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# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

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

#### **PRESENT:**

Chairperson: J. Taylor

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

#### **171/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Berry, P. Cole, D. Daniels, and C. Page.

#### **172/2023 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.

#### **173/2023 PUBLIC MATTERS**

There were no public matters.

#### **174/2023 POLICE MATTERS**

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

- I. Vehicle crime – Ford Fiesta stolen from Abertridwr today (9<sup>th</sup> March).
- II. Car stolen from Llanbradach, recovered in Newport.
- III. Van stolen within the last 2 weeks from Bryn Aber, Abertridwr.
- IV. Attempted break-in at Eglwysilan Way, Abertridwr.
- V. Tools stolen from a van in the Garth, Abertridwr.
- VI. Anti-social behaviour incident at Bryn Aber, Police visits and warnings given.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- 1) Members thanked the Police for attending the building in Senghenydd.
- 2) Members confirmed with the Police that the seized dogs are being examined and the owners interviewed.
- 3) A pony/donkey being kept in a poor condition in field in the vicinity of Coedcae Road, Abertridwr. Referred to the Community Safety Warden during the meeting.

Members all thanked Sergeant Pursey and the Chair wished him all the best for the future, on his retirement.

**175/2023**      **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHELLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Community Safety Warden (CSW), Margaret Reed, attended the meeting and notified Members that patrolling in the area was continuing and had spoken to youths in the area.

**176/2023**      **PLAY SUFFICIENCY OFFICER – CAERPHELLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The new Play Sufficiency Officer for CCBC, Becki Miller, attended the meeting online and introduced herself to the Community Council. Members were advised that CCBC has a statutory duty to produce a Play Sufficiency Assessment every 3 years, which was done in Summer 2022. Action plans in the assessment, include what communities may feel they are missing in relation to play sufficiency.

The Officer explained to members what her role would involve, and following the meeting, would circulate an information booklet to members on play sufficiency, together with information on planned events throughout the borough (5 – 12-year-olds). The Officer confirmed that she could also support the Community Council with event planning and grants available and could also assist local groups to complete applications for financial assistance.

**177/2023**      **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved as a true record.

**178/2023**      **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 11. Members approved the National Salary Award 2022/23 for the Clerk, to be implemented as soon as possible.
  - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £21.86. (Members noted the increase of 14.4% for 2023/24).

**(4) Correspondence**

- (a) One Voice Wales: Membership of One Voice Wales 2023/24  
Members were referred to an email received from One Voice Wales inviting Aber Valley Community Council to renew its membership to join One Voice Wales from April 2023. The membership fee for 2023/24 is £1137. Members discussed the renewal option and agreed not to renew for April 2023.

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

- (a) Financial Administration

Members discussed the current financial situation and approved for the remaining balance of the following budget areas to be carried forward from the 2022/23 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year for projects that have not been completed and for invoices that will not be processed before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Audit  
Christmas Lighting  
Special Projects  
Forward Work Programme  
Maintenance

- (b) Biodiversity Report

Members agreed to adopt the Biodiversity Report, and for the Clerk to update the draft version, with the Chair and Vice Chair given delegated powers to approve it, following the meeting.

(c) Internal Auditor 2022/23

Members were advised that the Clerk had confirmed the appointment of the Internal Auditor, Mr Terry Williams, to undertake the internal audit for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**6. Planning Applications**

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions.

The Community Council noted the following planning application:

- (a) Case Ref. 23/0068/HH Site Area: 600m<sup>2</sup>  
Location: 7 Cae Bryn Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4DA (UPRN 000043008783)  
Proposal: Demolish existing rear conservatory and erect single storey rear extension and first floor side extension above existing garage/utility.

**179/2023 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair noted that there was nothing to report.

**180/2023 THE GREEN PLAN**

Members noted that the group had met and discussed the original notes of the plan and agreed that the plan would be circulated to members following the meeting, for discussion at the next meeting.

**181/2023 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2023**

Members discussed possible new sites for additional lighting for 2023 and agreed for the Clerk to order two new lights for the Senghenydd area.

Members also agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to check whether the lamp post WP98 was suitable for a Christmas light. Members agreed for the Chair and Vice Chair to have delegated powers to agree any further purchases of Christmas lights required.

**182/2023 PLANNING AID WALES/ONE VOICE WALES ONLINE EVENT – 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2023**

Members discussed the upcoming online event and agreed that no members wished to attend.

**183/2023 PROPOSED PROVISION OF DISABLED BAY OUTSIDE 102 CAERPHILLY ROAD**

Councillor M. Stretch declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion.

Members discussed the proposed provision by CCBC and agreed that they did not wish to send a response from the Community Council.

**184/2023**     **ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOGO**

Members discussed the possibility of having a logo for Aber Valley Community Council and agreed to hold a community competition to design a logo, with a total prize fund of £500 (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places). Members agreed to finalise the details of the competition at the next meeting.

**185/2023**     **RECRUITMENT – PLAY WALES BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Members discussed the request for nominations for this recruitment and agreed that there were no nominations to put forward.

**186/2023**     **ROYAL CORONATION PRODUCTS**

Members discussed the coronation and agreed for the Clerk to contact the four schools in the community (Nant y Parc Primary, Ysgol Ifor Bach, Cwmaber Infants, and Cwmaber Primary) to ask if they were planning an event for the coronation, and if so, would they like a contribution of £150 from the Community Council.

**187/2023**     **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) Noted that there was currently no CCBC Officer for Aber Valley Area Housing, and any contact to CCBC should be to Karen James.
- (ii) Noted that Julie Gambold has left CCBC Highways, and a new officer is now in post.
- (iii) The Head Teacher of Ysgol Ifor Bach is undertaking a secondment and the Deputy Head will be covering the post.
- (iv) The temporary traffic lights in Abertridwr in relation to work being undertaken by Virgin Broadband. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC Highways regarding the recent gridlock caused, and the current unrest and disruption in the community.
- (v) Members requested that ‘Bonfire Night’ be added as an item on the agenda for the April meeting.

**188/2023**     **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

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