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# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

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### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

#### PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Roberts

Councillors: D. Berry, M. Bedir, C. Bishop, D. Bishop, D. Chamberlain,  
D. Daniels, and R. Gater.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

#### **70/2024**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. P. Prendergast, M. Stretch and J. Taylor.

#### **71/2024**      **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.

#### **72/2024**      **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Community Safety Wardens attended the meeting and noted no further update on Abertridwr Park/Toilets.

Incident of youths throwing sticks at buses had been referred to Community Safety Wardens.

Community Safety Wardens were advised that SYDIC was organising Summer events for 3 weeks this year instead of 2 weeks. Members requested that Wardens call in to SYDIC for their information. Members also requested if Wardens could take part in the litter pick in Senghenydd on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**PUBLIC MATTERS**

Representatives from ABUHB attended the meeting to discuss the proposed new Health Development for Aber Valley. Members were advised that only one site meeting had taken place on the Square at Abertridwr with the Senedd Member and residents. Community Councillors expressed their concern that they had not been aware of this meeting or invited to attend.

Members were advised that the proposals included a number of sites depending on the opportunities and options available, and the new Health and Well Being Centre would be a 'type c' development, which would predominantly be GP services. The proposed site for the Aber Valley Health and Well Being Centre currently being considered is at the field opposite the Aber Valley YMCA in Abertridwr.

Members also raised concerns that whilst there was a need for the new centre, there would be objections from the community against the proposed site, and also referred to the covenant on the proposed land and issues with a culvert. ABUHB reps noted that these concerns were being considered under the current proposals and they were awaiting confirmation from their legal team with regards to the covenant.

Members were advised that the centre was proposed to be a 'one storey' building, for better access, however the contractor was currently reviewing the site, and consideration would be given to a two-storey building to minimise the area of land that would be required. The business case for the development proposes a start date of 2026, with doors opening in 2027.

Members discussed the current use of the proposed land as a 'village green' by residents, and also the use by local schools for events including sports days and clarified that the final decision on the area of land used would be determined by CCBC Planning.

Members also clarified that the GP services currently provided in Senghenydd, would cease on completion of the new Health and Well Being Centre which would then cover the whole of the Aber Valley. Members noted concerns for residents who would have difficulties or be unable to travel from Senghenydd to Abertridwr for their GP services. ABUHB reps advised Members that Community Transport would be considered within the Aber Valley.

Members discussed and proposed other possible sites that could be considered for this development, including the old Welsh School and the Bingo Hall in Abertridwr. Members were advised that other sites had been considered, including sites in Senghenydd but were too expensive for the current budgets available. ABUHB reps noted that they would be attending Partnership meetings going forward. Members requested a list of all the sites that had been considered.

Discussion followed regarding traffic control for the proposed site, and current issues at busy times with access to the site. Members were advised that a business case is being developed to include access to medical services.

The Chair thanked the ABUHB representatives for their attendance at the meeting.

Councillor D. Berry declared an interest in the next item and took no part in the discussions on this item.

Representatives from United Welsh Housing Association (Customer Involvement Team) attended the meeting and advised Members of their proposals regarding a Community Hub at Bryn Aber, Abertridwr. The Community Hub would be situated in one of the flats at Bryn Aber and would be open two to three days a week and could include information for families, children's activities, Summer events and training. They proposed to undertake a survey with residents to see what they would like to have available.

Members discussed and agreed with the proposals made by United Welsh, which would encourage the residents of Bryn Aber to become more included in the Community. Members suggestions for the Community Hub included a community shop, food bank, and possible involvement from the YMCA and SYDIC, and proposals to hold future 'surgeries' with the Community Councillors, in the Community Hub.

The representatives from United Welsh invited Members to visit the Community Hub, and if possible, to do so 'before and after' the works had been completed. Members agreed and suggested possible involvement with local young people/ apprenticeships, going forward. Members were advised that this would be looked into, and a response would be given to the Community Council following the meeting.

The Chair thanked the United Welsh Housing Association representatives for their attendance at the meeting.

**74/2024**      **POLICE MATTERS**

There were no attendees from Gwent Police at the meeting.

**75/2024**      **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024.**

The minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024, were approved as a true record.

**76/2024**      **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 01.
- (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £26.98.
- (iii) Terry Williams – Internal Audit Fee - £200.

- (b) Members approved the following expenditure:

- (i) United Graphic Design Ltd - £199.62.  
(Annual Support and Maintenance of Website)

**(4) APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Councillors D. Berry, C. Bishop, and D. Chamberlain declared an interest in the application from SYDIC and took no part in the discussions on this item.

