
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2025

PRESENT:

Chairperson: M. Bedir

Councillors: D. Berry, C. Bishop, D. Chamberlain, D. Daniels,
J. Roberts, M. Stretch, and J. Taylor.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

126/2025 The Community Council stood for a minutes' silence as a mark of respect to Dr Hefin David, Member of the Senedd for Caerphilly, following his recent passing.

127/2025 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Bishop, R. Gater, and E.P Prendergast, and Youth Ambassador R. Mantle.

128/2025 **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.

A declaration of interest was made during the course of the meeting and is minuted under the relevant item.

129/2025 **PUBLIC MATTERS**

A local resident Mr Wells attended the meeting to discuss three issues that he had raised since March 2023, which he believed had not been resolved or followed up.

Green waste bags – originally given to residents free of charge, now a payment is required. Originally no limit on the number of bags which has now reduced to 4. Now not being collected which has resulted in residents having to take their own bags to the tip.

Condition of roads and repairs – reference was made to a recent article in the local press regarding the issues with the roads and pavements and the damage being caused by utility companies digging up the roads and pavements when they install cables/pipes etc. They then repair the roads/pavements of a substandard

fashion which tends to end up with the Council renewing/repairing them earlier at the expense of the taxpayers. This has come about due to the standard of repair lowering the normal lifespan of the roads/pavements. Members were advised that it costs the electorate millions in additional repairs and early reinstatement of the roads/pavements and informed that the 'Utility' companies who make large profits, have caused this expense, which is not acceptable, and they should be held accountable.

Members explained that this issue was being dealt with and that the press article was a result of Mr Wells' original complaint. Discussion followed on the legislation that covers the repairs, the costs of inspections by CCBC and ongoing enquiries.

The walls at St. Annes Gardens, Abertridwr – Members discussed the legal challenge and noted that the walls are being checked, and one of the residents has taken on the role of repairing the walls. Members noted the walls needed more frequent monitoring through the winter months and discussed issues with restricted access to the pavements. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC to chase up the works to be done, request details on the current monitoring and noting the health and safety issues and concerns over the current state of the walls, and to request an independent report. Discussion followed regarding ownership of the walls and noted CCBC have maintained that they belong to the residents.

Members thanked Mr Wells for his attendance and noted they would be in touch regarding the issues discussed.

130/2025 POLICE MATTERS

Gwent Police were unable to attend the meeting and had provided the following information to the Community Council:

Recorded Crime

In Coronation Terrace there was a report of a male trying to get into his ex-girlfriend's house. Police attended and victim declined to prosecute, and safeguarding was put in place for the victim per the Domestic abuse protocol.

Theft of a bike in the Bryn Aber area. Suspect is known to Police and PCSO's. Police attended and suspect had left prior to Police Arrival. The local neighborhood team were made aware. Aggrieved had later received the bike back and declined to make a formal complaint and only wanted incident logged with Police. The suspect also had thrown stones at her window, but no damage was caused and did not wish to pursue a formal complaint.

Reported Damage to the Splash Park in Senghenydd. PCSO has done CCTV enquiries, however there is none currently. Further patrols were conducted in the Splash Park for reassurance. Nothing stolen has been reported.

Attempted theft of a car in the Square, Abertridwr from youths. Unit attended however youths had left prior to Police arrival. Full area search conducted, however negative. Youths were unknown to victim.

Recorded ASB (Nuisance)

Reports of youths posting dead fish through someone's letter box in the street of the SYDIC. PCSO managed to identify three youths involved and issued two of them asb letters and spoke with parents. This incident took place back at the end of July. Asb letters issued in August.

Report of youths playing knock and run in the Abertridwr area and being aggressive to residents. The main offender is well known to Police and the community. PCSO attendance to reassure community and address youth involved.

Reports of ongoing issues in the Bryn Aber area- ongoing neighborhood dispute- PCSO and CADRO aware for action planning.

Protest in the Abertridwr Library regarding the closure- protesters refusing to leave the library- Police attended to ensure protest remained peaceful.

Targeted Activity

The Old Bingo Hall is being patrolled for reports of fires continuously- Side gate is open and not secure- security company made aware.

Ongoing parking issues continue- this will be looked at closer moving forward. PCSO will continue further foot patrols in area and speak to local businesses and residents in the area moving forward.

PCSO will try to arrange the GO- SAFE van in future to raise awareness with speeding offences and take positive action.

Gaming van to be placed in the near future to reduce asb.

Continued Police surgeries to be arranged in the area.

Community Engagement

Further engagements to be arranged once PCSO is independent patrol status.

