
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Taylor

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

110/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Cole, C. Page, M. Stretch, and the Community Safety Warden.

111/2022 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.

112/2022 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no public matters.

113/2022 POLICE MATTERS

Sergeant J. Pursey (Gwent Police) attended the meeting, and reported on the following matters:

- (i) There is currently no dedicated CSO for the Aber Valley, a new Police Officer has started and there will be a new Sergeant in the next couple of months when Sergeant Pursey retires. Staff shortage now, but 4 new recruits are due to start in December. There will be a dedicated Police Officer between Senghenydd and Penyrheol.
- (ii) Incidents of crime has increased, but anti-social behaviour has decreased with 2 ASB incidents in the last 2 weeks.

- (iii) Issues with youths in the forestry behind Ysgol Ifor Bach. South Wales Fire attended.
- (iv) Knife point robbery involving a delivery driver in Senghenydd – Police investigations ongoing.
- (v) Incident with parking on Thomas Street, Abertridwr with persons shouting.
- (vi) Theft of a motor vehicle from Lower Francis Street, Abertridwr.
- (vii) Motorbike stolen at King Street, Senghenydd.
- (viii) Attempted burglary at Bryncoed Terrace.
- (ix) Damage at Sanctuary Court.
- (x) Common assault at Windsor Hotel.
- (xi) Incident at Sam's Grill resulting in cut to victims' arms.
- (xii) Update on tools stolen from the back of a van, Police have arrested a man.
- (xiii) Damage to the door at Beulah – gates removed but left at the site – CCTV at Cross Street – Police will investigate.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (a) Noted thanks to the Police for their results with the incident of the stolen tools from a van.
- (b) Coffee machine stolen from St. Peters Church coffee shop. Church broken into and chocolate stolen.
- (c) Arrests made in relation to the car crash caused by driving under the influence of drink/drugs.
- (d) Incident on Aberfawr Terrace, man putting his bin out and had his arm cut by someone going past. Forensics have been but no update since. Police will investigate.
- (e) Incident of ASB and vandalism, window smashed at the Oasis, Abertridwr.
- (f) Youths kicking the bus shelter in Abertridwr Square.
- (g) Youths banging windows in the bus shelter in Senghenydd, and rubbish being put through residents' doors. Residents' have complained.
- (h) A Member sought clarification from the Police regarding whether Blue Badge Holders can park on double yellow lines. A vehicle had recently been parked on yellow lines, outside Beulah and buses were obstructed trying to get past. Members were advised that Blue Badge Holders could park on double yellow lines, if they are not causing an obstruction. Members were advised that this would be a Council matter.

- (i) A push bike with the back wheel missing had been left in the lane at King Street, and youths had thrown the bike on top of the bus shelter.
- (j) Stolen push bike, Member to provide Police with more details.
- (k) Racially offensive graffiti on the bridge at Plas Nant, up to Aberfawr Terrace. Police were shown a photograph on one of the Members' phones.

114/2022 **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

115/2022 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2022.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 13th October 2022 were approved as a true record.

116/2022 **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) It was noted that no income had been received.

(3) **Expenditure**

- (a) Members approved the following expenditure:

- (i) Post Office Ltd – £57.00 (60 first class postage stamps – reimbursement to the Clerk).
- (ii) Town and Community Council Liaison Committee (TCCLC) - £100 (subscription/administration charges)

- (b) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Payroll – Month 07.
- (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £21.86.

(4) CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Wayne David – Labour MP for Caerphilly

Members were advised that a letter had been received from Wayne David in relation to the proposed boundary changes for the area of Caerphilly and noting that the Boundary Commission for Wales had agreed to revise the proposed changes. Wayne David had requested that contact is made to the Welsh Boundary Commission, to thank them and note that they stick with their revised counter proposal. This could either be done on behalf of the Community Council, or Members were encouraged to submit their own, by 15th November 2022. Members agreed for the Clerk to respond on behalf of the Community Council.

(b) One Voice Wales – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report February 2023

Members were advised that an email had been received from One Voice Wales in relation to the IRP for Wales Draft Annual Report 2023. Currently under consultation until 1st December 2022 and One Voice Wales were preparing a response. Any other responses could be sent to One Voice Wales by 16th November 2022. Members agreed that the response from One Voice Wales would be sufficient.

(5) A.O.B

(a) Defibrillators

Members were advised that the defibrillator at Senghenydd Community Centre had been used on 1st November, and the Clerk had been notified by email through 'The Circuit'. The pad had been replaced and, with the approval of the Chair, a pack of 2 pads and a battery had been ordered, to be kept as spares in the office in Abertridwr library. Members were also advised that a 'product recall' had been received for software versions to be updated. All 3 defibrillators had been checked by the Clerk and the software versions did not require updates at this time. Members agreed for the Clerk to be authorised to purchase pads and batteries when necessary, and to confirm with the Chair.

(6) Planning Applications

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions.

