
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Taylor

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

82/2022 MINUTE SILENCE

All those present held a minute silence at the start of the meeting for the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II, earlier that day.

83/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Bishop, C. Page, and Community Safety Warden, M. Reed.

84/2022 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.

85/2022 PUBLIC MATTERS

a) Mynydd Meio Common

Two residents of the Aber Valley attended the meeting to inform Members of the current situation with the area and the issues of dumped rubbish, including commercial waste, roof tiles, and the blockage of paths and byways. Members were advised that some issues had previously been reported to Caerphilly County Borough Council in relation to the condition of the roads, due to not being cleaned and vehicle passing points being blocked. The current condition of the area is now believed to be dangerous for vehicle and walkers. Members requested that the photographs referred to by the residents, be forwarded to them which could then be referred to Firewatch and the relevant departments of Caerphilly County Borough Council, to try and resolve the matter.

POLICE MATTERS

PC. E. Williams and PC. J. McDonnell (Gwent Police), attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (i) Parking enforcement on Aberfawr Road and Thomas Street junction was no longer under the remit of the Police and has now been referred to Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- (ii) A team within the Police are starting 'Neighbourhood Watch' scheme back up again.
- (iii) Go Safe – Police requested that Members with any concerns in relation to vehicles speeding, to let them know and the Police would inform them if any speed checks had been done in that area recently. If needed, Police could set up further checks where necessary and refer to 'Go Safe' and determine whether any further action needed.
- (iv) Incident at Windsor Garages – Police investigations ongoing.
- (v) Elderly male assaulted on the cycle track – Police investigations ongoing.
- (vi) Rubbish dumped at local property with horses. Police investigations ongoing.
- (vii) 'Off road biking' Day – planned for early October, date to be confirmed.
- (viii) Reports of unofficial 'off road bike tracks'. Police asking residents to be aware of anyone 'off road biking' and to forward any information to the Police.
- (ix) Tree fire at Senghenydd Welfare ground. Police liaising with the Fire Service.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (a) No update on the graffiti in the area. Police will investigate.
- (b) A Member thanked the Police for their ongoing work with speeding awareness on Commercial Street and Caerphilly Road.
- (c) Illicit tipping at the quarry in Abertridwr, r/o High Street. History of fly tipping at the site, appears to be starting again.
- (d) A Member queried whether a stationary car must be insured, together with tax and valid MOT. Police advised they are unable to deal with an uninsured vehicle unless it is moving. Police will check registration of vehicle and advised Member to contact DVLA.

87/2022 **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Community Safety Warden (CSW), Margaret Reed, was not in attendance but had advised that she would be in the area tomorrow and had reported the 'door knocking' to the Police.

88/2022 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MEETING HELD ON 14TH JULY 2022.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting for the applications for financial assistance held on 14th July 2022 were approved as a true record.

89/2022 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH JULY 2022.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 14th July 2022 were approved as a true record.

90/2022 **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) Confirmation had been received of the second instalment of the 2022/23 Community Council Precept from Caerphilly County Borough Council and it was noted that this amount would be showing on the next statement of accounts.

(3) **Expenditure**

- (a) Members approved the following expenditure:
- (i) Post Office Ltd – £15.20 (16 first class postage stamps – reimbursement to the Clerk).
 - (ii) Post Office Ltd – £15.20 (16 first class postage stamps – reimbursement to the Clerk).
 - (iii) 2020/21 External Audit Fee - £281.00.
- (b) Members noted the following expenditure:
- (i) Payroll – Month 04.

- (ii) Payroll – Month 05.
- (iii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £21.86.
- (iv) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £21.86.
- (v) Don Elsbury Plant Sales Ltd (Christmas lights replacements x 5 and new figurine – approved by the Chairperson under delegated powers) - £2208.00.
- (vi) QPS Plastics Ltd (Dog Poop Scoop Bags) - £294.41.
- (vii) Caerphilly County Borough Council (Community Council Election Fee – Abertridwr and Senghenydd) - £157.26.
- (viii) Digital Systems UK (S & W. Wales) Ltd – Photocopying fee - £16.44.

