
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON THURSDAY 12TH MARCH 2020

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor L. Binding (Vice Chair)

Councillors: M. Battle, D. Berry, C. Bishop, J. Roberts, M. Stretch, J. Taylor,
D. Tolley

Clerk: S. Hughes

21/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Daniels,
E. P. Prendergast and T. Richards.

22/2020 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 and Clerk.

Declarations of interest were made during the course of the meeting. Details are recorded with the respective items.

23/2020 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no public matters.

24/2020 POLICE MATTERS

Two representatives from Gwent Police attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (a) Ongoing antisocial behaviour related to specific young people, primarily in Senghenydd. Members were informed that there is a process in place to deal with this issue.
- (b) One call relating to vehicle damage has been received since the last Community Council meeting.

- (c) Four calls relating to antisocial behaviour have been received since the last Community Council meeting.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (i) The DVLA have been clamping vehicles in the Aber Valley.
- (ii) It was recognised and appreciated that there has been a significant emphasis on Police presence at Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre to deal with the antisocial behaviour. Members highlighted the importance of also providing a Police presence at Aber Valley YMCA.
- (iii) Vehicles are continuing to cause a dangerous obstruction by parking on the junction at Graig-y-Fedw leading to Graigwen Crescent in Abertridwr.

25/2020 **SYDIC – DAVE BRUNTON**

Councillors M. Battle, D. Berry, J. Roberts and M. Stretch declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

Dave Brunton, the Project Manager for Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre (SYDIC), attended the meeting to follow up on the last update on how work has progressed with certain young people in the Aber Valley to combat their antisocial behaviour. Concerns were raised regarding a lack of involvement from other services and Members were informed that other services working the Aber Valley are not co-ordinating with SYDIC.

Members were informed that a meeting will be held on 19th March 2020 with the Gwent Police Deputy Crime Commissioner and Caerphilly County Borough Council to talk about core funding for SYDIC. It was agreed that Councillor J. Taylor and Councillor D. Tolley would provide representation for the Community Council at this meeting.

Dave Brunton raised concerns that there is no money available to put any safeguarding in place with regards to the coronavirus. Members advised him to contact Public Health Wales in the first instance and contact the Community Council if it remains an issue.

26/2020 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2020**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 20th February 2020 were approved as a true record, with the following amendment:

The Chairperson welcomed the newly elected Community Councillor for the **Senghenydd Ward**, Councillor David Tolley, to the Community Council meeting.

27/2020

MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Minute reference: 16/2020 (ii)
In relation to the wall at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr, Members received clarification from Caerphilly County Borough Council that there are targets above 147 and 149 but they are partly obscured by vegetation. The relevant department will arrange for the vegetation to be cut back before the next set of readings are taken.
- (ii) Minute reference 16/2020 (iii)
Members were unhappy with the response from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the request for the provision of a 20mph zone on High Street in Abertridwr, in the vicinity of the zebra crossing, near the junction with Bryngelli Terrace. Members were informed that there has been significant community support for action to be taken to reduce the speed limit on the main road through the Aber Valley. Councillor L. Binding has been contacted by a number of residents to move this forward.
- (iii) Minute reference: 18/2020 (4) (a)
Members were informed that the Clerk, in liaison with Councillor J. Taylor, submitted a representation to object to the proposal to reduce the number of County Borough Councillors from three to two in the Aber Valley.
- (iv) Minute reference: 19/2020 (a)
Members were informed that the litter pick arranged from Ysgol Ifor Bach on 28th February 2020 was postponed due to inclement weather.
- (v) Minute reference: 19/2020 (f)
Members were informed that Councillor J. Roberts has received an e-mail from Caerphilly County Borough Council informing that speed cables will be used to measure the volume of traffic at St Anne's Gardens in Abertridwr. Members were also informed that no repairs to the drains have been undertaken during the last two years.
- (vi) Minute reference: 19/2020 (j)
Members were informed that arrangements are being made for the third defibrillator to be installed on the Windsor Hotel, Senghenydd.
- (vii) Minute reference: 19/2020 (k)
Members were informed that the Clerk, in liaison with Councillor J. Roberts, has submitted an application on behalf of the Community Council to the Local Places for Nature Scheme. It was noted that the Friends of Abertridwr Park have also submitted an application.

28/2020

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

There was no report from the Chairperson.