Go Safe van to be arranged for traffic offence awareness and education.

More Police surgeries to be arranged with Councillors in Aber Valley area.

More engagement with schools to be arranged.

PCSOS attended summer fun day on the 23rd of August.

Members noted the following:

Thanked the Police for their attendance at the summer event on 23rd August.

Gwent Police 'gaming bus' is to be booked for Abertridwr, Senghenydd and Bryn Aber, Abertridwr.

131/2025 YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The Youth Ambassador was not in attendance at the meeting. Members noted the possibility of having 2 Youth Ambassadors and agreed for the Clerk to check what was previously agreed and add to the next meeting agenda.

132/2025 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MEETING HELD ON 10TH JULY 2025.

The minutes of the Applications for Financial Assistance meeting held on 10th July 2025 were approved as a true record.

133/2025 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH JULY 2025.

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

134/2025 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) Members noted the following expenditure:
 - (i) Payroll – Month 04.
 - (ii) Payroll – Month 05.
 - (iii) Payroll – NI Contribution 2024/25 (months 10 to 12) - £248.38.
 - (iv) Payroll – NI Contribution 2025/26 (months 1 to 3) £188.58 (reimbursement to the Clerk)
 - (v) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £28.69

- (vi) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £28.69
 - (vii) A1 Jump and Bounce Ltd (Deposit for Inflatables at Summer Event) - £200.
 - (viii) SSE Southern Electric – Christmas Lighting for 2024 Christmas period - £113.99.
 - (ix) CCBC – Maintenance/Repairs - £870.20 (reimbursement to the Clerk).
 - (x) YMCA Aber Valley – Summer Event 2025 - £500.
 - (xi) Charlotte Bishop – Summer Event 2025 - £90.71 (reimbursement)
 - (xii) A1 Jump and Bounce Ltd (Balance for Inflatables at Summer Event) - £800.
 - (xiii) Post Office Ltd – 2nd class stamps x 48 - £41.76 (reimbursement to the Clerk).
 - (xiv) Cookies Disco Services – (DJ at Summer Event) - £200. (reimbursement to the Clerk).
 - (xv) Morgana Chamberlain – (Facepainting at Summer Event) - £120.
- (b) Members approved the following expenditure:
- (i) Everson Sports & Trophies – Award Plaques and Engraving x 6 - £240. (reimbursement to the Clerk).

(4) APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- (a) Members considered the following application for financial assistance and resolved as follows. Members agreed for this to be taken from another budget area other than Grants if required, and for the Clerk to invite them to the Presentation evening:
- (i) Senghenydd RFC - £1500.

(5) CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Zurich Municipal – Insurance Policy Renewal 2025/26

Members received and considered the renewal quote from Zurich Municipal for the Community Councils' Insurance as the policy was due for renewal on 30th September 2025. Members considered the renewal premium of £827.26 and agreed for the Clerk to proceed with the renewal process.

(b) Elsbury Access Platforms – Christmas Lighting – 2025 Festive Period

Members received and considered a quote from Elsbury Access Platforms for the installation, removal, and storage of the Christmas lighting for the 2025

festive period. Members agreed for the Clerk to confirm acceptance of the quote, and to also confirm the date of Friday 5th December as the requested 'switch on' date for the lights.

Members also noted that CCBC had confirmed that we are unable to have Christmas trees on Abertridwr and Senghenydd Squares due to issues with power supply, but they are happy to look at Senghenydd Square to check if there is any other option available. Clerk to forward request for further information to Members.

(6) A.O.B

(a) Flowers on the Senghenydd Cenotaph.

Members agreed for this to be deferred to the next meeting as the quote had not yet been received from CCBC.

(b) Universal Colliery Memorial Service.

Members discussed the Memorial Service and agreed for a donation of £60 to be arranged by the Clerk. The Chair had confirmed that he would also provide a donation.

(7) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- (a)** Case Ref. 25/0467/FULL Site Area: 1120m²
Location: The Leigh Commercial Street Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4GZ
Proposal: Erect first floor side extension to create two additional en-suite bedrooms.
- (b)** Case Ref. 25/0478/CLPU Site Area: 301m²
Location: 11 Sunny Bank Graigwen Crescent Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4BP
Proposal: Obtain a Lawful Development Certificate for single storey rear extension.
- (c)** Case Ref. 25/0495/COU Site Area: 268m²
Location: R A O B Social Club The Square Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4DH
Proposal: Change of Use for old substation to Beauty Salon (Sui Generis)

Community Councillor M. Stretch declared an interest in the next item and took no part in the discussion on this item.

