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# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

#### PRESENT:

Chairperson: C. Bishop

Councillors: D. Berry, P. Cole, E.P. Prendergast, J. Roberts, and J. Taylor.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

#### **16/2023**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Bishop, D. Daniels, R. Gater, C. Page, and M. Stretch.

#### **17/2023**      **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.

#### **18/2023**      **PUBLIC MATTERS**

There were no public matters.

#### **19/2023**      **POLICE MATTERS**

There were no attendees from Gwent Police at the meeting.

#### **20/2023**      **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

#### **21/2023**      **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved as a true record.

**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) Members noted the following income:
- (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £20,000.00. The first instalment of the 2023/24 Community Council Precept.

**(3) Expenditure**

- (a) Members approved the following expenditure:
- (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £2845.65  
(Supply and Install 2 benches on the Abertridwr to Senghenydd Cycle Track).
- (ii) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £240.00  
(Deliver 4 Summer Planters for the Senghenydd Cenotaph in June 2022).
- (iii) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £1,334.20  
(Installation of 2 benches at the Old Bowling Green Site at Abertridwr).
- (iv) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £5,762.97  
(Opening, Closing and Cleaning of Toilets at Abertridwr from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023).
- (v) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £922.88  
(Inspection Play Facility)
- (vi) Lite Ltd - £1,010.40  
(New/Replacement Christmas Lighting).
- (b) Members noted the following expenditure:
- (i) Payroll – Month 01.
- (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £25.01.

**(4) A.O.B**

(a) Audit 2022/23

- (i) Members received and approved the Internal Audit Report for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- (ii) Members received the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and completed the Annual Governance Statement.
- (iii) Members of Aber Valley Community Council approved the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and authorised the Chairperson to sign the approval and certification section. Members were informed that the Annual Return and supporting documents will then be submitted to the External Auditor.

(b) Applications for Financial Assistance

The Clerk sought approval to advertise that the applications for financial assistance were now open for people to apply. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for advertisements to be placed on social media, Aber Valley Community Council website, and notice boards at Abertridwr Community Centre and Senghenydd Community Centre. Members agreed to consider the applications received at an additional meeting of Aber Valley Community Council on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, prior to the main meeting.

(c) Presentation Evening

The Clerk enquired whether Members wished to hold a presentation evening this year. Members agreed to hold a presentation evening on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 at Abertridwr Community Centre at 6.00 pm.

(d) Community Recognition Awards

The Clerk enquired whether Members wished to include Community Recognition Awards in the presentation evening. It was agreed to include these awards, and that the Clerk would arrange for advertisements to be placed on social media, Aber Valley Community Council website, and notice boards at Abertridwr Community Centre and Senghenydd Community Centre. Members agreed to consider nominations for these awards at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**5. Planning Applications**

None.

**23/2023**      **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair thanked the Members for their nomination and noted that there was nothing to report.

**24/2023**      **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members discussed the Green Plan and noted no further amendments at this time. Members were to liaise with CCBC Officers when advice needed for any ongoing projects. Members discussed potential allotment areas. Members were made aware of a site appraisal report by Undercurrents, with specific groups in the Aber Valley. Sites had been identified as a community project and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact CCBC nearer the time to arrange for the area to be 'cleaned up' prior to the event. Members also agreed for a thankyou letter to be sent from Aber Valley Community Council.

**25/2023**      **WINDSOR HOTEL, CAERPHILLY ROAD, SENGHENYDD**

Members had met with the developer and a report had been circulated to the Community Council.

**26/2023**      **ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOGO COMPETITION**

Members discussed the proposed competition and agreed that Councillors J. Roberts, J. Taylor, and E.P Prendergast, would meet to discuss competition rules and requirements. Item to be added to next meeting agenda.

**27/2023**      **BONFIRE NIGHT**

Members discussed a 'silent fireworks' display and agreed to find out some prices and company sponsors. Item to be added to next meeting agenda.

**28/2023**      **LAND AT TAN-Y-BRYN AND THE OLD PLAYGROUD, SENGHENYDD AND TREE PLANTING SITES**

Members discussed the following tree planting sites for fruit trees, which had been approved by CCBC:

- Abertridwr Park – area between the library and MUGA, also some plots to the side of the changing rooms.
- Hendre – area by basketball unit
- Windsor Memorial Site
- Field – Aber YMCA
- Senghenydd Bus Turning Circle
- Area to the side of The Leigh P.H.
- Grass plots between the houses right hand side going into the village

Members discussed that some additional sites have been agreed by CCBC for the Scouts anniversary tree planting.

**29/2023**      **TENNIS COURTS, ABERTRIDWR**

Members discussed possible cleaning by CCBC and possible funding from companies. Councillors J. Roberts, C. Bishop, C. Page and D. Berry agreed to meet and discuss the tennis courts and the wall in Abertridwr Park. Item to be added to next meeting agenda.

**30/2023**      **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) The recreation field/yellow gate area in Senghenydd – settees and a gazebo had been dumped in this area. Possibly blocking the water course.
- (ii) The Memorial garden in Senghenydd – a hole had been cut in the fence and loud music in the area. Members discussed that the area may be used by youths.
- (iii) Senghenydd Park – Members noted that the bench referred to in the last meeting had not been replaced, and agreed for the Clerk to chase this up with CCBC. Members also agreed for the Clerk to enquire with CCBC about disability accessible equipment.
- (iv) Roadworks outside Co-op – works had finished the week prior to the meeting and traffic lights had remained there over the weekend until the Monday. Members discussed the works being done by Welsh Water may have used contractors and possible pre-booked the traffic management until the day the traffic lights were removed. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC Highways/Traffic regarding traffic management in the area, and to request any temporary traffic lights be removed as soon as possible.
- (v) Stagecoach buses – Members discussed ongoing issues with the bus service and a Member had since contacted Christian Reed at Stagecoach with details on the continuing problems that had been reported on social media and requested an update on the current situation. Members agreed for the Clerk to invite Christian Reed to the next Community Council meeting in June to discuss ongoing issues with Members.
- (vi) New Indian, Bryngelli – A Member had reported to CCBC that rubbish accumulating outside had attracted rats.
- (vii) Members reported the crash barrier opposite Phillips Terrace, Senghenydd had been damaged. Members agreed for the Clerk to report this to CCBC.
- (viii) Heritage sign opposite the Windsor Hotel – sign replaced following storm damage had incorrect Welsh translation on it. Had been reported to CCBC.

31/2023

**DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

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