CLERKS REPORT**(1) Current Financial Situation**

Members received a copy of the income and expenditure to date, bank statement number 336 and a bank reconciliation. Members discussed and approved the Community Council's accounts.

(2) Income

- (a) No income has been received.

(3) Expenditure

- (a) Members approved Playworks One payroll administration – Clerk's salary and related costs for Month 11.

(4) Correspondence

- (a) One Voice Wales: Membership 2020/21

Members resolved not to join One Voice Wales.

- (b) Caerphilly County Borough Council: Petition against the withdrawal of CCTV cameras in the Aber Valley

Members received a letter from Caerphilly County Borough Council informing that the withdrawal of the proposal to withdraw CCTV cameras in the Aber Valley was confirmed at Council by the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Planning. Reference was made to the consultation process and how it is important that the community can see that they have made a difference in having their say.

- (c) Power for People: Local Electricity Bill – Motion Request

Members discussed an e-mail from the Director for Power for People, asking the Community Council to help their campaign for more local, clean energy generation that would benefit local communities and to pass a motion in support of the Local Electricity Bill. Members agreed to support the motion in principle but acknowledge that all elements are not covered by the Community Council.

- (d) Caerphilly County Borough Council: Development of the Council's Traffic Regulation Order Programme

Members discussed correspondence from the Traffic Management Officer at Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the Council's Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) programme. It was noted that a consultation exercise has already been undertaken with County Borough Councillors. Members reviewed the list and confirmed the requests were still necessary. It was agreed that any further suggestions to be sent to the Clerk by the end of the week.

(5) Applications for Financial Assistance

Councillor L. Binding and C. Bishop declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

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

- (a) Abertridwr Park Association – £400 was approved as part of the Forward Work Programme.

Members received a brief update on the work undertaken by the Friends of Abertridwr Park Association.

(6) A.O.B.

(a) Financial Administration

Members approved the following items to be earmarked from the 2019/20 budget to the 2020/21 budget for projects that have been authorised but not completed and for invoices that will not be processed before 31st March 2020:

- (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council – £600.00. For website maintenance.
- (ii) The balance of the Forward Work Programme budget for 2019/20 will be carried forward to 2020/21.

(b) Internal Audit 2019/20

Members approved the internal audit arrangements for the financial year ending 31st March 2020.

(6) Planning Applications

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussion.

- (a) Case Ref. 20/0087/LA
Ysgol Ifor Bach Windsor Way Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4AB
Extend curtilage of school and erection of standalone building to accommodate a nursery together with access, play area and associated works.

30/2020

GREEN PLAN DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Councillor D. Tolley presented the initial draft discussion document of the Green Plan for the Aber Valley. The Green Plan would celebrate Green activity already underway in the Aber Valley whilst seeking ways of further developing new initiatives with the community and a wide range of other interested parties. Councillor D. Tolley summarised the first attempt to identify some areas which Aber Valley Community Council could include in a potential Green Plan. It was suggested that the scope of the proposed Plan is such that it would require targets and put as a standing Agenda item for the Community Council meetings. Following consideration of the report, it was agreed to form a Green Plan Working

Group. Councillors D. Tolley, M. Stretch, C. Bishop, J. Roberts and D. Berry volunteered to be part of the working group. It was agreed the working group would meet prior to the next Community Council meeting in order for Councillor D. Tolley to prepare a draft plan.

31/2020

MEMBERS MATTERS

Members reported the following matters:

- (a) Councillor M. Stretch attended the Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee meeting and updated Members on the issues raised including the Community Asset Transfer - Draft Policy and Process and the Charter for Community and Town Councils.
- (b) Further to a request from a member of the public for benches and tables at Senghenydd Waterpark, Members highlighted the need for a community group to be set up to look at various funding options.
- (c) The area between Parc Terrace and Nant-y-Parc School in Senghenydd is overgrown and rats have been sighted. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request that the area is cut back.
- (d) Members were informed that the Caretaker for Senghenydd Community Centre has retired.
- (e) Members were updated on the retaining walls in Abertridwr Park that convey the Nant yr Aber to the south of the park and the section of the footpath which is immediately supported by the training / retaining wall which has been closed for some time due to concerns regarding its integrity. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council for clarification on what is to be done and by when.
- (f) Illicit tipping on the cycle path near Church Road in Abertridwr. Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council to request cut back and clearance.

32/2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 9th April 2020** at Senghenydd Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council