- (d)** TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
Change the use from residential dwelling to a HMO C4 (maximum 5 persons)
Location: 187 Caerphilly Road Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4FT

Members discussed the planning application for 187 Caerphilly Road, Senghenydd and agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC Planning and note

the restrictions on the grounds for refusal for change of use to HMO's, and to express the Community Councils' concerns and reservations on the negative impact on neighbouring properties in the area and the extra pressure that will be created on an already crowded main road.

135/2025 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

Nothing to report from the Chair.

136/2025 THE GREEN PLAN

Members discussed the recent litter pick in Abertridwr and noted a good result with the least amount of litter for a while. Members agreed to meet on 5th October to discuss items for the Green Plan.

137/2025 EVENTS 2025

Summer Event – Members noted the successful event held on the Green, Abertridwr on Saturday 23rd August. £237.00 had been made from the event, together with a donation from Matthew Crook. Members agreed for the Clerk to send a thank you letter. Any items 'left over' from the event would be used at the Bonfire Night event in November.

Bonfire Night/ Fireworks Display – Following the 2024 event, Members had already agreed to hold the event again for 2025 and agreed for Community Councillor R. Gater to obtain a quote for the 2025 event. Members agreed that the event would be held at Senghenydd RFC on Wednesday 5th November, start time to be confirmed. It was also noted that Senghenydd RFC had agreed to cover the litter picking on the rugby grounds after the event and would also collect the vendors donations at the event.

138/2025 COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION EVENING

Members confirmed the details for the presentation evening to be held on 18th September 2025 at the Aber Hotel, Abertridwr and were also advised that thirty-six people had confirmed their attendance, award plaques had been ordered and collected, and the programme for the event was agreed.

Members also noted that a trophy from 'Jakes Day' at the Summer Event could be considered and awarded, going forward, to someone in the Aber Valley.

139/2025 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES (AGM)

Members discussed these appointments and agreed for them to remain unchanged following AGM.

140/2025 ABERTRIDWR LIBRARY/ COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICE

Members discussed the notice from CCBC to vacate the office in the library by 31st October 2025.

Members noted the Register of Interest that had been submitted and the ongoing Judicial Review. Members were informed of an email from CCBC noting that the library would remain open for the foreseeable future whilst the legal process continued. CCBC had requested confirmation as to whether the Community Council wished to continue hiring the room, based on new terms. Members discussed and agreed for the Clerk to confirm the hire of the room going forward, depending on the new terms.

141/2025 ABERTRIDWR TOILETS

Members noted that there were no issues to report. The toilets were now closed following the school holidays, as previously agreed with CCBC.

142/2025 CAR PARK AT SENGHENYDD SQUARE

Members noted CCBC work ongoing.

143/02025 CLEANER AND GREENER COMMUNITY CLEANSING

Members noted the request for information by CCBC regarding areas of Aber Valley that needed attention. Members discussed and agreed for any items to be forwarded to the Clerk for a list to be compiled and submitted by the 15th of September deadline.

144/2025 LLAMAU REPRESENTATIVES (FAMILY MEDIATION)

Members were informed that representatives from Llamau had been unable to attend the meeting and agreed for the Clerk to invite them to the next meeting in October.

145/2025 MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

Proposed holding Volunteer Fayres early in the new year 2026 at Abertridwr and Senghenydd Community Centres. Community Council could produce information leaflets that would advertise the events and deliver to households in the Aber Valley to encourage anyone who wished to volunteer in the community. Agreed for this item to be added to the next meeting agenda in October.

Improvements needed at the Nant y Parc memorial site. Proposed to be included in the Green Plan.

Ongoing roadworks on Nantgarw Road causing issues, and college students arriving very late in the mornings. Agreed for Clerk to contact CCBC Highways for an update.

Undercurrents had now finished, and Y Bolen Werth had started up with adult arts and crafts.

CCBC had tidied up the Cenotaph at Senghenydd. Members noted that the Cenotaph and Abertridwr Square area needed to be looked at next year.

Dog bins in Senghenydd not being emptied for a month. CCBC had been contacted. Clerk to chase up with CCBC and request more frequent collections.

Possibility of having beehives in the Aber Valley and honey being sold in the local area. Agreed for this item to be added to the November meeting agenda and invite representative to attend. Community Councillor M. Stretch to provide contact details to the Clerk.

Thanks, noted to Councillor Charlotte Bishop for all her work undertaken for the summer event.

Volunteers needed for the Bute Energy Fundraising Committee. Agreed for the Clerk to add to the meeting agenda for October.

146/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 9th October 2025.**

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council