
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Taylor

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

100/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Bishop, P. Cole, C. Page, and M. Stretch.

101/2023 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.

Declarations of interest were made during the course of the meeting and are minuted under the relevant items.

102/2023 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no public matters.

103/2023 POLICE MATTERS

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

- i. The incident at the Bingo Hall, Abertridwr. Police investigations ongoing and requested any information known on persons entering the premises. Police have serious concerns over the safety of the building.
- ii. Youths coming into the area from other parts of Caerphilly. Believed to be in connection with the Bingo Hall, Abertridwr.
- iii. Reports of youths with drugs in the Senghenydd area. Some youths have been stopped and searched.

- iv. The Police will be in attendance at the Senghenydd Memorial Service.

Members reported the following Police matters:

1. Glass bottles over the floor by the bus turning circle/tunnel in Senghenydd. Noted whilst undertaking a recent litter pick in the area.
2. Bingo Hall 'made safe' but not boarded up. Queried whether security persons could be used as in previous years. Members proposed and agreed to put information on social media advising parents to warn their children over the Police concerns for their safety, if entering the building.
3. Youths reported to be smoking weed on Abertridwr Square.
4. Concerns over the number of fireworks being let off since bonfire night. Police requested more information from members regarding the area of concern.

104/2023 **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Community Safety Warden was not in attendance.

105/2023 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH OCTOBER 2023.**

The minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 12th October 2023 were approved as a true record.

106/2023 **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) No income had been received.

(3) **EXPENDITURE**

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
 - (i) Payroll – Month 07.
 - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £25.01

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) 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. This item was deferred from the last meeting. It was noted that the Chair had since attended a meeting regarding the plan, and in the absence of the Councillor C. Bishop, Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

(b) Review of Community Arrangements for Caerphilly

An email had been received from the Boundaries Commission, including a link to their Draft Proposals Report in relation to the review of the community arrangements of the County Borough of Caerphilly. Any comments to be submitted by 4th December 2023. Members agreed for the Clerk to submit a comment from the Community Council noting that they were happy with the recommendation that there were no changes to the Aber Valley.

(c) Community Play Audit

An email had been received from Becki Miller (CCBC) who recently attended one of Aber Valley Community Councils' meetings. It is requested that the document be completed and returned by 30th November 2023. Members agreed for the Clerk to request an accessible copy, circulate to Members, and collate the responses.

(d) Request for Donation for Armistice Service Buffet (Sun 12th Nov)

An email had been received from the Aber Valley Heritage Group at Senghenydd Community Centre requesting a donation for the buffet following the Service on Sunday 12th November. Members agreed to donate £100.

(e) Request for Donation for Dwell Café/Christmas Grotto

Councillor J. Roberts took no part in the discussions.

An email had been received from T. Nelder requesting a donation towards the children's goodie bags provided at the Christmas Grotto event held in the Dwell Café. Members agreed to donate £150.

5. A.O.B

(a) Flowers on the Senghenydd Cenotaph (deferred from last meeting).

Members discussed the provision of spring and summer flowers at the Cenotaph in Senghenydd and agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements through Caerphilly County Borough Council.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillors J. Taylor and R. Gater took no part in the discussions.

(a) Case Ref. 23/0696/FULL Site Area: 1585m²

Location: Senghenydd Rugby Club Caerphilly Road Senghenydd CF83
4FR (UPRN 000043091462)

Proposal: Erect a single storey rear extension

107/2023 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chair noted that there was nothing to report.

108/2023 THE GREEN PLAN

Members agreed to circulate a copy of the draft Green Plan to Partnership.

109/2023 NANT Y PARC SCHOOL – WARNING SIGN

Members discussed the response from CCBC and the recent meeting at the school, which was attended by CCBC officers who gave positive feedback regarding safety concerns. New warning signs are being made, which have been developed by the Welsh Government specifically for use in the new 20mph speed limit areas, to be erected on both approaches to the school, along with triangular school warning signs on the carriageway. Green cones and a road safety banner will also be delivered to the school after half-term. These resources should also help deter inappropriate parking.

110/2023 MUSIC IN HOSPITALS & CARE

Members discussed the proposal of some sessions to be provided by 'Music in Hospitals & Care' at Aber Mill Care Home in Abertridwr. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact Aber Mill to propose two additional sessions and for Aber Mill to confirm the cost. Members agreed for the Chair and Vice Chair to have delegated powers to confirm approval of cost. Clerk to be provided with a contact number for Aber Mill.

111/2023 BUTE ENERGY PROJECT

Members no longer wished to consider this item on the agenda.

112/2023 BENCHES FOR THE PARK IN SENGHENYDD

Members discussed the response from CCBC which stated that the equipment is all in good working order and not enough room for any additional equipment. CCBC also reported that the budget is fully committed for this year, however, a

replacement seat has been incorporated into this year's spend, which will be installed in the new year because of a delay in delivery.

113/2023 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING – SWITCH ON EVENT**

Members discussed the event planned for the first weekend in December with the lights 'switch on' on Friday 1st December. Members were informed that posters were being made to advertise the Memorial Tree in Abertridwr Square.

114/2023 **FOOD FOR HOMELESS HOSTELS, WINDSOR, AND LEIGH**

Members were informed of a proposal to provide Christmas dinners to the residents of the Windsor, Senghenydd and the Leigh (if open prior to Christmas). Food would be provided by the Oasis and delivered on Christmas Eve. Members discussed and agreed a donation from the Community Council for a maximum of £500, to cover deserts, extras, and gifts, and for the Vice Chair and two other members to have delegated powers to confirm the agreed amount up to the maximum agreed.

Members also agreed to ask Bute Energy for any assistance with the delivery and if they wished to donate towards the event.

Members also agreed to ask the owner of the Windsor if they wished to assist with the delivery and if they wished to donate towards the event.

115/2023 **DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2024/25**

Members considered the draft budget proposals for 2024/25 and discussed a possible increase in the 'Grants' budget as this has remained the same since 2017/18. Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting for further consideration.

116/2023 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

1. Bonfire Night 2024 – Members agreed to add this to the agenda for the next meeting to start discussions in advance.
2. Members agreed that Cllr D. Berry would lay the wreath from the Community Council at Sundays Memorial Service.
3. Cllr. C. Bishop had resigned from her Governors post at Ysgol Ifor Bach. A resident of Abertridwr proposed to fill the vacancy and the Community Council agreed to nominate this person. The Clerk to be provided with contact details to notify Governor Support.
4. SYDIC successful with lottery funding.

5. Councillors to arrange attendance at Cwmaber Infants and Juniors to talk about living history.
6. Children from Ysgol Ifor Bach praised for their attendance at Abertridwr Memorial Service today.
7. Incident on Stagecoach bus from Abertridwr to Caerphilly (B bus at 10.10 am on Tuesday 7th November). Driver in an 'unkempt' state, passenger got on at Mill Road, bus pulled of before the passenger had sat down, causing them to fall on the bus. Members agreed for the Clerk to report this incident to the Stagecoach representatives that had attended recent Community Council meetings.
8. Residents smoking outside the Windsor in Senghenydd. Has been reported and dealt with.
9. Recycling bins are not being emptied if not completely full. CCBC have reported back that all bins are to be emptied. Member to report back to CCBC again – Parc Terrace and Coedcae Road, Senghenydd.

117/2023

DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th December 2023.**

The meeting closed at 8.29 pm.

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Aber Valley Community Council