
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2026

PRESENT:

Chairperson: M. Bedir

Councillors: D. Berry, C. Bishop, D. Bishop, D. Chamberlain (Vice Chair), D. Daniels, E.P Prendergast, 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 in person, as the previous meeting had been held online.

212/2026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Stretch.

213/2026 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.

214/2026 PUBLIC MATTERS

Rachel Walker from Therapaws Wellbeing Hub attended the meeting and spoke to the Community Council about wellbeing sessions with animals that were being held at schools and care homes. They were looking into the use of premises in the local area to hold more sessions and were launching a project with schools.

Discussion followed regarding the size of the premises required for small groups, possibly with a private room for grief coaching. Members suggested that room hire was available at some of the local schools, community centres, YMCA, and possibly the use of the Senghenydd pavilion and Abertridwr library. Members also suggested contacting Parent Network, Caerphilly First, and CCBC Kelly Gulliford (Youth Offending Service).

The Chair thanked Rachel for her attendance, and it was agreed for the Clerk to collate a contact list and forward on to Rachel for her information.

Eluned Lewis from Bute Energy attended the meeting and spoke to the Community Council and provided information about the Community Liaison group and community energy projects.

Discussion followed regarding opportunities for sites in the local area that could benefit from community energy projects.

A Member noted the water issue at Station Terrace and Senghenydd Community Centre and the recreation area and proposed that Bute could consider this area regarding flooding issues.

The Chair thanked Eluned for her attendance.

215/2026 POLICE MATTERS

Gwent Police/ PCSOs attended the meeting and provided the following information to the Community Council for February 2026:

Incidents to note

- Tristan Kerr Incident- Police/ PCSOs continue to maintain a high visible presence in the area for community presence/ reassurance. Extra Police Surgeries being held in relation to this.
- Male being a nuisance at Ilan Road Barber shop, bothering customers and refusing to leave/ making strange noises and believe he was under the influence of drugs. No complaint made and male has left with the ambulance.
- BT call back heard from a female crying saying I need help, then a male came to the phone and said 'HELLO.' Officers attended on an emergency grading to assist. One arrest made for the male in relation to this domestic.
- Female in the Tan Y Bryn area smashing windows who is known to be suicidal. Female was assisted by officers and the mental health team who managed to calm her down and ensure her safety.

Targeted Activity

- Continued patrols being conducted around the old Bingo Hall following reports of fires being set in the area. Side gate now made secure.
- Ongoing parking issues – Parking Wardens made aware and further patrols requested specifically around School drop off/pick up times.
- Foot Patrol by PC 1700/PC1859 WORMERSLY Yuille and CO525 Soo continuing to build rapport with residents and deter offending specifically targeting areas affected by recent vehicle break ins.

- Extra school patrols conducted after school to maintain presence for reassurance.
- PCSO 525 will continue to issue further Section 59 warnings/ seizures in relation to offroad bikes/ e-scooters.

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 & The Oasis to provide reassurance in the wake of recent tragic events.
- School Visits being conducted – Focus recently has been Offroad bikes/ e-scooters- all schools spoken too.
- Nant Y Parc Primary spoken to about Cyber-crime to year 6- other schools to be arranged with Cyber Crime too.
- Continued push to engage residents with the Neighbourhood Alert Scheme.

Members noted the following with the Police:

Cars stolen in the Senghenydd area – all reported to Police. Noted that better street lighting in the area would reduce the crime levels.

Members discussed the recent tragic incident and suggested some evening surgeries for residents to be able to attend. Possible venues suggested were the Aber Hotel (room available without a bar) and the community centres in Abertridwr and Senghenydd. Agreed for the Clerk to pass on contact details to the Police. Members also discussed amnesty boxes for knives at Bedwas and Blackwood Police Stations and proposed the purchase of a Bleed Pack to be available in the area. To be added to the agenda for the next meeting in March. Self-defence classes were also discussed.

Discussion followed on Police and PCSO powers to 'stop and search' with regards to alcohol, tobacco, and knives.

A Member noted speeding issues in the early mornings on Graig Y Fedw, Abertridwr. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Gwent Police and request a speed camera/van to be in the area.

216/2026 YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The Youth Ambassador was unable to attend the meeting.

217/2026 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2026.

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 8th January 2026 were approved as a true record.

