
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 MARCH 2024

PRESENT:

Chairperson: C. Bishop

Councillors: D. Berry, D. Chamberlain, D. Daniels, R. Gater, J. Roberts,
and J. Taylor.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

36/2024 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Bishop, E.P Prendergast, and M. Stretch.

37/2024 **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.

38/2024 **PUBLIC MATTERS**

There were no public matters.

39/2024 **POLICE MATTERS**

There were no attendees from Gwent Police at the meeting, however a report had been emailed to the Community Council prior to the meeting, with the following details:

Nothing to note on ASB regarding youths. Only 2 reports regarding ASB was made from the following areas Thomas Street and Dan y Graig. Very low level. Please report to 101 regarding ASB and in an emergency 999
HOAX CALLS 2 made in the Aber Valley area. Positive action taken.

Crime

2 reports of break in the Aber Valley area.

5 reports of criminal damage

3 reports of theft and handling

A meeting is being held regarding the Aber hotel consisting of police and agencies. The inspector of Bedwas police station is attending and it's a chance for the people to raise concerns.

40/2024 **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Community Safety Warden was not in attendance.

41/2024 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024.**

The minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 8th February 2024, were approved as a true record.

42/2024 **CO-OPTION – SENGHENYDD WARD**

Members welcomed Mr D. Chamberlain to the meeting as the new co-opted Member agreed at the last meeting on 8th February 2024.

With regards to the new vacancy, Members received one application for co-option. Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Mr M. Bedir be co-opted to the Community Council as a Community Councillor for the Senghenydd Ward.

43/2024 **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 11. Members approved the National Salary Award for Clerks for 2023/24, to be implemented as soon as possible.

(ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £25.01 (Members noted the increase of 7.9% for 2024/25).

- (b) Members approved the following expenditure:
- (i) Post Office Ltd – 24 x 1st Class stamps - £30.00 (reimbursement to the Clerk).

(4) APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillor C. Bishop declared an interest in the application from the Oasis Coffee Shop and took no part in the discussions on this item.

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

- (i) Oasis Coffee Shop and Youth Group - £1,000.00 (on the proviso that they give feedback on the event to the Community Council and information on attendance figures).
- (ii) Caerphilly and District Twinning Association - £50.00

(5) A.O.B

(a) Financial Administration

Members discussed the current financial situation and approved for the remaining balance of the following budget areas to be carried forward from the 2023/24 financial year to the 2024/25 financial year for projects that have not been completed and for invoices that will not be processed before 31st March 2024.

Audit
Maintenance
Christmas Lighting
Special Projects

(b) Internal Auditor 2023/24

Members were advised that the Clerk had confirmed the appointment of the Internal Auditor, Mr Terry Williams, to undertake the internal audit for the financial year ending 31st March 2024.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions on this matter.

- a. Case Ref. 24/0147/LA Site Area: 137m²
Location: 46 Thomas Street Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4AZ (UPRN 000043008558)
Proposal: Re-position steps incorporating wheelchair platform lift (to front of property)

44/2024 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair noted that there was nothing to report.

45/2024 **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members had met to discuss issues relating to the Green Plan, and decided to circulate copies of the Green Plan to the following, for any suggestions or advice:

CCBC Countryside
GAVO
Groundworks
Bute Energy
Penyrheol and Gelligaer Community Councils

Discussion followed with proposals to arrange an evening for the Green Plan to be discussed in the Community. Members also discussed 2 railway bridges in the community with artwork that needed cleaning. There were also proposals for a small music festival in the valley and a community survey.

Members agreed to meet on 21st March at 7pm and to report back to the Community Council at the next meeting.

46/2024 **BONFIRE NIGHT 2024**

To be deferred to the next meeting.

47/2024 **ABER VALLEY CWTSH GUIDE**

Members discussed the information received from David Llewellyn and noted that he was unable to attend the meeting. Members agreed for the Clerk to invite him to attend the Community Council meeting in June.

48/2024 **ARTS PROJECT**

Members discussed and agreed for the Clerk to chase up the 'booklet of work' to be provided by Jack Skivens and defer this matter to the Community Council meeting in May.

49/2024 **YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER**

Members discussed and agreed to advertise for a Youth Representative Member/Council, with a closing date of 26th April. Members agreed to defer this item to the Community Council meeting in May.

50/2024 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Members discussed the request from Dave Brunton to attend a Community Council meeting and agreed for the Clerk to invite him to the Community Council meeting in April.

51/2024 **LOGO COMPETITION**

Members discussed holding a Logo Competition for the Aber Valley Community Council and agreed to announce the winning entry at the Presentation Evening usually held in September. Cllr J. Taylor agreed to design a poster for the competition.

52/2024 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

1. Members discussed the proposed new health development in the Aber Valley and the request from ABUHB to attend a Community Council meeting to discuss the proposals. Members agreed for the Clerk to invite them to the Community Council meeting in May.
2. Overflowing bins outside Nant y Parc School. Councillor J. Roberts reported to CCBC.
3. The path from the health centre to Senghenydd Park had been cleared by CCBC.
4. Fires in the quarry behind High Street, Abertridwr. Ongoing issues reported to CCBC.
5. Extension on Ysgol Ifor Bach. Members discussed the old site of the previous Welsh school.

53/2024 **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 11th April 2024.**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council