
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT:

Chairperson: C. Bishop

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

17/2024 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

18/2024 **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.

19/2024 **PUBLIC MATTERS**

Councillors C. Bishop, D. Berry, R. Gater and M. Stretch declared an interest during the presentation from Bute Energy, in relation any reference to SYDIC, and took no part in the discussions.

Jack Skivens attended the meeting and spoke to Members about the work he has produced in his art work around Wales and included live music venues in Cardiff and had also written a children's book about animals. It was proposed to run an art project involving children from the local area. Discussion followed regarding the illustrations on social media and Instagram, empty shops and old buildings, and Members discussed possible local spots where illustrations could be displayed. Jack would provide a booklet of his work to the Community Council and Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

Representatives from Bute Energy, Eluned Lewis and James Green attended the meeting in relation to the proposed Twyn Hywel Energy Park. They gave a presentation to Members on the Community Benefits that could be available and advised that each of their parks generate funding that would be available to the

Community, and the Community Fund would be managed by a Community Panel. Members were also advised of the possibility of the Bute Energy staff doing some volunteer work in the Community. Bute Energy would undertake research into the local area and projects and would complete a mapping exercise for the Community Benefit Fund. There would also be opportunities for young people in the area.

Members were given information on the research into the local area and how the data sets are formed. Further information would be sent to the Community Council. Members were also informed on the recruitment process for the Community Panel, in relation to the Community Funding, and advised a consultation and public meetings would take place, in order to include residents in the Community, and determine those to be on the Community Panel.

The Chair requested whether the Community Council could speak with a representative from Bute Energy regarding the environmental impact, and it was confirmed that information would be forwarded to the Community Council.

20/2024 **POLICE MATTERS**

There were no attendees from Gwent Police at the meeting.

21/2024 **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Community Safety Warden was not in attendance.

22/2024 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2024.**

The minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 11th January 2024, were approved as a true record.

23/2024 **CO-OPTION – SENGHENYDD WARD**

Members received one application for co-option. Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Mr D. Chamberlain be co-opted to the Community Council as a Community Councillor for the Senghenydd Ward.

24/2024 **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 10.
 - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £25.01

(4) APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillors C. Bishop and J. Taylor declared an interest in the application from Cwmaber Infants and took no part in the discussions on this item.

Members considered the following applications for financial assistance and resolved as follows:

- (i) Cwmaber Infants Helping Hands Committee - £250.00.
- (ii) Jessica Ennis – to be deferred to the next meeting, following further information.

(5) A.O.B

(a) Toilets in Abertridwr Park

Members discussed the quotes provided by CCBC and agreed for the Clerk to confirm to CCBC the preferred option, going forward, from the quotes provided, for the opening, closing, and cleaning of the toilets from 1st April 2024 to 31st October 2024 for 7 days a week at the cost of £6,096.43.

(b) Christmas Lighting – Electricity Contribution

Members agreed to pay a donation of £50.00 to Cavanna's on Senghenydd Square as the Community Council's Christmas lighting attached to their premises is connected to their electricity supply.

(c) Internal Auditor 2023/24

Members were informed that the Clerk had requested Mr Terry Williams to undertake the internal audit for the financial year ending 31st March 2024, but had not yet received confirmation from Mr Williams. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

(d) Aber Valley Schools Football Tournament

Members were informed that an invitation to all Councillors had been received for a football tournament on 6th March. Members discussed and agreed that a few Community Councillors would attend and the Clerk to confirm this to the organiser.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions, and Members did not wish to contact Planning on this matter.

- a. Case Ref: 24/0025/OUT
Proposal: Erect three separate residential structures, comprising of 6 No. one bed apartments, 9 No. two bed apartments and 2 No. four bedroom dwellings with all matters reserved Land At Coedcae Road To Pont-y-felin Abertridwr
Location: GRID REFERENCE - 312395(E) 189175(N)

25/2024 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chair noted that there was nothing to report.

26/2024 THE GREEN PLAN

Members agreed to meet on 15th February at 6pm and to report back to the Community Council at the next meeting. Members discussed the location of the fruit trees that had recently been planted.

27/2024 BONFIRE NIGHT 2024

Members discussed the proposed event being held at Senghenydd Rugby Club the weekend prior to 5th November 2024. Members agreed for Community Councillor R. Gater to provisionally book the venue if possible. Members agreed that contact details would be provided to R. Gater to contact the Fire Service. Members also discussed the possibility of sponsorship from local businesses. Item to be on each meeting agenda.

28/2024 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2024

Members discussed the response from Elsbury confirming the original lights that were placed on the trees in Abertridwr Square would be put back on those trees as normal, during the Christmas period 2024. Elsbury had also confirmed the proposed 'swap' between Abertridwr Community Centre and Senghenydd Community Centre lights, including the transportation of the lights to each building.

Elsbury had also now proposed that the large displays would remain on both Community Centres throughout the year, once they have been fitted for 2024. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact Senghenydd Community Centre to confirm this was acceptable.

29/2024 D-DAY 80 LAMP LIGHT OF PEACE

Members discussed the information/email that had been circulated in relation to the 80th anniversary of D-Day and agreed not to proceed with the purchase of a lamp.

30/2024 **ABER VALLEY CWTSH GUIDE**

Members discussed the information received from David Llewellyn and agreed for the Clerk to invite him to attend the next Community Council meeting.

31/2024 **BUTE ENERGY – COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

Dealt with under Public Matters.

32/2024 **ARTS PROJECT**

Dealt with under Public Matters.

33/2024 **YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER**

Members discussed and agreed to have a Youth Representative Member, and for the Clerk to confirm the details and arrange a vacancy advert and circulate to Members.

34/2024 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

1. Members noted the resignation of Community Councillor C. Page and agreed for the Clerk to send a 'thankyou' letter to Mr Page. Members were advised that a 'Notice of Vacancy' would be advertised for the relevant time period, and Members would be kept informed, following the deadline.
2. Current situation at the Royal Hotel, Abertridwr. Councillors had met with CCBC Housing and noted concerns of the effect on residents and young persons in the area and possible repercussions.
3. Members agreed for the Clerk to send a letter of Congratulations from the Community Council, to Harry Ford from Senghenydd, as he is currently playing for Wales under 20's in the Six Nations Championship.
4. Members discussed the possibility of having 'flood wardens' in the area, and in the event of a flood they would liaise with other wardens to arrange emergency assistance required. Members also discussed designated emergency stops and particular culverts in the area that needed attention prior to flood/weather warnings. Possibly could be included in The Green Plan.
5. Excellent results from a recent Estyn inspection at Ysgol Ifor Bach. Members agreed for the Clerk to send a letter of Congratulations from the Community Council, to the Acting Headteacher.

6. Logo competition for Aber Valley Community Council to be put on the agenda for the next meeting in March.

35/2024 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th March 2024.**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council