
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Roberts

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

17/2025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

18/2025 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.

19/2025 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no Public Matters.

20/2025 POLICE MATTERS

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

ASB – Fires in the Senghenydd RFC area, trees behind the pitch/forestry side. Police doing foot patrols around the area.

3 motor bikes stolen in the area and since returned. Investigations ongoing.

Complaints regarding youths leaving SYDIC in the evenings. Damage to cars and knocking on doors, general nuisance. Noted no cameras on the street outside SYDIC. CSW suggested that the mobile CCTV van could be used, going forward.

Police had visited Nant y Parc Primary School and spoken to school children about vapes and drugs. Children had been able to go inside the Police cars at the school.

Members noted the following:

Queried whether there was any pattern to the times the fires are taking place at Senghenydd, and whether they are occurring when SYDIC was open or closed. Police looking into.

Suggested that the Fire Service could visit SYDIC to advise the youths.

Discussion followed regarding a possible sports event - involvement with the Police and Bute Energy and possibly with the Partnership in the Aber Valley.

21/2025 COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Ongoing patrols in the area and will seek more information on the issues with the fires in Senghenydd.

Discussed the days/times regarding the issues with off road bikes. Information to be passed on to CSWs to try and identify and make contact.

Suggested contacting the Fire Reduction Officers in South Wales Fire and Rescue, to visit SYDIC.

Members noted the following:

Discussion followed regarding SYDIC – currently open 2 days/ nights a week until 8.30 pm. A possible visit by CSW with CCTV van, and suggested visits to Abertridwr Park and the cycle track before the summer period. Clerk to pass on CSW organiser/ contact details to R. Gater.

22/2025 YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The Youth Ambassador attended the meeting and advised of recent visits in the Aber Valley.

Visited SYDIC and made valentines cards with the children, and proposed to visit monthly, going forward.

23/2025 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY 2025.

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 9th January 2025 were approved as a true record.

(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 Twyn Hywel Energy towards chocolates/sweets for Christmas/Santa event - £75.00.

(3) EXPENDITURE

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
 - (i) Payroll – Month 10.
 - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £26.98
- (b) Members approved the following expenditure:
 - (i) Everson Sports & Trophies - £20.00. For the updating of the award name boards (re-imburement to the Clerk).

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

- (i) Aber Valley FC - £150.
- (ii) Aber Valley FC Minis and Juniors - £150.
- (iii) Senghenydd Cricket Club - £150.

5. A.O.B

(a) Internal Auditor 2024/25

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 2025 and confirmed the fee would be £250.00.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- a. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Demolish garage and erect side extension 38 Graig Terrace Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4HN GRID REFERENCE - 311614(E) 191572(N).

25/2025 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

The Chair noted that the Community Council will be asked to consider a Notice of Motion at the next Community Council meeting in March. The Notice of Motion will be regarding the devolution of the Crown Estates, and Cllr. J. Taylor will forward this to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda.

The Chair acknowledged the absence of the Stagecoach representative, who had been invited to the meeting, but was unable to attend on the day. Discussion followed regarding the proposed changes to the bus services and routes, and the CCBC consultation on this matter. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC and submit a response from the Community Council in relation to the consultation, and to invite the Stagecoach representative to the April meeting.

It was noted that a number of bus shelters in the Aber Valley needed repair. Members agreed to check and confirm these to the Clerk for a list to be submitted to CCBC.

The Chair and CCBC Councillors had met with the Interim Chief Executive and confirmed that ABUHB were no longer considering the Green in Abertridwr as a site for the new health centre. Members discussed other sites that were being considered and noted that a consultation period needed to be confirmed.

The Chair noted the CCBC consultation regarding the proposed closure of Abertridwr Library. Members discussed the possible involvement of local businesses to support the library, going forward. Members discussed the issues regarding the proposed closure and the effects this would have on the Community and agreed for the Clerk to submit a response to the CCBC consultation noting their objections to the proposals, and a response to the resident who had requested the matter be discussed at the meeting.

26/2025 ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOGO COMPETITION

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

27/2025 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING – 2025

Members noted the light display had now been removed from the Nazareth as previously agreed.

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

28/2025 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 the Clerk provided quotes from CCBC for the school holidays only, seasonal April to October, and school holidays including weekends April to October.

Members discussed the response from CCBC noting that any further damage to the toilets would result in them being locked. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC and clarify whether this would mean permanent closure or temporary closure whilst undergoing repairs, together with details of the cost of repairs in 2024 when the toilets had been closed due to vandalism.

29/2025 BONFIRE NIGHT 2025

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

30/2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING SESSIONS

Members discussed information that had been received from the Forces Fitness Team, which promoted health and wellbeing sessions and proposed events for Spring/ Summer 2025. Members agreed for the Clerk to pass on the information to SYDIC and Aber Valley YMCA.

31/2025 STAGECOACH

Item dealt with under Chairpersons Report.

32/2025 ABERTRIDWR LIBRARY

Item dealt with under Chairpersons Report.

33/2025 MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

1. The walls at St. Annes Gardens, Abertridwr. Contact had been made with CCBC regarding ongoing works and an update had been requested.
2. Proposal for SYDIC and YMCA to have a joint Summer Scheme with possible funding opportunities from the Community Council. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact SYDIC and YMCA regarding funding and their views on working together.

34/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council