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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 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

#### **PRESENT:**

Chairperson: C. Bishop

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

#### **118/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Cole, D. Daniels, C. Page, J. Roberts, and M. Stretch.

#### **119/2023 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 item.

#### **120/2023 PUBLIC MATTERS**

There were no public matters.

#### **121/2023 POLICE MATTERS**

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

- i. Abandoned vehicles in the area and a burnt-out van in Senghenydd which has since been moved.
- ii. Youths loitering around Abertridwr Square and the lane behind.
- iii. Neighbour disputes on the rise.
- iv. Ongoing safety issues with the Bingo Hall, Abertridwr.
- v. Officers attended the Windsor Hotel and gave gifts to the children.

- vi. Ongoing rise in burglaries in the area.

Members reported the following Police matters:

1. Reminded Police to contact CCBC Planning to determine the owner of the Bingo Hall, Abertridwr.
2. ASB on Abertridwr Square.

**122/2023**      **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Community Safety Warden was not in attendance.

**123/2023**      **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023.**

The minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, were approved as a true record, subject to one amendment to 116/2023 6. 'Children from Ysgol Ifor Bach and Cwmaber praised for their attendance at Abertridwr Memorial Service today.'

**124/2023**      **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)      (i)      £750.00 received from the owner of the Windsor Hotel/Leigh.

**(3)      EXPENDITURE**

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Payroll – Month 08.
- (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £25.01

- (b) Members approved the following expenditure:

- (i) Audit Wales – 2022/23 Audit Fees - £200.00
- (ii) Elsbury Access Platforms – £1,302.72. For the installation, de-installation, and storage of the Christmas lighting.

- (iii) Everson Sports & Trophies - £20.00. For the updating of the award name boards (re-imbusement to the Clerk).

#### **(4) APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- (a) Members considered the following applications for financial assistance and resolved as follows, Councillors C. Bishop and D. Bishop took no part in the discussions for item iii (Fighting Dragons Karate):
- i. Mentalkwalk – application no longer required.
  - ii. Llamau - £300.
  - iii. Fighting Dragons Karate - £500.

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Welsh Government: Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024-25

Members were informed that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2024-25 is £10.81.

Society of Local Council Clerks: Membership Renewal 2024

Members were informed that the Clerk's Membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The annual subscription fee is £144. Members approved the renewal and agreed for the Clerk to proceed with the renewal.

Community Benefits Contribution Guidance

Members were informed that an email had been received from CCBC Policy Officer with the above guidance. Comments to be received by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Members agreed for the Clerk to send one response from the Community Council, following any responses sent to the Clerk.

Bute Energy Community Benefits

Members were informed that an email had been received from Bute Energy requesting to meet up in the New Year to discuss possible benefits. Members agreed for the Clerk to send an invite for the Community Council meeting in February 2024.

#### **6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None

#### **125/2023 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair noted that the Christmas fetes and Memorial Service had all gone well.

**126/2023**      **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members noted nothing to report.

**127/2023**      **CAERPHILLY 2035 PLAN**

Members discussed the plan that had previously been circulated from Huw Jackson and deferred from previous meetings. Members agreed for the Clerk to send an email to Huw Jackson, thanking him for the letter and noting that Aber Valley Community Council would hope that the local history, culture, and language is preserved in Caerphilly Town and not destroyed.

**128/2023**      **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Members discussed the Christmas lights that had been purchased for the tree in Abertridwr Square, as the original ones were not suitable. Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange a re-imbusement to Councillor C. Bishop for £51.96. The original lights that were usually put on the trees in Abertridwr Square had been arranged with Elsbury to be placed elsewhere. Members requested the Clerk to contact Elsbury to confirm where the original lights for the trees in Abertridwr Square were going to be put as they had not yet done so, and to report a faulty light on the lamppost on the corner of Abertridwr Square.

Members requested the Clerk to contact CCBC Street Lighting and request that a socket be put into the relevant lamppost for sufficient use for the Christmas Tree lights, ready for use next year.

Members were advised that the light display purchased by the Community Council for Senghenydd Community Centre was too large for the building, and that Elsbury also had transport issues due to its size. Dave from Elsbury had been on site and confirmed that the light display on Abertridwr Community Centre could be swapped with Senghenydd Community Centre for next year, and transport issues would also be resolved.

**129/2023**      **FOOD FOR HOMELESS HOSTELS, WINDSOR, AND LEIGH**

The Chair updated Members on the items purchased from the donations received from the Windsor/Leigh and the Community Council. Gifts had been purchased for all the children, and 'snackboxes' for the Christmas period for each room as residents remain in their own rooms, together with a desert platter and care packages including toiletries for each room. Each child had already received an advent calendar.

Members were advised that a room had been made available in the Fighting Dragons gym, which was being used for storage of extra supplies. Arrangements had been made for Santa to visit the Windsor on Christmas Eve and a room had been set up to give the children their Christmas gifts.

Members were also advised that a donation had been made from Bute Energy and Members agreed to hold this until Easter, as all required purchases had been made, unless further purchases needed to be made before Christmas.

**130/2023**      **BONFIRE NIGHT 2024**

Members discussed the possibility of holding an event in 2024 and Community Councillor R. Gater confirmed he would organise the event. Members agreed that contact details would be provided to R. Gater to contact the Fire Service, and that R. Gater, D. Berry and C. Bishop would discuss the event following the meeting and bring information back to the next meeting.

**131/2023**      **DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2024/25**

Members discussed and considered the draft budget for 2024/25 and approved the proposals.

**132/2023**      **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

1. School transport buses have been using holiday coaches which are too large for some of the local roads. Members were advised that this was due to buses breaking down and only option currently available.
2. Ongoing issues with lateness of Stagecoach buses and residents' complaints. Members agreed for the Clerk to invite the two Stagecoach representatives that had previously attended Community Council meetings, back to the next meeting in January 2024.
3. Street lighting not working from the Windsor, Senghenydd to Bryngelli.

**133/2023**      **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm.

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