, prior to the meeting, was noted.

**46/2022**

**TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were approved as a true record.

**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) Members noted the following income:
  - (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £20,000.00. The first instalment of the 2022/23 Community Council Precept.

**(3) Expenditure**

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
  - (a) Payroll – Month 01.

**(4) Application for Financial Assistance**

Councillor J. Roberts declared an interest in the following application and took no part in the discussion.

- (a) Members considered the following application for financial assistance and resolved as follows:
  - (i) Undercurrents – Arts in the Aber Valley - £2,500.

**(5) Correspondence**

Councillor D. Berry declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion.

- (a) Service of Remembrance 1901 Universal Colliery Disaster at Penyrheol Cemetery  
Members had received an email inviting the Chair and Members to the ceremony and afterwards for light refreshments at the Heritage Museum in Senghenydd. It was agreed that the Chair and 5 Members would attend this event.

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

- (a) Audit 2021/22

- (i) Members received and approved the Internal Audit Report for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
  - (ii) Members received the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and completed the Annual Governance Statement.
  - (iii) Members of Aber Valley Community Council approved the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and authorised the Chairperson to sign the approval and certification section. Members were informed that the Annual Return and supporting documents will then be submitted to the External Auditor.
- (b) Benches in Senghenydd Park  
Members discussed the estimated installation costs that had been provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would make arrangements to have a bench installed on the existing concrete base in Senghenydd Park, and to request an additional bench that would require a concrete base. It was also agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries about attaching a plaque to each bench.
- (c) Benches along Abertridwr and Senghenydd Cycle Track  
Members discussed the installation of benches along the cycle track and the information from Caerphilly County Borough Council, in relation to the number of benches required and specific locations, in order to confirm costs. It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries with CCBC, for 2 benches on the cycle track at Senghenydd, 2 down towards Penyrheol, and 1 in between The Windsor Hotel and Abertridwr Square, and to clarify if any discount applicable if more than 1 bench were purchased. Members also agreed for the Clerk to make enquires with Penyrheol Community Council to see if they would contribute towards the cost of the benches proposed in the Penyrheol area of the cycle track.
- (d) 'Spring' Gate in Abertridwr Park  
Councillors C. Bishop and D. Bishop declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion.
- Members discussed the proposal to replace the gate in Abertridwr Park with a 'spring' gate that closed automatically. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to confirm the costs involved.
- (e) Applications for Financial Assistance  
The Clerk sought approval to advertise that the applications for financial assistance were now open for people to apply. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for advertisements to be placed on social media, Aber Valley Community Council website, and notice boards at Abertridwr Community Centre and Senghenydd Community Centre. Members agreed to consider the applications received at an additional meeting of Aber Valley Community Council on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, prior to the main meeting.

- (f) Presentation Evening  
The Clerk enquired whether Members wished to hold a presentation evening this year. Members agreed to hold a presentation evening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the Nazareth Community Centre at 7.00 pm.
- (g) Community Recognition Awards  
The Clerk enquired whether Members wished to include Community Recognition Awards in the presentation evening. It was agreed to include these awards, together with 2 special awards (one from Abertridwr and one from Senghenydd) and that the Clerk would arrange for advertisements to be placed on social media, Aber Valley Community Council website, and notice boards at Abertridwr Community Centre and Senghenydd Community Centre. Members agreed to consider nominations for these awards at its next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**(7) Planning Applications**

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions.

The Community Council noted the following planning applications:

- (a) Case Ref. 22/0220/CLEU Site Area: 898m<sup>2</sup>  
Location: Land At Grid Ref 311540 190782 Kingsley Place East UI Senghenydd  
Proposal: Obtain Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use new building development as detailed in reserved matters approval 18/0294/RM, 16/0189/NCC, 07/0673/NCC.
- (b) Case Ref. 22/0277/CLPU Site Area: 55m<sup>2</sup>  
Location: 22A High Street Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4GG  
Proposal: Obtain a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed loft conversion and dormer extension.
- (c) Case Ref. 22/0290/FULL Site Area: 3388m<sup>2</sup>  
Location: 44 St Annes Gardens Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4BS  
Proposal: Erect single storey side extension.

**48/2022 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

There was no report from the Chairperson.

**49/2022 DOG BAGS IN SHOPS**

Following a discussion in relation to the provision of dog bags in shops, Members agreed that biodegradable dog bags, up to the value of £250, would be provided to 8 shops in total (4 in Abertridwr and 4 in Senghenydd). It was agreed for the

Clerk to make enquiries with the Community Safety Warden for the purchase of bags.

**50/2022      TREE PLANTING AND WILDFLOWERS**

A member had purchased flower seeds and volunteers were available for planting on the weekend. Following a discussion, members agreed to consider the allotments for tree planting. It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries with Caerphilly County Borough Council to confirm who owns the land between Coedcae Road, Abertridwr, and the park.

**51/2022      LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE – 2022 APPLICATIONS**

Following a discussion, it was agreed that a member would apply for one of the starter/development packages available for community and volunteer groups.

**52/2022      TYRE PLANTERS**

Following a discussion in relation to tyres that had been fly tipped on the mountain, members proposed to get the tyres painted/decorated and filled with plants and flowers. The Parent Network and local groups including the Scouts, were happy to paint and decorate the tyre planters. It was proposed that the Community Council fund the plants/flowers and the local community groups would paint/decorate. There are 32 tyres available for use. It was agreed that a total of £200 from the Community Council to be spent on plants and flowers.

**53/2022      MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) Members discussed the 'green plan' and agreed that it should continue. Members agreed to form a small group and provide feedback to the next Community Council meeting.
- (ii) A member noted the bad state of the land at the bottom of Hall House. Enquiries were ongoing with Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (iii) Members discussed the antisocial behaviour in the area and noted that known youths are approaching younger youths to encourage further antisocial behaviour.
- (iv) Members discussed the condition of the play equipment in Senghenydd Park, and it was agreed for the Clerk to chase up the enquiry with Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (v) Members had been invited to the 'Board Games Night' at the Aber Hotel in Abertridwr. It was agreed that a member would confirm details and report back to the Community Council.
- (vi) Local schools were designing 'fire watch' posters to highlight the increase in the recent fires in the area.

54/2022

**DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

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