The Community Council noted the following planning application:

- (a) Case Ref. 22/0858/FULL Site Area: 303m²
Location: 4 Sunny Bank Graigwen Crescent Abertridwr Caerphilly
CF83 4BP (UPRN 000043008737)
Proposal: Construct retaining wall and front driveway

116/2022 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair informed Members that he attended the Senghenydd Colliery Disaster Memorial Service and provided the floral donation.

117/2022 **THE GREEN PLAN**

Councillors had met and discussed the Green Plan. They had agreed to look at the plan and digest it, before meeting up again and would then bring the item back to a community council meeting. Members agreed to meet on 29th November.

118/2022 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING – ‘SWITCH ON’ EVENT**

Members discussed the event planned for Friday 2nd December 2022 for the ‘switch on’ of the Christmas lights in Abertridwr and Senghenydd. Members agreed that, following the response from Highways, in relation to the proposed road closure, that the use of the footways was acceptable. Members agreed for the Clerk to respond and confirm this with CCBC.

Members discussed the response from Elsbury in relation to the proposed ‘switch on’ at both Abertridwr and Senghenydd Squares, and in relation to the costs involved, agreed that the Christmas lights would be switched on by Elsbury in the normal manner. Members agreed for the Clerk to respond and confirm this with Elsbury.

Members discussed the response from CCBC in relation to cutting the trees on Abertridwr Square prior to the lights being placed on them. CCBC had confirmed this was unlikely before 2nd December but requested further information of the exact location of the trees. Members agreed for the Clerk to respond and confirm the location.

Members discussed that the local primary schools had been contacted in relation to the school children making lanterns and walking from Senghenydd Square to Abertridwr Square on the evening of Friday 2nd December from 6.00 pm. Members agreed that local businesses could have stalls at the Oasis Coffee Shop and proposed the use of Abertridwr Community Centre, if available. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact the 4 local schools to confirm if they are happy to be involved in the event.

The Dwell Café had advised Members that they would provide hot chocolate to the school children taking part and were also organising a Santa’s Grotto on their premises. They had requested financial assistance from the Community Council and Members agreed for the Chair to have delegated powers to organise some assistance with the purchase of Christmas decorations.

119/2022 **TOILETS IN ABERTRIDWR PARK**

Members discussed their concerns regarding the toilets in Abertridwr Park and the issues that had occurred during a recent event, noting that the toilets had no lighting, and the disabled toilet was flooded.

Members discussed the response from CCBC, which requested a date for the closure of the toilets and requested clarification about the need for the Community

Council to have a key for the outside padlock and confirmed that a rebate for the non-lighting would be negligible amongst other costs.

Members agreed for the Clerk to respond to CCBC and confirm the closure of the toilets with immediate effect, although they understood that closure for the Winter period would be from 31st October. Members also agreed for the Clerk to clarify whether the Community Council could put the toilet cleaning 'out to tender', and whether any monies would still be payable to CCBC if the Community Council 'took on' the toilets. Members also agreed for the Clerk to clarify whether the lighting in the toilets had now been fixed.

Councillor J. Roberts agreed to join Councillors D. Berry, C. Bishop, D. Bishop, and P. Cole, who had previously agreed to form a sub-committee to review the current situation with the toilets, and possible alternatives for the cleaning.

120/2022 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2023/24

Members discussed and considered the draft budget for 2023/24 and approved the proposals.

121/2022 MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) A Member raised concerns with the lack of Stagecoach buses running in the mornings and not turning up for school/college children. Members agreed that the CCBC Councillors would seek a meeting with the Director of the Stagecoach company to discuss the services in the Aber Valley. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC Passenger Transport in relation to the Stagecoach buses not running according to their timetable, and also to contact CCBC Education Transport in relation to the St.Cenydd school bus regularly breaking down and not turning up, causing some school children to walk home.
- (ii) A Member raised concerns with youth behaviour getting worse through the Winter months. There had been fires lit behind Senghenydd Rugby Club and anti-social behaviour increasing as the youths have nowhere to go, and nothing available for older children. Some Members proposed to go out and speak to youths in the area to see if they had any suggestions. Members agreed for this item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- (iii) CCBC did not collect recycling. Reported to CCBC who came back a week later. Concern was raised over a bin man that had dropped 2 plastic bottles and then just kicked them and left in the road. The Chair agreed to contact CCBC on this matter.
- (iv) A Member raised concern of an increase in crime in the area. Noted awareness courses are being run for local communities for anyone being taken advantage of, financially or otherwise. Will come back to Members when more information is received.

- (v) 30 free packets of Smart Water had been secured for local businesses, who were to be invited to a meeting on 21st November at the Oasis Coffee Shop. Members agreed for this item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting under 'Smart Water for vulnerable residents.
- (vi) Community Empowerment Fund applications were to be submitted by the end of November. Members noted to advise any groups that may need to be made aware.
- (vii) A Member raised awareness of the World Cup due to commence, and 230,000 schools had today taken part in a singing jamboree, including some schools in Wales.

122/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th December 2022.**

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council