
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 SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Roberts

Councillors: D. Berry, M. Bedir, C. Bishop, D. Bishop, D. Chamberlain,
R. Gater, E.P Prendergast, and J. Taylor.

Clerk: J. Lloyd

132/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Daniels and M. Stretch.

133/2024 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.

134/2024 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no Public Matters.

135/2024 POLICE MATTERS

Gwent Police were unable to attend the meeting, but reported on the following matters, which had been included in an email report sent to the Community Council and read out during the meeting:

ASB

over the past month ASB has risen in the VALLEY, especially in BRYN ABER. As the ASB is serious it is beginning to rise. The ASB consists of doors being knocked and then said person running away to bleach being tipped on the front door. To tackle this problem, we continue to monitor calls from the area and take positive action against the people causing ASB.

Crime

As one of the investigating officers I would like to bring to your attention the Call regarding youths being approached by vans. First, I would like to reassure you all

children involved have been visited by myself and other officers. As enquiries continue you may see a rise in police presence in the area. PCSO 463 have attended the schools at leaving time with the help of the CSW (community safety wardens)

Good works / TO NOTE

PCSO 463 is now a school liaison officer meaning all problems in school requiring police action will be dealt with by an officer. This is a positive action meaning officers can make a connection with the younger youths and build that positive connection.

Speed checks were conducted by officers after the number of complaints of speeding. Officers stopped twenty cars and conducted vehicle checks.

Members noted that an increase in ASB usually occurs during the summer period and commented that the summer schemes which had been run by SYDIC and the YMCA had assisted in providing activities for young persons in the area.

Members also noted that the homeless people had now been housed in temporary accommodation and commented on the anti-social behaviour around the Royal Hotel, Abertridwr.

136/2024

COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Safety Wardens attended the meeting and referred to ASB in King Street, Abertridwr and Abertridwr Square, which were being dealt with.

No issues reported in the Senghenydd area, and the fly tipping on Senghenydd mountain had been reported.

The Bingo Hall, Abertridwr had been set on fire again, and mattresses left outside the building had been reported to CCBC. Members discussed the ongoing issues with the building and a planning application for flats.

Abertridwr Park toilets had been closed again due to vandalism and Members requested that Community Safety Wardens be aware of this area.

Details of a POBL representative were circulated to Members during the meeting with contact details if needed or attendance at a future Community Council meeting.

137/2024

YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The Youth Ambassador was not in attendance at this meeting; however, Members were provided with details of their attendance at the Youth Forum, Virginia Park Youth Centre in Caerphilly, and Caerphilly Music Service.

138/2024 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JULY 2024.**

The minutes of the Application for Financial Assistance meeting held on 11th July 2024 were approved as a true record.

139/2024 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH JULY 2024.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 11th July 2024 were approved as a true record.

140/2024 **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) HMRC – £1,280.41. VAT repayment for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

(3) **EXPENDITURE**

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
- (i) Payroll – Month 04.
- (ii) Payroll – Month 05.
- (iii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £26.98
- (iv) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £26.98
- (v) Post Office Ltd – 1st class stamps x 24 - £32.40 (re-imburement to the Clerk).
- (vi) SSE Southern Electric – Christmas Lighting for 2023 Christmas period - £134.26 (re-imburement to the Clerk).

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Zurich Municipal – Insurance Policy Renewal 2024/25

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 2024. Members considered the renewal premium of £813.03 and agreed for the Clerk to proceed with the renewal process.

(b) Elsbury Access Platforms – Christmas Lighting – 2024 Festive Period

Members received and considered a quote from Elsbury Access Platforms for the installation, removal, and storage of the Christmas lighting for the 2024 festive period. Members agreed to defer consideration of the quote to the next meeting in October in order to clarify the details of the large figurines to go on Abertridwr and Senghenydd Community Centres due to the issues from the 2023 Christmas period. Members agreed for the Clerk to confirm the date of Friday 6th December 2024 as the requested 'switch on' date for the lights, with confirmation of the quote details to follow after the October meeting.

5. **A.O.B**

(a) Flowers on the Senghenydd Cenotaph.

Members discussed the provision of Spring and Summer flowers at the Cenotaph in Senghenydd and agreed the quote of £150.00 received from CCBC. Members agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements through Caerphilly County Borough Council.

(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 confirmed that he would provide the floral donation.

6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- a. Case Ref. 24/0478/COU Site Area: 1009m²
Location: Ty Cae Bach 18 Cae Bryn Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4DA (UPRN 000043008777)
Proposal: Change the use of house extension to a home beauty salon.
- b. Case Ref. 24/0505/COU Site Area: 77m²
Location: 79 Commercial Street Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4GZ (UPRN 000043006488)
Proposal: Change the use from 2 No. Flats to a 5 No. Bed HMO

- c. Case Ref. 24/0545/CLEU Site Area: 108m²
Location: 191 High Street Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4FB (UPRN 000043009095)
Proposal: Obtain Certificate of Lawfulness to include land within the curtilage of 191 High Street, Abertridwr as garden area
- d. Case Ref. 24/0594/ADV Site Area: 298m²
Location: Spar Unit A 57 Thomas Street Abertridwr Caerphilly CF83 4AX (UPRN 000043168203)
Proposal: Replace aluminium fascia with overhead trough Light, erect window graphics, projection sign (illuminated) & aluminium fascia with overhead trough light to side
- e. Case Ref. 24/0596/RET Site Area: 147m²
Location: 181 Commercial Street Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4GA (UPRN 000043006307)
Proposal: Retain balcony to rear of property
- f. APPLICATION NO. 24/0309/RET
Retain the creation and completion of access track, fencing, access gate and permission for the erection of stable block including three twin stables. Land At Grid Ref 313056 187988, Mountain Road Abertridwr to Hendredenny Park, Hendredenny.

