
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 15TH MAY 2025

PRESENT:

Chairperson: R. Gater

Councillors: M. Bedir, C. Bishop, D. Daniels, E.P. Prendergast, J. Roberts
and J. Taylor.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

71/2025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Berry, D. Bishop, D. Chamberlain, M. Stretch, and R. Mantle (Youth Ambassador).

72/2025 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.

73/2025 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no Public Matters.

74/2025 POLICE MATTERS

Gwent Police did not attend the meeting but had provided the following report to the Community Council:

Aber-Valley Council Police Update – April to May.

ASB.

Report of youths setting off fireworks right outside WINDOS MOTOR GARAGES- observations passed there were no further reports of these youths.

Report of youths who keep breaking into the OLD CINEMA in Abertridwr. Upon attendance by Fire Service, Police were stood down as no youths were found inside.

Report of youths climbing up the SYLAGE BALES on the farm which are stacked quite high and there were concerns the youths would fall. Officers attended and no youths were in the area- Neighbourhood teams to conduct patrols in the area.

Ongoing investigation- Theft of store from child of up to £7:80. The youth came in alone and staff noticed him stealing and told him to leave. Upon leaving he went to the ICE cream box and took out of the freezer- 3x ice creams. The youth pretended to replace them and left with the ice creams concealed. From viewing the CCTV, he was able to be identified by officers.

Crime

Report of a neighbour's child who had caused damage to callers' vehicle he scratched the car with a stone. He was kicking a ball at the caller's window spitting at the car and swearing at the caller. There was a counter complaint from the neighbour saying that the original caller had taken a football from their child which caused him to retaliate against the neighbours. PCSO attended and they have agreed to pay for damages.

Reports of a male who was high, refusing to leave premises and there was an ongoing disturbance. Police attended and managed to move the male on.

Reports of a car window that was smashed. This was captured on camera. Officers attended and conducted their enquiries into this male. A statement was taken from victim via a diary car appointment.

Reports from a female of someone attempting to break into her house. Officers attended on an emergency response and managed to get details of a suspect and carried out their enquiries.

Engagements

A joint visit was conducted from PCSO 525 SOO and PCSO 500 GREEDY at Aber Mill care home to encourage reporting to police and engaging with communities.

Further police surgeries were planned in the near future.

Members noted the following:

Concerns raised regarding the old Bingo Hall in Abertridwr, referred to as the Old Cinema in Police report above. Youths were continuing to access the premises, and this had previously been reported to CCBC. It was also noted that there was furniture in the building and major concerns regarding the safety/ condition of the site. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC and the Police to request the premises be made secure and the furniture to be removed, in particular noting the upcoming school holidays and increase in ASB during this time.

75/2025 YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The Youth Ambassador was not in attendance at the meeting.

76/2025 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH APRIL 2025.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 10th April 2025 were approved as a true record.

77/2025 **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) No income had been received.

(3) EXPENDITURE

- (a) To note the following expenditure:
 - (i) Payroll – Month 01.
 - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £28.69
 - (iii) Terry Williams - £250 – Internal Audit Fee.
- (b) To approve the following expenditure:
 - (i) Post Office Ltd (First class stamps x 32) £57.60 (re-imburement to the Clerk)
 - (ii) Audit Wales – Audit Fees for FULL Audit for 2023/24 - £600.

(4). APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- (a) Members considered the following application for financial assistance and resolved as follows:
 - (i) Aber Valley FC Foodbank - £3000 (to be paid £250 per month for the financial year 25/26 – first payment of £500 for April and May).

(5) A.O.B

(a) Audit 2024/25

- (i) Members received and approved the Internal Audit report for the financial year ended 31st March 2025.
- (ii) Members agreed to defer the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025 and completion of the Annual Governance Statement to the next meeting in June.
- (iii) Members agreed to defer the approval of the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2025 to the next meeting in June.

(b) Applications for Financial Assistance.

