

---

# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

---

### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

#### PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Roberts

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

#### 170/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

#### 171/2024 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.

#### 172/2024 PUBLIC MATTERS

There were no Public Matters.

#### 173/2024 POLICE MATTERS

Gwent Police were not in attendance at the meeting.

#### 174/2024 COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Safety Wardens were not in attendance but had spoken with the Chair prior to the meeting. It was noted that ASB was fairly quiet. There had been reports of dog fouling in Abertridwr Park. Reported that 5 teenagers had been caught trying to break into the Bingo Hall in Abertridwr.

**175/2024**    **YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

The Youth Ambassador attended the meeting and reported on their recent activities in the Community, including laying a wreath at Senghenydd Square on Armistice Day, attending the Youth Forum at Ty Penallta, and a charity event memorial service.

**176/2024**    **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were approved as a true record.

**177/2024**    **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) Donation from All Weather Washin towards Firework Display - £100.
  - (ii) Donation from Hughes Installation towards Firework Display - £150

**(3)**    **EXPENDITURE**

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
  - (i) Payroll – Month 07.
  - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £26.98
  - (iii) The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – £25.00
  - (iv) The Art of Sparks Ltd - £3,500
  - (v) ECL Plastics - £48.00 (re-imbusement to the Clerk)
  - (vi) Post Office Ltd - £100 (re-imbusement to the Clerk)
  - (vii) SSE Energy Solutions - £153.44 (re-imbusement to the Clerk)

#### **4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

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

- (i) The Parent Network - £75.00
- (ii) Aber Valley YMCA - £500
- (iii) Friends of Emerald Academy - £150

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

- (i) Freedom of Information Requests

Members were informed of two emails recently received requesting information on the expenditure for Christmas lighting, under the Freedom of Information Act. Agreed for the Clerk to prepare responses and circulate to Members before sending.

- (ii) Request for Donation for Dwell Café/ Christmas Grotto

Members were informed that an email had been received requesting a donation towards the children's gift received at this event. Members agreed to donate £150 and for the Clerk to arrange.

#### **6. A.O.B**

- (i) CCBC Consultation for Library Service.

This matter was dealt with under the Chairperson's Report.

#### **7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None.

### **178/2024 CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT**

The Chair noted the work done on the Green Plan and the appointment of the Youth Ambassador and noted thanks to Councillors Bishop and Gater for organising the fireworks display event. The Chair presented the Youth Ambassador with a gift card as a token of appreciation for the work done on behalf of the Community Council.

The CCBC consultation on Libraries was discussed and Members agreed for the Clerk to submit a response from the Community Council.

**179/2024**     **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members were provided with a copy of the Green Plan and additional paper copies were also available for Members to circulate. Members discussed the proposed litter pick by Bute Energy in December.

**180/2024**     **PRESENTATION EVENING 2025**

Members discussed the Community Recognition Awards and the process for choosing the award winners. Members agreed for this item to be added to the agenda for the January 2025 meeting.

**181/2024**     **BONFIRE NIGHT 2024/ 2025**

Members discussed the successful event held on 5<sup>th</sup> November and agreed to hold the event again in 2025. Discussion followed regarding venues for the event in the future. Members agreed for the Clerk to send 'thank you' letters to all local businesses who donated to the event, J. McClaren, G. Chamberlain, Art of Sparks Ltd and Senghenydd RFC.

The Clerk confirmed that £1853.33 was raised from the collection at the event, and £1785.00 had been donated to date, from local businesses.

Members agreed for Councillor R. Gater to obtain a quote for the 2025 event.

**182/2024**     **ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOGO COMPETITION**

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**183/2024**     **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING – 2024 FESTIVE PERIOD ('SWITCH-ON EVENT' AND CHRISTMAS TREES)**

Members discussed the recent correspondence received from Elsbury and noted that the information requested had been agreed at the site meeting last year. Members agreed for the Clerk to confirm the information required and note the switch on date had already been agreed at Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Councillor M. Stretch agreed to be the contact for Elsbury to discuss the light displays and arrangements for Senghenydd Community Centre.

Members discussed the Christmas Tree on Abertridwr Square and agreed for the Clerk to confirm to CCBC that this was requested for 2024, together with a quote to include an additional Christmas Tree on Senghenydd Square. Members agreed for the Chair to have delegated powers to approve up to £1800 for both Christmas Trees and noted a local fund also available up to £1000. Members also discussed a proposed Community Art Project for 2025 to produce two 'Christmas Trees' for the Aber Valley, and for schools to be invited to design decorations for the trees.

Members also discussed the Christmas 'walk' from Senghenydd to Abertridwr on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December to start at 6pm, and the Christmas event in Abertridwr Community Centre to include stalls from local businesses and refreshments

available in the Oasis. Members agreed up to £50 could be used to purchase the sweets given out to the children at the end of the walk at Abertridwr Square.

**184/2024**     **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Members discussed and agreed for a sub-group to discuss the general increase in financial assistance awards going forward.

**185/2024**     **SUMMER SCHEMES (SYDIC AND YMCA)**

Members discussed the possible collaboration with SYDIC and YMCA Summer schemes and agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss with both groups. Youth Ambassador to attend also. Clerk to send Paul/YMCA contact details to Councillors Gater and Bishop.

**186/2024**     **SENGHENYDD CENOTAPH**

Members discussed the recent Memorial service held at the cenotaph and agreed for Councillor Bishop to be reimbursed £25.00 for the purchase of an additional wreath. Members also agreed for the Clerk to confirm May as the date requested by CCBC for the Spring/Summer flowers on the cenotaph.

**187/2024**     **NOTICE OF MOTION – WINTER FUEL PAYMENT**

Members discussed the proposed Notice of Motion by Councillor Taylor and agreed for the Clerk to send the following to Jo Stevens MP and Baroness Eluned Morgan:

*This Council notes with dismay the decision of the UK Government to end the automatic winter fuel payments to all pensioners. The decision will cause millions of pensioners across the UK severe hardship and will contribute to the untimely deaths of thousands.*

*This Council is particularly concerned for the welfare of senior citizens in our community and across Wales in the winter months ahead.*

*This Council, therefore, calls on the Secretary of State for Wales, Jo Stevens MP, as Wales' representative in the UK Cabinet and Baroness Eluned Morgan MS, as First Minister of Wales, to urge Sir Keir Starmer and the UK Government to restore the Winter Fuel Payment forthwith to all pensioners.*

**188/2024**     **CCBC – CONSULTATION REVIEW BT/4G CCTV CAMERAS**

Members discussed the correspondence received from CCBC regarding the proposed changes to CCTV cameras in the area and the response sent from the Community Council.

**189/2024**    **DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2025/26.**

Members considered the draft budget proposals for 2025/26 and were informed by the Clerk that during their recent full audit by Audit Wales it was noted that the Clerk had been underpaid for the financial year. Members noted and agreed the proposed increase for the Salary budget and also agreed for the Clerk to amend her pay scale to the correct point, with immediate effect and also to be backdated to April 2024. Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting for further consideration.

**190/2024**    **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

Kings Trust International – Information passed to SYDIC.

Traffic on Caerphilly Road during a house fire – Clerk to contact the Police.

‘Jakes Day’ Memorial to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Colleen O’Connor – letter of congratulations to be sent from the Community Council regarding sport achievements, 32 caps for Wales in football.

Leigh and Windsor, support for the residents at Christmas – item to be included on the agenda for the December meeting.

**191/2024**    **DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**  
**Aber Valley Community Council**