
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY 2025

PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Roberts

Councillors: M. Bedir, C. Bishop, D. Bishop, D. Chamberlain,
R. Gater, E.P. Prendergast, M. Stretch, and J. Taylor.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

01/2025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Berry and D. Daniels.

02/2025 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.

03/2025 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no Public Matters.

04/2025 POLICE MATTERS

Gwent Police attended the meeting and provided the following report to the Community Council:

Crime

44 Crime related
42 Public Safety
10 Admin
8 ASB
8 Transport

ASB – 8 calls, noted Aber Valley still one of the lowest areas regarding ASB. Bryn Aber only received 1 call regarding ASB. No calls were made to the Police regarding youths in the area.

Calls regarding vehicles with no tax and insurance. Vehicles involved were dealt with accordingly.

3 off road bikes were reported in the area. An area search was conducted but negative.

Noted that Public Safety calls can include elderly/dementia and missing children/late home from school.

Good works/ to note –

PCSO 463 is continuing to build relationships with the local schools. Nant y Parc Heddlu Bach had the opportunity to sit in a response car and play with the sirens and lights. They also had the chance to ask questions.

PCSO 463 is looking to set up a drop-in session to allow members of the public to pop in. This will be progressed soon.

Members noted the following:

5 Police cars in the area for a recent incident – Police investigations ongoing.

Update on recent incident of car damage at Graig y Fedw – Police investigations ongoing, 1 arrest had been made.

The Chair thanked officers for their assistance with recent investigations into car crime and noted ongoing concerns with drugs in the Aber Valley.

05/2025 **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Community Safety Warden attended the meeting and noted the following to the Community Council:

3 complaints received regarding incidents at Abertridwr Park and the Bingo Hall, Abertridwr – ongoing investigations and contact had been made with the owner of the Bingo Hall premises.

Members noted the following:

Ongoing ASB and noted Police aware of current issues with off road bikes causing damage to the pitch at Abertridwr Park. Video footage available to be forwarded to CSW.

No issues in Senghenydd.

06/2025 **YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

The Youth Ambassador was not in attendance at this meeting.

07/2025 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER 2024.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 12th December 2024 were approved as a true record.

08/2025 **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) The following income had been received:
- (i) Donation from The Aber Hotel towards Firework Display - £250.
 - (ii) Donation from Senghenydd RFC towards Firework Display - £250.
 - (iii) Donation from J. Davies towards Firework Display - £135.
 - (iv) Donation from Big Bs Bakes towards Firework Display - £100.

(3) **EXPENDITURE**

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
- (i) Payroll – Month 09.
 - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £26.98
- (b) Members approved the following expenditure:
- (i) Post Office Ltd – 24 x 1st Class stamps - £39.60 (reimbursement to the Clerk)
 - (ii) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £260.00. Room rental at Abertridwr Library.
 - (iii) Elsbury Access Platforms – £1,796.64. For the installation, de-installation, and storage of the Christmas lighting.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillors D. Chamberlain and J. Roberts declared an interest in the application and took no part in the discussions on this item.

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

- (i) Tatws Sion Cent - £255.00.

5. A.O.B

(a) Christmas Lighting – Electricity Contribution

Members agreed to pay donations of £50.00 each to Cavanna's on Senghenydd Square and Senghenydd Community Centre, as the Community Council's Christmas lighting attached to their premises is connected to their electricity supplies.

(b) Internal Auditor 2024/25

To discuss and agree the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the financial year ending 31st March 2025, in order for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

(c) Precept 2025/26

Members received and considered a report on the precept estimates for 2025/26 which includes:

- Budget 2024/25
- Expenditure up to 9th January 2025
- Estimated Expenditure from 9th January 2025 to 31st March 2025
- Financial Statement 2024/25
- Bank Reconciliation – January 2025
- Proposed Budget for 2025/26
- Precept Recommendations for 2025/26

Members were informed that Caerphilly County Borough Council has given notice that the council tax base for the Aber Valley is 2,050.22 Band D equivalent dwellings. It was highlighted that the Community Council is required to submit the Precept figure for 2025/26 by 31st January 2025, in order to expedite the setting of next year's Council Tax.

Members were advised that the Telephone Budget had increased due to the expected increase following contract renewal.

Members were advised that the Salary budget had increased to cover the pay increase for the Clerks payroll.