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

- (i) SYDIC - £5,000.00 awarded, with consideration for further assistance to be deferred to the next meeting.
- (ii) YMCA Aber Valley – to be deferred to the next meeting.

**5. A.O.B**

- (a) Audit 2023/24

- (i) Members received and approved the Internal Audit report for the financial year ended 31st March 2024.
- (ii) Members received the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2024 and completed the Annual Governance Statement.
- (iii) Members of Aber Valley Community Council approved the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2024 and authorised the Chairperson to sign the approval and certification section. Members were informed that the Annual Return and supporting documents would be submitted to the External Auditor.

(b) Applications for Financial Assistance.

The Clerk sought approval to advertise that the applications for financial assistance were now open for people to apply. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for advertisements to be placed on social media, Aber Valley Community Council website, and notice boards at Abertridwr Community Centre and Senghenydd Community Centre. Members agreed to consider the applications received at an additional meeting of Aber Valley Community Council on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024, prior to the main meeting.

(c) Presentation Evening.

The Clerk enquired whether Members wished to hold a presentation evening this year. Members agreed to hold a presentation evening on Thursday 19th September 2024 at Abertridwr Community Centre at 6.00 pm.

(d) Community Recognition Awards.

The Clerk enquired whether Members wished to include Community Recognition Awards in the presentation evening. It was agreed to include these awards, which Members would consider applications for at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The Chair wished to propose an additional award this year and it was agreed to defer consideration of this item to the next meeting.

**(6) PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Case Ref. 23/0672/RET Site Area: 578m<sup>2</sup>  
Location: Aber Hotel Ilan Road Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4EA (UPRN 000043006101)  
Proposal: Retain a decked seating area replacing a crumbling wall and banking.
- b) Case Ref. 24/0162/HH Site Area: 532m<sup>2</sup>  
Location: 10 Clos Morgan Gruffydd Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4DB (UPRN 000043009307)  
Proposal: Erect single storey side extension
- c) Case Ref. 24/0248/COU Site Area: 141m<sup>2</sup>  
Location: 10A Gwern Avenue Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4HA (UPRN 000043006495)  
Proposal: Change the use of existing garage/storage lockup to private dwelling, replace garage door with window
- d) Case Ref. 24/0309/RET Site Area: 49000m<sup>2</sup>  
Location: Land At Grid Ref 313056 187988 Mountain Road Abertridwr To Hendredenny Park Hendredenny Caerphilly (UPRN 000043178334)  
Proposal: Retain creation of access track, fencing and erection of stable block including three twin stables

**77/2024**      **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair noted the launch of the second edition of the Aber Valley poetry booklet on 19<sup>th</sup> May in Senghenydd and referred Members to a CD produced by former Community Councillor P. Yandle. The Chair also noted that Mrs Cavanna had passed away and proposed to send flowers to the family. Members also agreed for the Clerk to send a letter of condolence to the family from the Community Council.

**78/2024**      **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members had agreed to meet on 17<sup>th</sup> May and would give any feedback to the Community Council at the next meeting in June.

**79/2024**      **BONFIRE NIGHT 2024**

Members further discussed information and quotes from companies supplying everything for the proposed event to be held at Senghenydd RFC, including insurance and a 45-minute firework display. Members considered the event and agreed to proceed with one of the companies, up to the value of £9,000.

**80/2024**      **ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**81/2024**      **LOGO COMPETITION**

Members were informed that Councillor J. Taylor would produce the poster advertising the competition by the next meeting in June. The competition could then be launched with a deadline of end of August, and applications considered in the September meeting. It was proposed that the winner could be announced at the Presentation Evening in September. Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting in June.

**82/2024**      **ART PROJECT**

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting and for the Clerk to chase up the booklet of works requested, for further consideration of this item.

**83/2024**      **YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

Members discussed and considered the application received from Rosie Mantle. Members agreed for Rosie to be appointed as Youth Ambassador for Aber Valley Community Council, and for the Clerk to send a letter of congratulations and invite to the next meeting in June.

**84/2024**      **UNITED WELSH HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

This matter was dealt with under Public Matters.

**85/2024**      **ABUHB – PROPOSED NEW HEALTH DEVELOPMENT FOR ABER VALLEY**

This matter was dealt with under Public Matters.

**86/2024**      **ABERTRIDWR TOILETS**

Members discussed the contract with CCBC and agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to confirm the contract was for the opening, closing, and cleaning of the toilets. Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting in June, to consider the opening hours of the toilets as they currently remain closed.

**87/2024**      **MEMBERS MATTERS**

There were no Members Matters reported at the meeting.

**88/2024**      **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

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