218/2026 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) Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community Council - £500 (Donation towards Fireworks Event)
- (ii) Renishaw PLC (Donation towards Fireworks Event) - £500
- (iii) Bute Energy (Donation for Christmas Event, Chocolate Selection Boxes) - £500

For information, the Clerk confirmed the total amount of income/ donations received from the 2025 Fireworks event was £3,873.00.

(3) EXPENDITURE

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Payroll – Month 10.
- (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £28.69.
- (iii) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £260.00. Room rental at Abertridwr Library.

(4) A.O.B

- (a) Society of Local Council Clerks: Membership Renewal 2026

Members were informed that the Clerk's Membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks was due for renewal on 1st January 2026. The annual subscription fee was noted as £158. However, when the Clerks current salary information was updated, the renewal fee was confirmed as £200.

Members approved the renewal and agreed for the Clerk to proceed with the renewal.

(b) Town and Community Council Liaison Sub Committee Survey

Email received from CCBC requesting completion of survey seeking views from the Community Council representatives. Clerk and Community Council representative to complete surveys.

(5) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- (a) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Erect side single storey extension with dormer loft conversion 54 Coedcae Road Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4EH GRID REFERENCE - 312383(E) 189048(N)

219/2026 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

The Chair, together with Councillor C. Bishop had visited the family of Tristan Kerr following the recent incident.

220/2026 THE GREEN PLAN

Members noted that CCBC Cleaning and Greening work had started in the area, and a list of requested work had been submitted online to CCBC.

Nant Y Parc Primary School – outside area/ Mining Memorial had been cleaned up in December 2025 and Members considered having this painted/ maintained going forward.

Successful grant application from Woodland Trust for 420 trees. Members proposed suggestions for future events with the fruit produced from the trees, including cookery classes.

Members noted the exhibition for Y Bolen Werdd.

221/2026 EVENTS 2026

Easter event 2026 – Details to be confirmed.

Members were informed that the previously agreed date for the Fireworks event to be held on Thursday 5th November 2026, was not available with the Fireworks company. Members agreed that Wednesday 4th November 2026 was the preferred date from those still available. Councillor C. Bishop to confirm with Senghenydd RFC and then Clerk to confirm the date and complete the order form with the Fireworks company/event organiser.

222/2026 PAMPER DAY EVENTS

Members discussed the 'Pamper Day' Events proposed for residents in the area and agreed to donate £500 for an additional event. Clerk to contact organiser to arrange payment.

223/2026 VOLUNTEER FAYRES

Councillor J. Taylor confirmed that the events would be held on 25th March at Abertridwr Community Centre, and 26th March at Senghenydd Community Centre, both to start at 7.00 pm. Leaflets to promote the events had been ordered for £275.00 which had previously been agreed.

Discussion followed regarding the circulation of the leaflets in the community and on social media and Aber Valley Community Council website. Clerk to receive a copy of the flyer via email. Members also discussed local community groups to be informed and invited to attend.

224/2026 ABERTRIDWR PARK TOILETS 2026

Members discussed the quotes received from CCBC for the following periods. Agreed that notifications would be put on social media regarding vandalism and cost of repairs, and possible opening times and quotes. Members agreed to defer consideration to the next meeting in March and for the Clerk to contact CCBC and advise:

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

225/2026 THERAPAWS WELLBEING HUB

Dealt with under Public Matters.

226/2026 BUTE ENERGY

Dealt with under Public Matters.

227/2026 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS

Members noted the letter of support sent to Senghenydd RFC on behalf of Aber Valley Community Council for their CAT application for premises in the local area.

Members also noted the CCBC information evening on 25th February 2026 at Ty Penallta.

228/2026 ABERTRIDWR HEALTH CENTRE

A Member sought clarification on surveyors in the area and if this was regarding the proposed health centre. Members noted that this was in relation to Community Asset Transfers for various premises and not for the Health Centre.

229/2026 MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported on the following matters:

Councillor E. Prendergast – Ongoing queries with the new Health Centre and proposed sites – Members agreed for the Clerk to invite ABUHB representatives to the next meeting in March.

Councillor J. Roberts – Noted the recent passing of local residents Mr Noel Griffiths and Mrs Jean Sellars. Members agreed for the Clerk to send letters of condolence to the families. Contact details to be given to the Clerk.

230/2026 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12th March 2026.**

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council