

ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2025

PRESENT:

Chairperson: M. Bedir

Councillors: D. Berry, C. Bishop, D. Bishop, D. Chamberlain (Vice Chair), E.P Prendergast, J. Roberts, M. Stretch, and J. Taylor.

Youth Ambassador: R. Mantle

Clerk: J. Lloyd

182/2025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Daniels.

183/2025 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.

184/2025 PUBLIC MATTERS

J. McLaren attended the meeting as Secretary of Aber Valley Minis and Juniors and Senghenydd Cricket Club. He thanked the Community Council for the Fireworks Display and noted the positive impact of the event, which reduced ASB and the purchase of fireworks in the area by individuals. The Community Council also thanked Mr McLaren for his work and contribution towards the event.

Discussion followed regarding the event and Mr McLaren noted his availability to the organisers to allow them access to the site and use of facilities. It was confirmed that the fireworks were sited in a different part of the area this year, which had resulted in them being closer to spectators than the previous year. Members agreed that future events would have a consultation with the company and the Community Council, together with J. McLaren, prior to the event, to confirm all agreed arrangements and specific siting of fireworks display, including a site visit.

Mr McLaren then discussed the recent flooding in the Aber Valley and noted the flooding on Abertridwr Square. It was noted that the blocked pipes needed cleaning which would resolve the issue of flooding in this area. Discussion

followed regarding storm warnings and possible arrangements with volunteers to check the 'bottlenecks' where the culverts were. It was proposed that any blockages would be cleared prior to the storms/ severe weather, and action taken when flooding occurred, if CCBC were unavailable. Cllr. C. Bishop confirmed that she had requested CCBC to check these areas on the receipt of the storm warnings and not after the storm/ severe weather had arrived.

Discussion followed regarding a possible team of volunteers who would check the problem areas prior to severe weather. It was noted that 'Weather Watch' was still ongoing with CCBC where 'problem' culverts were checked prior to severe weather. It was agreed for this item to be discussed under the Green Plan going forward, and consultation with local residents in the problem areas.

It was agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC regarding the list of culverts and blocked drains, and to confirm what residents could do in these areas, and what would be acceptable to CCBC.

Members also discussed ongoing issues with dog fouling on the cricket pitch in Senghenydd and it was agreed for Cllr. C. Bishop and the Clerk to contact CCBC to clarify the Public Spaces Protection Order currently being reviewed.

185/2025 POLICE MATTERS

Gwent Police attended the meeting and provided the following information to the Community Council, which covered December 2025:

Incidents to note

Aberfawr Terrace – Young females walking past an address whilst male occupant was pairing CCTV Camera to his mobile phone. Females have returned home and reported to their parents who have attended the address and accused the occupant of being a paedophile whilst threatening violence.

Windsor Place – Report of 2 x Males wearing Balaclavas attempting to enter a residential property. Negative area search conducted and no persons located. Neighbourhood Alert message sent out to residents.

Abertridwr Square – Report of a Robbery whereby Male victim assaulted to steal his vehicle. Vehicle stolen was then involved in a Road Traffic Collision in the vicinity.

Bryn Aber – Domestic incident reported between ex partners resulting in a broken window. United Welsh were tasked to repair window.

Targeted Activity

Patrols being conducted around the old Bingo Hall following reports of fires being set in the area. Side gate located open and insecure. Security Providers made aware.

Ongoing parking issues – Parking Wardens made aware and further patrols requested specifically around School drop off/pick up times.

Foot Patrol by PC 1700 Yuille and CO525 Soo continuing to build rapport with residents and deter offending specifically targeting areas affected by recent vehicle break ins.

Community Engagement

Gaming Van to be deployed at future events with the aim to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.

Continued Police Surgeries to be conducted at the Library and The Oasis.

School Visits being conducted – Focus recently has been Knife Crime related education linked to Operation Sceptre.

Continued push to engage residents with the Neighbourhood Alert Scheme.

Christmas Fete attended by Community Support Officers.

Members had no further comments on Police matters and thanked the Police for their attendance at recent events.

186/2025 YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The Youth Ambassador attended the meeting and noted their recent visits to youth groups in the area and their continued volunteer work.

187/2025 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH NOVEMBER 2025.

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 13th November 2025 were approved as a true record.

188/2025 CO-OPTION – ABERTRIDWR WARD

Members discussed the Expressions of Interest received from residents within the Aber Valley, and agreed by a majority vote, to co-opt Dean Wood for the vacancy.