(4) CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Zurich Municipal – Insurance Policy Renewal 2022/23

Members received and considered the renewal quote from Zurich Municipal for the Community Councils' Insurance as the policy was due for renewal on 30th September 2022. Members considered the renewal premium of £764.16 and agreed for the Clerk to proceed with the renewal process.

(b) Elsbury Access Platforms – Christmas Lighting – 2022 Festive Period

Members received and considered a quote from Elsbury Access Platforms for the installation, removal, and storage of the Christmas lighting for the 2022 festive period. Members considered the quote and agreed for the Clerk to confirm acceptance of the quote and to also confirm the date of 2nd December 2022 as the requested 'switch on' date for the lights. Members also requested that the 'switch on' event be added to the next agenda for consideration.

(5) A.O.B

(a) Flowers on the Senghenydd Cenotaph.

Members had received a quote from Caerphilly County Borough Council for the Spring and Summer flowers on the Cenotaph. Members agreed to defer this item for consideration at the next meeting.

(b) Universal Colliery Memorial Service.

Members discussed the Memorial Service and agreed for a donation of £50 to be arranged by the Clerk. The Chair confirmed that he would provide the floral donation.

(c) Presentation Evening

Members discussed the arrangements for the presentation evening due to be held on 15th September. Members noted that due to the passing of the Queen earlier that day, this event may need to be postponed as it was due to be held during the mourning period. Members agreed that the Chair would contact Caerphilly County Borough Council for advice and the event could be held on a later date if necessary.

(6) Planning Applications

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions.

The Community Council noted the following planning applications:

- (a) Case Ref. 22/0572/FULL Site Area: 132m²
Location: 1 Lower Francis Street Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4DW (UPRN 000043006028)
Proposal: Convert loft and install rear dormer
- (b) Case Ref. 22/0578/COU Site Area: 77m²
Location: Former Deb's Cafe 3 High Street Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4GF (UPRN 000043090356)
Proposal: Change the use from cafe to two bedroom flat
- (c) Case Ref. 22/0594/CLEU Site Area: 948m²
Location: Land At Grid Ref 311540 190782 Kingsley Place East UI Senghenydd (UPRN 000043088371)
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
- (d) Case Ref. 22/0620/FULL Site Area: 277m²
Location: 4 St Annes Gardens Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4BS (UPRN 000043009427)
Proposal: Erect conservatory to front of the property
- (e) Case Ref. 22/0663/FULL Site Area: 151m²
Location: 38 High Street Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4GG (UPRN 000043006401)
Proposal: Erect single storey garage

91/2022 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair informed Members that he had presented Bill and Barbara Taylor with flowers to mark their 70th wedding anniversary.

92/2022 **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

93/2022

MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council had been cutting back the bushes at Nant y Parc School. Members also noted that the brambles by the bin in this area also needed cutting back. Members also noted that the bus stop at the Windsor was overgrown and the steps between 213 Caerphilly Road and the Ebenezer also needed some attention, together with the paths from Westend towards the school. The Chair requested photos to be sent to him and he would refer them to CCBC.
- (ii) Dog poop scoop bags given out to local shops had been successful. It was noted that there were 2 boxes remaining. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to ask if there were any free bags available.
- (iii) One of the lights not working on the Senghenydd Cenotaph. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to request this to be fixed.
- (iv) Members discussed the Stagecoach buses not operating properly and not running as per their timetables. The Chair has spoken to the company and noted there has been a shortage of drivers and this should be resolved in the next few weeks. It was also noted that the school buses are not going up to Senghenydd. The Chair advised that he would take this up with CCBC.
- (v) Members discussed the need for the trees to be cut back opposite Thomas Street and on Abertridwr Square. The Chair advised he would refer this to CCBC tree surgeon.

94/2022

DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 13th October 2022.**

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council