
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 12TH JUNE 2025

PRESENT:

Chairperson: R. Gater

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

Youth Ambassador: R. Mantle.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

88/2025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Berry and M Stretch.

89/2025 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.

90/2025 PUBLIC MATTERS

Stagecoach representative attended the meeting online and outlined the data report circulated to the Community Council prior to the meeting. They were currently over staffed by six drivers and were operating in a good position.

Members were informed that Stagecoach were relocating in August, from the depot in Bedwas to a site in Taffs Well that had better facilities for staff and vehicle maintenance, which would increase services and availability, whilst there were also extra funding queries ongoing with CCBC. When the relocation is complete, there will be a permanent member of staff available on site to deal with enquiries and complaints, 9am to 5pm, six days a week.

Community Council was advised that the 'lost/not running services' were priority if they occurred as part of their early morning service. Spare buses were available in the depot at that time, so any issues could be dealt with, and replacement buses would be deployed asap.

Members noted the poor quality of the suspension on the buses and were advised that this was partly down to the state of the roads with potholes, etc which was not good for springs and suspension on the vehicles, however these were being replaced, and new vehicles had been ordered.

The Stagecoach representative would send the 'lost' mileage for May 2025 to the Community Council following the meeting.

Members thanked him for his attendance at the meeting.

91/2025 POLICE MATTERS

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

Ongoing neighbour issues in Abertridwr.

10-year-old boy with 'toy gun' reported in Abertridwr, on antisocial behaviour register.

Stolen motorbike from Caerphilly Road, Senghenydd. CCTV enquiries ongoing.

Plastic being burned in the Chapel.

Old Bingo Hall premises in Abertridwr, all secure but still anti-social behaviour issues ongoing.

Car damage in Senghenydd, ongoing Police enquiries.

Drop-in surgeries held at the Oasis, Abertridwr with the new CSO. Police welcomed suggestions for any other areas/ premises to hold future surgeries.

Reports of stolen wheelie bins being burned in Abertridwr Park.

Members noted the following:

Old Bingo Hall, Abertridwr – CCBC contact name passed on to the Police. Requested Police to get an update and noted works were due to start on 2nd June.

Complaints regarding a cat breaking into houses in the area and soiling residents' beds.

Police were requested to refer any young persons found in the area of the Old Bingo Hall to SYDIC and also noted the 10-year-old boy referred to earlier in the meeting under Police Matters. Police would also speak to schools in the area regarding SYDIC. Discussion followed and Members agreed for the Clerk to invite CCBC K. Gulliford to the September Community Council meeting to discuss ongoing issues with young persons.

92/2025 **YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

The Youth Ambassador attended the meeting and reported the following items to members:

Doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award with Virginia Park Youth Centre.

Had met with young persons at Caerphilly Miners Centre for the Community.

'Jakes Day' event planned with the YMCA – noted that funding was required for the event.

93/2025 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM HELD ON 15TH MAY 2025.**

The minutes of the Community Council AGM held on 15th May 2025 were approved as a true record.

94/2025 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2025.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 15th May 2025 were approved as a true record.

95/2025 **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) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £20,000.00. The first instalment of the 2025/26 Community Council Precept.

(3) **EXPENDITURE**

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
 - (i) Payroll – Month 02.
 - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £28.69

- (b) Members approved the following expenditure:
 - (i) Information Commissioner – £52.00. Data protection fee.
 - (ii) ZAC Décor, Caerphilly - £88.95 – Paint and equipment for Dram and Wheel, Abertridwr (Reimbursement to the Clerk).

(4) APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillors C. Bishop and R. Gater declared an interest in the application from SYDIC and took no part in the discussions on this item.

Councillor R. Gater declared an interest in the application from YMCA Aber Valley and took no part in the discussions on this item.

- (a) Members considered the following applications for financial assistance and resolved as follows:
 - (i) SYDIC - £5,000.
 - (ii) YMCA Aber Valley - £5,000.

(5) A.O.B

(a) Audit 2024/25

- (i) Members received the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025 and completed the Annual Governance Statement.
- (ii) Members of Aber Valley Community Council approved the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2025 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) Defibrillator Pads/Batteries.

Members agreed for the Clerk to order spare pads and batteries for the defibrillators when required.

(6). PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

96/2025 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

Nothing to report from the Chair.

97/2025 **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members were informed that the work at the Dram and Wheel, including the installation of the steel plate had now been completed and looked great. The Community Council had noted their thanks to all the local people that had volunteered.

A Member had visited the 'hardstanding area' opposite the Panteg Pub, with a CCBC Officer and had discussed funding for a feasibility study for a community garden. Members agreed to proceed with this and would confirm to CCBC.