The Clerk sought approval to advertise that the applications for financial assistance were now open for people to apply. Members discussed and agreed for the current application form to be amended; to include an additional note at the end of the form stating 'Aber Valley Community Council reserve the right to request a breakdown of how monies awarded are spent, which may include providing evidence of receipts.

It was agreed that following the amendment above, 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 10th July 2025, 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 18th September 2025, venue and time to be confirmed.

(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 10th July 2025. Members discussed and agreed new nomination categories to include Community Contribution, Volunteer Group Contribution, Club Organisation, Community Business, Aber Valley Volunteer – Adult, and Aber Valley Volunteer – Child.

It was agreed that following the amendments above, 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 nominations received at the meeting of Aber Valley Community Council on 10th July 2025.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

78/2025 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

Nothing to report from the newly appointed Chair.

79/2025 THE GREEN PLAN

Members were informed that the Dram and Wheel had been cleaned and painted by local residents/ business, following approval from CCBC.

Members discussed and agreed the proposed 'local notice boards' and whether any could be obtained for future use. To be referred back to the Community Council under the Green Plan.

Members noted the back lane behind Commercial Street, to Nant y Parc Primary School to get 'safe walks' to school. 'Living Streets' to be contacted by Members.

Members considered the Heritage Group leaflet and deferred it to a future meeting under the Green Plan.

80/2025 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING/PRESENTATION EVENING 2025

Members discussed and agreed for the Clerk to continue to deal with requests for quotes from Elsbury and 2 other companies.

Members discussed the proposed Summer Fete, Bands in the Park, and Bonfire Night. All dates to be confirmed.

Members discussed and agreed the Presentation Evening date and new nomination categories, as noted under the Clerks report above.

Members agreed that 'Events' would be a standing item on the agenda going forward and would include Christmas.

81/2025 ABERTRIDWR TOILETS

Members discussed the residents' feedback from social media on the re-opening of the toilets. Members agreed that if the outcome to a meeting with CCBC (M. Headington) was satisfactory, the toilets could be re-opened on a 'one strike rule' basis, and prior to opening, a letter would be sent to all local schools to advise. Members also agreed for the Chair to have delegated powers, following the meeting with CCBC, to authorise the re-opening of the toilets from the school summer holidays, and to determine the payment of any invoices, if applicable.

82/2025 **CCBC INVOICES**

Members were advised of the invoices payable to CCBC during the year, and the Clerk would chase up the breakdown of costs requested for the Hendre Play Facility.

83/2025 **DRAM AND WHEEL, ABERTRIDWR**

Members received the invoices for the paint and equipment and agreed for the Clerk to make the arrangements for payment from the Community Council.

It was also agreed that residents' names and addresses would be provided to the Clerk, who would arrange for 'thank you' letters to be sent, together with a letter to the local business who worked on the site.

84/2025 **JOINT SUMMER SCHEME – SYDIC AND YMCA**

The Chair had met with SYDIC and YMCA prior to the Community Council meeting to discuss a way forward with a joint summer scheme. It was discussed and agreed that Members would consider further options available at YMCA.

85/2025 **STAGECOACH**

The representative from Stagecoach was not in attendance at the meeting and had sent a data report prior to the meeting. Members discussed the report and noted that the data suggested an improvement to the service. Members agreed for the Clerk to invite the representative to the next meeting in June.

86/2025 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

CCBC closure of Abertridwr Library – Members discussed possible options for a Community Asset Transfer and requested this be added as an agenda item for the next meeting in June.

Recent fire on the mountain behind Caerphilly Road, Senghenydd and fire service not able to get to the fire hydrant due to a vehicle blocking the access. Enquiries had been made to move them.

Play in the Park – Members discussed and agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to determine whether this would take place in both Abertridwr and Senghenydd Parks this year, as they had done so last year.

Tatws Sion Cent – Poetry book launch on Sunday 8th June 2025.

Funding from Senedd Cymru – Members discussed the reported £5m to Councils towards play equipment and agreed for the Clerk to make enquiries with CCBC regarding Abertridwr and Senghenydd Parks.

87/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12th June 2025**.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council