141/2024 THE COMMUNITY GAMING CLUB

A representative from the Community Gaming Club attended the meeting and provided Members with information on the Club. The Club was formed in January 2022, after lockdown, and is held in the Aber Hotel. Activities include numerous board games and card games, with three hundred people attending the Club in total.

The Community Council were invited to attend the club to see the work being done for local people, with the possibility of including SYDIC and YMCA, to see if the gaming club would appeal to young people in the area. Members were also advised of the benefits of the club, which assists with Maths and English, together with social development. The Club also proposed to set up an 'e-sports hub' with plans for a team to compete in the Welsh League.

Members noted that the Community Hub at Bryn Aber could benefit from the Gaming Club, and have a games room on site. Discussion followed regarding an e-sports league and proposals for a meeting with SYDIC to also consider their games room. The Club had visited the YMCA and had a successful games night with NERF and proposed outdoor activities with laser games in the future. Members agreed to arrange a visit to the Community Gaming Club at the Aber Hotel on a Monday night.

Members were informed that the Gaming Club incorporates safeguarding and first aid, with the possibility of looking at British Sign Language to accommodate the visually impaired as much as possible. The Gaming Club is run by volunteers who are usually limited to working one day a week, and the club would welcome any additional support available in the community. Members agreed that contact

details for SYDIC, YMCA, and United Welsh (Bryn Aber) would be provided to the gaming club.

142/2024 **CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT**

The Chair advised Members that he had attended the recent Partnership meeting, which was also attended by the Health Board, and discussed the opposition to the proposed use of the village green in Abertridwr. A further 'open meeting' had been arranged for 18th September at Abertridwr Community Centre. Discussion followed regarding the proposed closure of Senghenydd surgery when the new health centre opens.

The Chair also advised Members that the Partnership have taken ownership of Undercurrents and are hoping to increase the membership going forward, together with the possibility of grant funding for future projects.

143/2024 **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members agreed to arrange a meeting for the week following the Community Council meeting. Members noted that grass cutting had now started in the area following 'No Mow May.' The fruit trees that had been planted by the Windsor had been cut down during the grass cutting exercise, despite CCBC being previously made aware that the trees had been planted in this area. Councillor C. Bishop had notified CCBC, and Members agreed for the Clerk to chase this up with CCBC requesting assurance that the four remaining trees would be protected going forward, and to request whether any compensation would be made to the Community Council for the trees that had been lost.

Discussion followed regarding consideration to be given to the area of planting outside Abertridwr library, and the 'planter' moved last year for the Christmas Tree needs to be moved back.

144/2024 **BONFIRE NIGHT 2024**

Members discussed the ongoing proposals for the event and Community Councillor R. Gater had met with Senghenydd RFC. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact CCBC Community Safety and pass on the contact details for R. Gater. Members were advised that the proposed date had now changed to Tuesday 5th November. Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange for a Street Collection Permit and to contact the Community Council insurance provider to confirm the details.

Discussion followed regarding local businesses advertising at the event with the possibility of donations towards the event.

145/2024 **ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOGO COMPETITION**

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

146/2024 **ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION EVENING**

Members were advised that there would be three Community Recognition Awards at the event as two of the recipients for the Community Recognition Award and Special Recognition Award had declined and did not wish to receive them. Members agreed for the Clerk to reply to both and acknowledge their wishes and thank them for their work in the Community which is recognised by the Community Council. Members also agreed for this item to be discussed earlier in the calendar year, going forward, to allow more time to consider nominations and plan the event in the future.

Members were also advised that twenty people had confirmed their attendance, the entertainment was confirmed, award plaques had been ordered, and the programme for the event was agreed.

147/2024 **YOUTH AMBASSADOR ALLOWANCE**

Members discussed and agreed to defer this item to the next meeting for consideration.

148/2024 **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Members discussed whether the grant money awarded to local groups should increase in the future if possible. Members agreed to defer this item to the Community Council meeting in November.

149/2024 **SYDIC AND YMCA REPORTS**

Members were advised that SYDIC and YMCA had been requested to submit a report to the Community Council regarding their Summer schemes.

SYDIC were providing a 'showreel' which would be produced for the next meeting in October. YMCA had sent a 'thank you' card to the Community Council, which was circulated during the meeting, together with their report, which was read out by the Chair.

Members agreed for the Clerk to send 'thank you' letters/ emails to both schemes and to request whether SYDIC could produce their 'showreel' for presentation evening on 19th September. Members noted that the YMCA report would be included at the event.

150/2024 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

Concerns over the new housing development in the area and the increased demand for health centre services.

Two successful sessions of 'Play in the Park' during the summer period.

The lane behind High Street, Abertridwr – reported sofas to CCBC which cannot be dealt with due to the overgrowth. Clerk to chase up with CCBC Highways.

Clerk to chase up the updated list given to CCBC Cleansing, to note items that had been completed.

Noted that two of the trees behind the library were growing well.

Some issues with students' bus passes not being issued on time. Reported to CCBC.

Community Health Board meeting – 18th September – open 'drop-in' session to be held by the Health Board.

Confirmed Community Safety Wardens would attend the Firework display on 5th November at Senghenydd RFC.

Parking in the lane at Commercial Street, Senghenydd – Councillors to arrange a site meeting with CCBC Highways.

Dog bin at Cwmaber Infants no longer there, just the lid remaining. Reported to CCBC. Clerk to chase up.

Delegated powers given to the Green Plan Committee to discuss and apply for grant funding where applicable.

151/2024 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 10th October 2024.**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council