
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2023

PRESENT:

Chairperson: C. Bishop

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

62/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Cole and D. Daniels.

63/2023 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.

64/2023 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no public matters.

65/2023 POLICE MATTERS

Gwent Police attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- i. Anti-social behaviour at Bryn Aber and a recent house visit.
- ii. Prank calls to emergency services using a public telephone.
- iii. Youths gaining entry to the old Bingo Hall. Building unsafe, now secured.
- iv. Off road bikes in Abertridwr. Any information to be reported to the Police.
- v. Damage to public toilets.
- vi. Damage to 3 cars.
- vii. Speeding vehicles in Abertridwr. Speed cameras are due in the area.

Members reported the following Police matters:

1. Requested Police presence at the YMCA on Friday evenings after 8.30pm.
2. Electric bikes on Senghenydd Square on Saturday night. CCTV footage to be viewed by Police.

3. Members thanked the Police for securing the Bingo Hall.
4. Requested Police presence at the 'pop up' event on Senghenydd Square.
5. Male seen in the area, believed to be selling drugs.

66/2023 **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Community Safety Warden was not in attendance.

67/2023 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MEETING ON 13TH JULY 2023.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting for the applications for financial assistance held on 13th July 2023 were approved as a true record.

68/2023 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH JULY 2023.**

The minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 13th July 2023 were approved as a true record.

69/2023 **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) The following income was noted:
- (i) Pobl Trust Funding - £974.00.

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
- (i) Payroll – Month 04.
- (ii) Payroll – Month 05.
- (iii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £25.01.
- (iv) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £25.01.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Zurich Municipal – Insurance Policy Renewal 2023/24

Members received and considered the renewal quote from Zurich Municipal for the Community Councils' Insurance as the policy was due for renewal on 30th September 2023. Members considered the renewal premium of £799.49 and agreed for the Clerk to proceed with the renewal process.

(b) Elsbury Access Platforms – Christmas Lighting – 2023 Festive Period

Members received and considered a quote from Elsbury Access Platforms for the installation, removal and storage of the Christmas lighting for the 2023 festive period. Members considered the quote and agreed for the Clerk to confirm acceptance of the quote, and to also confirm the date of 1st December 2023 as the requested 'switch on' date for the lights. Members also requested that the 'switch on' event be added to the next meeting agenda for consideration.

(c) Caerphilly 2035 Plan

A letter had been received in relation to the Caerphilly 2035 plan requesting if this can be raised at the next meeting of Aber Valley Community Council for Members response. Members agreed to defer this item for consideration at their next meeting.

(d) Cwm Ifor Consultation

An email had been received from PEDW regarding an extension to the consultation period to 15th September 2023. Members agreed that as a previous response had been sent, no further response was required.

(e) Twyn Hywel Wind Farm

An email had been received from Nelson Community Council providing additional information on the development, for Members response. Members agreed for the Clerk to respond, thanking them for the correspondence and noting that they are fully aware of the proposals.

5. A.O.B

(a) EE Mobile Telephone Contract

Members were advised that the contract was due for renewal and agreed for the Clerk to proceed with the renewal process.

(b) Community Council Presentation Evening

Members discussed and agreed the arrangements for the Community Council presentation evening on 21st September at Abertridwr Community Centre at 6.00pm with refreshments following the presentation at the Oasis. Members confirmed the entertainment with local people reciting poetry. The Clerk confirmed expected attendance numbers and the collection of the awards.

(c) Flowers on the Senghenydd Cenotaph

Members agreed to defer this item for consideration at the next meeting.

(d) Universal Colliery Memorial Service

Members discussed the Memorial Service and agreed for a donation of £50 to be arranged by the Clerk. The Chair confirmed that she would provide the floral donation.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions.

The Community Council noted the following planning application:

(a) Case Ref. 23/0418/FULL Site Area: 2376m²

Location: Bluebell House 5 Bluebell Close Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4GQ (UPRN 000043177652)

Proposal: Erect a detached dwelling along with timber outbuilding, decking area, garden sheds and wildlife pond.

70/2023 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chair noted the Christmas event on 1st December and was due to arrange a meeting with local businesses.

71/2023 THE GREEN PLAN

Members noted the 'pop up' event due to start on Saturday 16th September and would report back to the next meeting on this item. Members also noted that David Llewellyn from the Public Health team wished to attend the next Community Council meeting. Members agreed for the Clerk to send invite to the next meeting and to be provided with an email address.

72/2023 BONFIRE NIGHT

Members agreed that as no plans had been made for this event for 2023, this item to be deferred to next year and arranged for 2024.

73/2023 TENNIS COURTS, ABERTRIDWR

Members agreed to defer this item as funding had not been sourced.

74/2023

STAGECOACH BUSES

M. Tunstall and P. Morgan attended the meeting from Stagecoach to discuss the ongoing issues with Members, following their attendance at the last meeting. Members were advised of improvements since the last meeting, but noted vehicle maintenance had fallen back since September, which had affected the first few days back to school and college. This had now improved due to the employment of a semi skilled fitter, who maintained the vehicles later at night to ensure the vehicles were ready for use the next day.

Members were given information on the percentages of services affected during the Summer months and discussion followed regarding electric vehicles and the previous proposals to introduce these, which is no longer happening due to funding issues.

Members noted the Stagecoach app which is manually updated, appeared to be delayed with the information available, and were advised that this would be looked into, for it to be updated asap.

Members thanked the representatives for attending the Community Council meetings and noted less complaints on social media, as service was improving.

Members also discussed the 20mph scheme due to be introduced and the affect this may have on the bus service.

Members discussed the variety of ticket schemes available, including family tickets and student tickets.

Members were advised that new driver training was very positive, with a current pay rise to attract new drivers and retain the current ones working in the company, to provide a more reliable service.

Members queried whether smaller buses could be used to go to more remote areas of the Aber Valley. Members were advised that any route without numerous 'stops' would not normally be viable and would require funding.

Members agreed for the Clerk to email the representatives with any outstanding queries.

75/2023

NANT -Y-PARC SCHOOL – WARNING SIGN

Members discussed the need for a school patrol or 'flashing' light at the school for safety purposes. 30mph road signs had been removed. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC Highways regarding the possibility of a sign, and to enquire whether another inspection could take place following the previous removal of the school crossing patrol. Item to be added to next meeting agenda.

76/2023

FRUIT TREES

Members had previously agreed that the Pobl Trust Funding was to be used to purchase fruit trees for the Aber Valley. Members were advised that an order had

been placed by the Clerk, for delivery in the Autumn. Clerk to circulate the list of trees ordered and Members discussed the best places for possible planting.

77/2023 **MUSIC IN HOSPITALS & CARE**

Members discussed the possibility of an event being held in Aber Mill and being funded by the Community Council. Councillor R. Gater agreed to contact the owner of the premises to discuss.

78/2023 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) Abertridwr Park/Kick ball field – rubbish dumped and litter bins and dog bins not being emptied. The Chair has notified CCBC this week.
- (ii) Grass cutting needed on Main Road, Abertridwr. Had been reported to CCBC and had since been done.
- (iii) Members discussed grant applications being increased.
- (iv) Faulty barrier by Church Road. CCBC contacted and has since been done. Members agreed for Clerk to contact CCBC to request all the barriers in the Aber Valley to be checked.
- (v) Members requested the Bute Energy Project be added to the next meeting agenda, together with benches for the park in Senghenydd and a real tree to be planted.
- (vi) More litter picks to be organised throughout the Aber Valley.

79/2023 **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12th October 2023.**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council