It was agreed for the Clerk to confirm the decision to all parties and to note thanks for their work undertaken and continued work in the Aber Valley. Clerk to invite Dean Wood to attend the next Community Council meeting on 8th January 2026.

(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) Returned cheques from R. Gater - £256.00

Donations received towards Fireworks event:

(ii) A.J Property Services - £150.00
(iii) R. Hawkins -£50.00
(iv) Lockrite Newport - £150.00
(v) Hughes Installation - £150.00
(vi) C. Lloyd - £100.00
(vii) TASSC Ltd SW FMQ The Aber Hotel - £250.00
(viii) C. Davies Property - £100.00
(ix) Reid D - £100.00

(3) EXPENDITURE

(a) Members noted the following expenditure:

(i) Payroll – Month 08.
(ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £28.69.

(b) Members approved the following expenditure:

(i) Town and Community Council Liaison Committee (TCCLC) - £100 (subscription/administration charges).
(ii) Eversons Sports and Trophies (updates to award boards) - £20.00 (reimbursement to the Clerk).
(iii) Children's chocolate selection boxes for Christmas event on 5th December 2025 - £499.50 (reimbursement to the Clerk following donation confirmed to be received from Bute Energy).
(iv) Elsbury Access Platforms – £1,416.72. For the installation, de-installation, and storage of the Christmas lighting.

(4). APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

(i) Llamau - £500.

(5). PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

(a) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Erect detached dwelling and associated access road and parking area Plot 6 Bluebell Close Abertridwr Caerphilly GRID REFERENCE - 312302(E) 188899(N)

Members discussed the planning application and agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC Planning to note Community Councils' concerns regarding the access road and to request any further information, including the green wedge boundary.

190/2025 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

The Chair had attended the Christmas Fayre in Abertridwr Community Centre.

191/2025 THE GREEN PLAN

Members noted that fruit trees were available from Woodland Trust. Discussion followed regarding possible areas for community orchards and preparation of the land prior to planting. Members also discussed the involvement of local school children in the planting and noted this for further discussion in the next Green Plan meeting.

192/2025 EVENTS 2025/26

Christmas Fete - Bute Energy had confirmed that a donation of £500 would be given for the selection boxes for the event. Events were held in the Abertridwr Community Centre and the Dwell Café. Bad weather over the weekend had resulted in quiet events with low attendance. Chocolates/selection boxes remaining were given out throughout the Aber Valley including the Leigh, the Windsor, Aber Mill, Abertridwr Thursday Club, Senghenydd Thursday Club, and local businesses in Senghenydd and Abertridwr.

Easter event 2026 – Discussion regarding holding the event in Senghenydd at the same time as Play in the Park. Cllr. J. Roberts to confirm with CCBC.

193/2025 CCBC CLEANER AND GREENER SCHEDULE (JANUARY TO MARCH 2026)

Members noted the request from CCBC regarding preferences for the next cleansing schedule due to take place between January to March 2026. Members discussed and agreed for the Clerk to respond to CCBC and confirm their preference for a later start in the schedule, possibly February/March when more items would need attention, such as grass cutting. Items to be included that need attention were street signs, drains, lanes, bus shelters, grass cutting, fly tipping and dog bins.

194/2025 VOLUNTEER FAYRE

Members discussed the events and Cllr J. Taylor agreed to produce leaflets for the next Community Council meeting in January with dates and venues to be confirmed. It was proposed to hold an event both in Abertridwr and Senghenydd.

195/2025 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2026/27

Members discussed and considered the draft budget for 2026/27 including the information received from CCBC regarding a possible increase to the precept. Members approved the budget proposals including an increase of £10,000 to the future precept, to be included in the budget for Special Projects.

196/2025 MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

Local Vape Shop – Trading Standards to be contacted regarding possible underage sales and tobacco sales from behind the counter.

Christmas Lighting on lampposts in Senghenydd – CCBC currently using electricity supply and lights not connected. Cllr. C. Bishop to contact CCBC.

20mph speed signs in the area – CCBC had removed Signs, but it was noted that the Community Council had paid for 2 of the signs and these should be returned. Cllr. C. Bishop to contact CCBC.

Local business 'Attwoods' closing at Christmas – Agreed for the Clerk to send a letter of thanks from the Community Council. Name and address details to be provided to the Clerk.

A sinkhole between Hendre and Windsor Place had been reported to CCBC and was being investigated today.

Christmas bin collections – plans to be circulated.

Dog bins in the area that were overflowing and needed to be emptied – Cllr. C. Bishop to contact CCBC.

Loose cardboard to be collected – Cllr. C. Bishop to confirm with CCBC.

197/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th January 2026**.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council