Discussion regarding a recent grant application for Senghenydd Community Centre for solar panels, which was assisted by a representative who attended from Manchester. Community Council noted that if the application were successful, this could encourage other local groups to apply.

It was noted that the trees had been replaced by CCBC at the Windsor Memorial. Members agreed to consider memorial plaques in this area in the future for local people and would seek sponsorship.

98/2025 **EVENTS 2025**

Summer Event – to be held on the Green, Abertridwr on Saturday 23rd August. Owners of the site had been notified. Discussion followed regarding stalls, bands, stage hire, refreshments, the use of the YMCA building (including stage) and inflatable assault course. A Member to contact CCBC. Members noted that 'Jakes Day' would also be incorporated into this event. The Community Council agreed to fund up to £4,000 for this event, and for the Clerk to seek any sponsorship for the event from Bute Energy, United Welsh, Stagecoach, and Caerphilly Garden Centre.

99/2025 **ABERTRIDWR TOILETS**

Members were advised of a planned meeting at the site with a CCBC Officer on 16th June. Members agreed that based on the outcome of the meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair to have delegated powers, to approve the payment of the outstanding invoice if applicable. Members had previously agreed the re-opening of the toilets from the school summer holidays, if possible, and the toilets would be re-opened on a 'one strike rule' basis. Prior to opening, a letter would be sent to all local schools to advise.

100/2025 **ABERTRIDWR LIBRARY**

Members had held a public meeting to determine if there was any local interest in a Community Asset Transfer. Members had invited anyone interested to be added to a list, which would be confirmed at a meeting due to be held with CCBC at the end of June.

Members also requested that the Abertridwr Library/ Office be added to the agenda for the next meeting, and for the Clerk to check the current rental agreement with CCBC.

101/2025 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES (AGM)

To be deferred to the September meeting of Community Council.

102/2025 LLAMAU – FAMILY MEDIATION

Members discussed the information provided by Llamau offering this service and agreed for the Clerk to invite them to the September meeting.

103/2025 ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOGO COMPETITION

Members discussed and agreed for the Clerk to check the agreed items from previous meetings with regards to rules and prize money, and the Chair agreed to complete the poster to advertise the competition. It was agreed that the submission deadline for entries would be the end of September, and the winner to be chosen at the October meeting of Community Council.

104/2025 REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS OF CAERPHILLY

Members discussed the information received from Electoral Services (CCBC) and noted there were no changes to the electoral arrangements for the Aber Valley.

105/2025 ABER VALLEY DIRECTORY

Members discussed the various emails and information received by the Community Council that would benefit the community, if included on social media, and would consider the Aber Valley Directory in the future.

106/2025 STAGECOACH

This item was dealt with under Public Matters.

107/2025 MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

Trees needed cutting on the Square, Abertridwr, and Plas Cwm Parc (trees hanging over Station Terrace, Senghenydd) – Clerk to contact CCBC Tree Surgeon.

Committee members needed for Abertridwr Community Centre – suggestions for anyone interested in assisting or joining the Committee. Residents/ stall holders for Summer Event and possible ‘open day’ at the Community Centre on a Saturday morning to encourage new Committee members.

Car Park at Senghenydd Square – rubbish bags and blocked drain in the corner of the area, and tree roots potentially causing issues. Clerk to report to Highways CCBC and contact name to be provided.

Path leading down to the brook behind Bridgefield Street, Abertridwr needs cutting back – Clerk to contact CCBC.

Double yellow lines had been installed at Graig y Fedw, Abertridwr in front of 2 houses, to try and stop accidents.

Senghenydd residents were requesting an electric vehicle point. CCBC would consider this when it was next scheduled. Members noted that one had been installed at Lower Francis Street, Abertridwr.

Successful launch event of Tatws Sion Cent on 8th June. Schools involved have been made aware that one of the poems includes a swear word, and one of the schools has declined to receive this version of the book. Members discussed possible re wording and extra printing costs. Agreed to add to next meeting agenda to discuss donation towards printing costs. Noted that Community Councillor David Chamberlain and Councillor John Roberts had poems in the book.

Ifor Bach book launch in the Nazareth on Saturday 5th July – 12.30 to 3.00 pm.

Walls at St Annes Gardens, Abertridwr – residents have to walk on the highway to get around safely. Clerk to contact CCBC for an update and confirm if monitoring is still ongoing.

Members discussed the containers at the Splash Park and artwork that could be put in this area.

Members agreed for United Welsh to be invited to a future meeting. Clerk to be provided with information and contact details.

108/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 10th July 2025.**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council