Members were advised that the Christmas Lighting budget included costs for new or additional Christmas lighting.

It was noted that the Special Projects budget was set at £10,000. Members may wish to consider carrying over any unspent monies from the 2024/25 Special Projects budget at the end of the financial year.

Members approved the annual estimates for 2024/25 and confirmed the Precept amount of £40,000, giving a Band D equivalent property paying £19.51.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

09/2025 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT AND THE GREEN PLAN

The Chair noted that there were no items to report under the Chairpersons' report.

Members had not met to discuss the Green Plan since the last Community Council meeting but would arrange another meeting asap and would report back to the Community Council.

The Chair had met with CCBC/James Leahy at the old Noddfa Site, Senghenydd, and Members agreed to support the use of the site by ongoing community projects.

The Chair had attended the recent Partnership meeting and pupils had received a copy of the Green Plan, with ongoing plans to work alongside the Youth Ambassador.

The Chair informed Members that a resident in the Aber Valley had proposed to look at and consider areas of flooding and ongoing issues with culverts, and to meet with other residents. The Chair requested a list from CCBC Highways including information of all culverts in the Aber Valley.

10/2025 ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOGO COMPETITION

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting in February.

11/2025 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING – 2024/2025

Members discussed the issues with the installation of the light displays at Abertridwr and Senghenydd Community Centres and noted that Christmas Lighting needs to be included on the meeting agenda earlier in the calendar year.

Community Councillor M. Stretch discussed the site meeting that he had with Dave from Elsbury in December 2024 and provided details to the Members. It was noted that Elsbury could provide Christmas Trees for Senghenydd and Abertridwr Squares if required.

Members proposed and agreed to have an Events group, going forward and would bring the information discussed back to the Community Council meetings.

Members agreed for the Clerk to contact Elsbury to remove the light display on the Nazareth as previously agreed.

12/2025 **ABERTRIDWR TOILETS**

Members discussed the issues with vandalism at the toilets in Abertridwr Park up until they were closed in 2024. Members agreed that they would prefer the toilets to be open during certain times of the year and agreed for the Clerk to get a quote from CCBC for the same provision as 2024, together with additional quotes for different options to be considered, including just school holidays, seasonal April to October, and school holidays including weekends April to October.

13/2025 **PRESENTATION EVENING 2025**

Members discussed the current process for nominations and for choosing and notifying the nominees. Members agreed for this item to be considered at the April meeting, where ideas and proposals to change the process could be brought back and discussed.

14/2025 **BONFIRE NIGHT 2025**

Members proposed and agreed to include this item in the discussions at the Events group meetings, going forward and would bring the information discussed back to the Community Council meetings. Members agreed for this item to be included on the agenda for the February meeting.

15/2025 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

1. CCBC Cabinet has approved the Federation of Cwmaber Schools, and the inauguration of the new Governors takes place on 30th January. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact Lewis John CCBC to inform him that Councillor Charlotte Bishop will be the Governor from the Community Council for the inaugurated new Governors.
2. The area around the Leigh would benefit from benches and flowers. To be included in the Green Plan and discussed at their next Green Plan meeting.
3. A resident in the Aber Valley looking at proposed sites for beehives.
4. Green bins not being emptied since 1st December, cardboard boxes not being removed, High Street Senghenydd, and rubbish left by the bottom of King Street, Abertridwr. Clerk to contact Cleansing, CCBC.
5. Ongoing issues with traffic congestion at the Bowls in the mornings affecting buses and problems increasing. Clerk to contact the local Community Council for the area and check if they have had any contact with CCBC, and if not, propose a joint contact to CCBC Highways

regarding the issues. If not, proceed to contact Highways CCBC just from Aber Valley Community Council.

6. Members agreed for the Clerk to invite the reps from Stagecoach to a future Community Council meeting, either February or March.
7. Andrew King from 'Keep Wales Tidy' has offered assistance to Community Councils.
8. CCBC Councillors C. Bishop, J. Roberts, and J. Taylor had met with the Interim Chief Executive to discuss the proposed new Health Centre in Abertridwr. ABUHB are now looking at 3 different sites in the Aber Valley.
9. The old Welsh school site has been empty for 15 years. Litter picking requested with CCBC. School premises has been passed on to CCBC Property (Ben Winstanley). Clerk to contact and request for site to be looked at and walls checked, and locks checked.

16/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 13th February 2025.**

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council