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# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

#### PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Taylor

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

#### 155/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Roberts, Gwent Police, and the Community Safety Warden.

#### 156/2023 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.

#### 157/2023 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no public matters.

#### 158/2023 POLICE MATTERS

PC N. Womersley was not in attendance but had reported on the following matters, prior to the meeting:

- (i) Aber Valley has had 13 crimes in total in the past 2 weeks. 6 of these were violence without injury, 5 criminal damage, 1 public order, 1 vehicle crime and 1 theft.
- (ii) There had been 4 occurrences of anti-social behaviour reported to the Police in the last 2 weeks.

Members had no Police matters to report.

**159/2023**      **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Community Safety Warden (CSW), Margaret Reed, was not in attendance but had notified Members that there were no issues, and there was patrolling in the area, specifically the parks.

**160/2023**      **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved as a true record.

**161/2023**      **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 approved the following expenditure:
  - (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £260.00. Room rental at Abertridwr Library.
  - (ii) Digital Systems UK - £9.52 (photocopier).
- (b) Members noted the following expenditure:
  - (i) Payroll – Month 10.
  - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £21.86.

**(4)**      **Planning Applications**

There were no Planning Applications.

**162/2023**      **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair noted that there was nothing to report.

**163/2023**     **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members noted that there was nothing to report.

**164/2023**     **TOILETS IN ABERTRIDWR PARK**

Members discussed the responses and information received from Gelligaer Community Council, and Caerphilly County Borough Council, in relation to the requirements for a lease, and the quotes received for opening, closing and cleaning the toilets for 2023, and the proposal to install CCTV in the area.

Members agreed to keep a log of any issues throughout the coming year, and to monitor the service provision by CCBC, which could be reviewed at the end of the year.

Members agreed for the Clerk to accept the offer to receive a weekly cleaning record of the toilets from CCBC. Members also agreed for the Clerk to confirm to CCBC the preferred option, going forward, from the quotes provided, for the opening, closing and cleaning of the toilets from 01.04.2023 to 04.11.2023 for 7 days a week at the cost of £9,465.54.

**165/2023**     **MEETING VENUES FOR 2023**

Members were advised that the Clerk and Chair had arranged a 'laptop test' at Abertridwr Community Centre with the Community Council laptop and mobile phone and had determined that it would be possible to hold the Community Council meetings at this venue, going forward. Members agreed that the meeting venues would alternate monthly between Abertridwr and Senghenydd Community Centres, and the next meeting to be held at Abertridwr Community Centre.

**166/2023**     **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2023**

Members discussed the Christmas lighting provision for 2023 and agreed for the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Elsbury Access Platforms and Councillors, to discuss the provision of new and additional Christmas lighting, for consideration at the next Community Council meeting.

**167/2023**     **PLAY SUFFICIENCY OFFICER - CCBC**

Members discussed the offer from the new CCBC Play Sufficiency Officer to attend a future Community Council meeting and agreed for the Clerk to invite the officer to the next meeting.

**168/2023**     **BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTIES**

Members discussed the request for nominations for this years' garden parties at Buckingham Palace and agreed that there were no nominations to put forward.

**169/2023**     **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) Bus stop at Upper Brynhyfryd Terrace, Senghenydd. Members had previously agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to request if the bus stop could be moved further down to the 'dropped kerb' area. Members requested that the Clerk could 'chase up' a response on this matter.
- (ii) Litter picking in the area. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact the Probation Service to see if volunteers would be available under the 'Community Payback' scheme.
- (iii) New benches on the cycle track, in particular the poor state of the installation and the current condition of the benches. The Chair agreed to view the benches and liaise with CCBC.
- (iv) Dog mess and rubbish on Park Terrace, and near Nany y Parc School. Owners allegedly 'letting dogs out' in the street unattended. It was agreed for the Clerk to report the rubbish and dog mess to CCBC.
- (v) Coed Cae Road, Abertridwr. Youths taking bins and causing fires in the area that was previously allotments. Members discussed the use of this area by youths.
- (vi) Members had previously raised concerns with the lack of Stagecoach buses running in the area and not operating according to their timetable. It was noted that on one morning there were 5 buses from Senghenydd between 10.00 am and 10.25 am. Members agreed that the Clerk would contact CCBC Passenger Transport again, to notify them of the continuing issues, and the Chair would contact the Director of the Stagecoach company to discuss the services in the Aber Valley.
- (vii) Poppies still at the Cenotaph on Senghenydd Square. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to arrange for their removal.
- (viii) Light still not working at the Senghenydd Cenotaph. Members agreed for the Clerk to chase this up with CCBC as previously reported to them.

**170/2023**     **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

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

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

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