

# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

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### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

#### **PRESENT:**

Chairperson: M. Bedir

Councillors: D. Berry, C. Bishop, D. Bishop, D. Chamberlain (Vice Chair), D. Daniels, J. Roberts, J. Taylor, and D. Wood.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

At the start of the meeting, the Chair welcomed the new Community Councillor Dean Wood.

#### **198/2025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E.P Prendergast, and M. Stretch.

#### **199/2025 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.

#### **200/2025 PUBLIC MATTERS**

There were no public matters.

#### **201/2025 POLICE MATTERS**

Gwent Police were unable to attend the meeting and had provided the following information to the Community Council for January 2026:

##### Incidents to note

- **Road from Tesco Penyrheol roundabout towards Abertridwr**– Report of a three-car collision causing cars to go into the laybys- the suspected cause was suspect speeding. Officers attended to close off the roads and cars been recovered. No suspects at scene or any injuries disclosed at scene.

- **High Street, Senghenydd** – Report of a group of men around the front and the back of a property trying to get in. This has been an ongoing issue where persons have threatened to petrol bomb a house. Numerous different response/ specialised units attended. Investigation still currently ongoing.
- **Cae Bryn-Abertridwr** – Report of a stolen car which was taken from outside the home address. Observations passed out to nearby units/ traffic officers to keep an eye out for the car. Car was recovered with false plates on the front and sent to CSI for further forensic examination.
- **Bryn Aber** – Report of 2 x Teenagers throwing items at their living room door and one of the youths was shouting abusive language and using a tennis racket to hit front door. This was seen from a live feed from their ring doorbell app and residents were not home during this time. No damage reported- patrols from PCSOs continued in the Bryn Aber area.

#### 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.
- Reports of Fox Hunting in the Lanes behind Ysgol Ifor Bach Primary School- patrols conducted throughout- negative sightings of hunting so far.

#### Community Engagement

- Gaming Van to be deployed at future events with the aim to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour- This will now be subject to weather conditions.
- 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- Cwmaber Junior School left to speak too.
- 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.**

**202/2025 YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

The Youth Ambassador was unable to attend the meeting.

**203/2025 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were approved as a true record.

**204/2025 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:

Donations received towards Fireworks event:

- (i) J. Crowley - £50.00
- (ii) Green Property - £50.00
- (iii) Chris Jones - £20.00
- (iv) CGI Windows Doors - £200.00
- (v) P. Evans - £10.00
- (vi) Kathryn Gunter - £10.00
- (vii) Ziezia Sampson - £20.00
- (viii) Big Bs Bakes - £100.00
- (ix) Cash (Bucket Collection) - £963.00
- (x) Senghenydd RFC - £400.00

For information, the Clerk confirmed the total amount received from this years' Fireworks event was £2,873.00.

**(3) EXPENDITURE**

(a) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Payroll – Month 09.
- (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £28.69.

**(4) A.O.B**

**(a) Christmas Lighting – Electricity Contribution**

Members agreed to pay a donation of £50 each to Cavanna's on Senghenydd Square, and to Senghenydd Community Centre, as the Christmas lighting attached to their premises was connected to their electricity supply.

**(b) Internal Auditor 2025/26**

Members agreed the appointment of Mr Terry Williams to undertake the internal audit for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

**(c) Precept 2026/27**

Members received and considered a report on the precept estimates for 2026/27 which included:

- Budget 2025/26
- Expenditure up to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Estimated Expenditure from 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026
- Financial Statement 2025/26
- Bank Reconciliation – January 2026
- Proposed Budget for 2026/27
- Precept Recommendations for 2026/27

Members were informed that Caerphilly County Borough Council had given notice that the council tax base for the Aber Valley is 2,038.67 Band D equivalent dwellings. The Community Council was required to submit the Precept figure for 2026/27 by 31st January 2026, in order to expedite the setting of next year's Council Tax.

Members were advised that the Affiliations/meetings budget was reduced by £1,000 and the Events budget was increased by £1,000.

Members were advised that the Salary budget was increased to £11,300 to cover annual salary increase and the Employers NI contribution applicable.

Members were advised that the Christmas lighting budget was reduced by £1,300 and Events budget further increased by £1,300.

Members were advised that the Events budget would then go towards Summer/Christmas and fireworks display events. The donations received for the fireworks display and cash collection at the event to be included in Earmarked Reserves for the following years event.

Members were advised that the Special Projects budget was to be increased by £10,000 subject to the increase in precept. Members also considered carrying over any unspent monies from the 2025/26 Special Projects budget.

Members discussed an increase by £10,000 to the precept and the information received from CCBC, and noted that this was in relation to Band D properties, whilst it was understood that the majority of properties in the Aber Valley were in Bands A to B.

Members approved the annual estimates for 2025/26 and confirmed the Precept amount of £50,000, giving a Band D equivalent property paying £24.53. Members agreed for the Clerk to confirm this to CCBC and to request confirmation of when the precept was last increased for Aber Valley Community Council.

(d) Welsh Government: Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2026-27

Members were advised that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2026-27 was £11.60.

**(5) PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None.

The Clerk informed Members that no financial assistance applications had been received that would usually be considered in January. Members agreed that if any applications were received in the next few weeks, they could be considered in the next meeting in February.

**205/2025 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT**

The Chair had nothing to report.

**206/2025 THE GREEN PLAN**

Members had not met over the Christmas period and agreed to meet on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00 pm. Noted all Members welcome to join them.

Members discussed the ongoing issue with rubbish at Cross Street, William Street, and High Street. CCBC had been on site yesterday regarding the rubbish left there and investigations were ongoing.

Ongoing issues with Caerphilly Road, Senghenydd – CCBC were getting contractors to re-do the road in January which would alleviate the problems with flooding.

Litter picking days had been planned for 27<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Members noted that items for CCBC Cleansing due to start next month, were to be sent to the Clerk to submit a list to CCBC.

## **207/2025 EVENTS 2026**

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

Members discussed and agreed for the Fireworks event to be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2026. Councillor C. Bishop to confirm with Senghenydd RFC and then Clerk to confirm the date with the Fireworks company/event organiser.

Christmas lighting – Members discussed an earlier switch on date this year, to deal with any installation issues prior to the Christmas event.

## **208/2025 VOLUNTEER FAYRES**

Councillor J. Taylor had produced a flyer/leaflet to promote the events and had a quote for £275.00 for printing costs. Members agreed the quote and for Councillor J. Taylor to contact Abertridwr and Senghenydd Community Centres to confirm dates towards the end of March and premises hire costs.

## **209/2025 ABERTRIDWR PARK TOILETS 2026**

Members discussed possible opening times for this year and agreed that notifications would be put on social media regarding vandalism and cost of repairs, etc when opening times/dates confirmed. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC and get quotes for the following periods:

- School holidays and Bank holidays.
- April to September weekends, and school holidays and Bank holidays.
- April to September every day including weekends.

## **210/2025 MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

Councillor C. Bishop - All items from the last meeting were being dealt with or followed up.

Councillor J. Roberts – Tatws Sion Cent would be requesting new items for the area for the next booklet.

Councillor J. Roberts – Query ongoing with premises on Caerphilly Road, Senghenydd being up for sale.

Councillor D. Daniels – Noted ‘thank you’ to Attwoods on social media.

**21/1/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Chairperson**

**Aber Valley Community Council**