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# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

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### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

#### PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Taylor

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

#### 138/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Cole, D. Daniels, M. Stretch, Gwent Police, and the Community Safety Warden.

#### 139/2023 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.

A declaration of interest was made during the course of the meeting and is minuted under the relevant item.

#### 140/2023 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no public matters.

#### 141/2023 POLICE MATTERS

Sergeant J. Pursey was not in attendance but had reported on the following matters, to the Chair, prior to the meeting:

- (i) Reduction in anti-social behaviour in the past 4 weeks, although noted this could be due to the bad weather.
- (ii) Dog breeding activities in the area – ongoing enquiries to find out where they are being bred.
- (iii) Report of a car driven away from Commercial Street, which was later returned.

- (iv) Young lad assaulted at a party near Sam's Grill, Abertridwr.
- (v) Property damage at the Royal Hotel.
- (vi) Drugs raids for cannabis at Hillside Avenue and Tridwr Road.
- (vii) 20 pigs on the road in Senghenydd.
- (viii) Air Ambulance doing a House-to-House Collection in the area – noted genuine and not any scam.
- (ix) New PCSO Rhys Wall – still in training until March. Arrangements being made for him to visit SYDIC.

Members had no Police matters to report.

**142/2023**      **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

**143/2023**      **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were approved as a true record.

**144/2023**      **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)      Payroll – Month 09.
  - (ii)     EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £21.86.
  - (iii)    Society of Local Council Clerks – 2023 Renewal - £139.00.
  - (iv)    Everson Sports & Trophies - £20.00 (re-imburement to the Clerk).

**(4) APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

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

- (i) Urdd National Eisteddfod 2023 – declined.
- (ii) Caerphilly United FC – unable to determine as form not completed.
- (iii) Wales Air Ambulance - £100.
- (iv) Llamau - £200.
- (v) YesCymru – declined.

**(5) A.O.B**

(a) Toilets in Abertridwr Park

Members received the quotes from Caerphilly County Borough Council to open, close and clean the toilets in Abertridwr Park for 2023/24. It was noted that a 7 days annual charge from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 would be £9,465.54 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 2022/23

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 2023. It was agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

(d) Precept 2023/24

Members received and considered a report on the precept estimates for 2023/24 including:

- Budget 2022/23
- Expenditure up to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Estimated Expenditure from 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- Financial Statement 2022/23
- Bank Reconciliation – January 2023
- Proposed Budget for 2023/24
- Precept Recommendations for 2023/24

Members were informed that Caerphilly County Borough Council has given notice that the council tax base for the Aber Valley is 2,008.28 Band D equivalent dwellings. It was highlighted that the Community Council is required to submit the Precept figure for 2023/24 by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, in order to expedite the setting of next year's Council Tax.

Members were advised that the Telephone budget had increased to cover the annual mobile phone cost.

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 2023/24. Members may wish to consider carrying over any unspent monies from the 2022/23 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 £19.92.

## **(6) Planning Applications**

There were no Planning Applications.

### **145/2023 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair wished to note the success of the Christmas event on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and thanked all those involved. It was agreed for the Clerk to send 'thank you' letters to Dwell Café, Oasis, Abertridwr Community Centre, Santa, YMCA, and Abertridwr Community Choir.

### **146/2023 THE GREEN PLAN**

Councillors discussed the Cardiff Conservation Volunteers Scheme and agreed for the Green Plan to remain as an item on every agenda.

### **147/2023 TOILETS IN ABERTRIDWR PARK**

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

Members discussed the response from Gelligaer Community Council in relation to information on their current lease for the toilets in Ystrad Mynach. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to suggest that CCTV could be installed to cover the toilets in Abertridwr Park, which could deter the issues with vandalism, and also to request a 'daily log' to confirm the attendance of CCBC, cleaning, etc. Members also agreed for the Clerk to chase up a breakdown of the fee quotes received. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting, to allow further consideration.

### **148/2023 SUGGESTIONS/IDEAS FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES DURING THE WINTER MONTHS**

Members discussed the possibility of working with a local construction company with a training facility. Experience with ex-offenders, and discussed working with local young people and potential job opportunities. A further meeting has been arranged with the company owner on 27<sup>th</sup> January in Caerphilly.

Members also discussed the availability of free courses in Health and Safety, and Child Protection.

**149/2023**     **CAERPHILLY AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

The Clerk had previously circulated an email to all Members for any interest in becoming the additional representative from Aber Valley Community Council. Members discussed the Twinning Association, and Councillor C. Page volunteered to be the additional representative.

**150/2023**     **DEFIBRILLATORS**

Members discussed the temporary closure of the Windsor Hotel and the electricity supply being off until April 2023. This would affect the defibrillator that was in an external cabinet on the building. Members agreed for the Chair to have delegated powers if the defibrillator needed to be moved.

**151/2023**     **WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICE (DONATION)**

Members discussed the recent assistance that was given by the Welsh Ambulance Service, over the Christmas period, when the defibrillator at Senghenydd Community Centre had been used. Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange a 'thank you' letter and donation of £200.

**152/2023**     **MEETING VENUES FOR 2023**

Members discussed the possibility of holding the Community Council meetings in both Abertridwr and Senghenydd, going forward. Discussion followed in relation to the WiFi availability at Abertridwr Community Centre. Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange a 'test' at Abertridwr Community Centre with the Community Council laptop and mobile phone, to determine whether this would be possible.

**153/2023**     **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) Availability of a Level 2 Award in Volunteering in the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Sector – Free of charge.
- (ii) Pothole opposite the Spar in Abertridwr is currently being fixed by Welsh Water, to be completed February 2023.
- (iii) Fundraising ideas for young persons courses, Members discussed using funds from Special Projects in the budget.
- (iv) Housing needs event in Cardiff in June.
- (v) CCBC Tourism sign, opposite the Windsor Hotel, Senghenydd, for the Mining Memorial, has been weather damaged. Clerk to report to CCBC.
- (vi) CCBC Cleansing Team request for information on cleaning requirements for the area. Joint list to be compiled by Councillor J. Roberts.
- (vii) Debris left from recent bad weather at Park Terrace, Senghenydd. Members to contact CCBC Highways regarding this, and damage to the school.
- (viii) Bus stop at Upper Brynhyfryd Terrace, Senghenydd. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to request if the bus stop could be moved further down to the 'dropped kerb' area.

- (ix) Information received regarding Abertridwr Medical Centre extended opening hours. Members discussed the impact on the current parking issues in the area. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC Highways and inform them of Members concerns.

**154/2023**     **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

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