
ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT ABERTRIDWR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2025

PRESENT:

Chairperson: J. Roberts

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

Clerk: J. Lloyd

35/2025 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Berry, D. Bishop, D. Daniels, and R. Mantle (Youth Ambassador).

36/2025 **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.

37/2025 **PUBLIC MATTERS**

Representatives from Bute Energy attended the meeting and outlined details of the ongoing work on the new development. They are hosting an event in June for local businesses. Activity will commence on the site in the next few weeks, prior to the start of construction. Members were advised that the access route to the site was to be confirmed. Members were advised of the plans to appoint a turbine supplier by the end of the year, with construction to start early next year and connection to the grid in early 2027.

Discussion followed regarding the Community Benefit Fund which was to be set up this year and split into 4 areas, and Bute Energy would engage with the Community Councils going forward. An additional 2% for 'Social Value' to benefit the community, is available whilst the construction is taking place, and early engagement with communities will determine what the funds available could be used for.

Members discussed the possibility of apprenticeships and funded internships with Bute Energy, and it was proposed that a Development Officer could be appointed to research grants available and help in the community. Bute Energy also advised

that they had been in contact with local schools/ colleges to educate the children on the development.

Members were advised that a community group would be set up to determine how the funding would be allocated into the communities. Bute had attended 'Partnership' meetings but would broaden the community group to include local young people and various different groups. This group was expected to be determined by the end of the year, prior to the start of construction. Construction start date was to be confirmed and site visits would be available.

Members discussed the archaeological aspect of the 'common' and the possibility of school children attending 'digs. Members also discussed the employment of local people on the site, and were advised that all jobs available, skilled, and non-skilled opportunities would be available for recruitment and would include construction and ongoing maintenance.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their attendance at the meeting.

Representatives from ABUHB attended the meeting and gave members an update on the proposals for the new health and wellbeing centre. Consideration had been given to the Abertridwr Park area, and the development of the land was being looked into with NRW with some issues regarding flood risks. The site on the Green in Abertridwr had been deemed 'not viable' going forward.

Members were advised of the public event on 20th March at Abertridwr Community Centre which would provide information to local people, on the current proposals. The event had been advertised via posters in Abertridwr and Senghenydd and on social media. Members also proposed an additional event be held in Senghenydd going forward, as the next one was being held in Abertridwr.

Members discussed apprenticeship opportunities and were advised that engagement would be made with the community, and these opportunities would be monitored by Welsh Government. Discussion followed on opportunities available for the Senghenydd site going forward, after the current surgery closes.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their attendance at the meeting.

38/2025

POLICE MATTERS

Gwent Police attended the meeting and provided the following report to the Community Council:

ASB – good decline in levels reported.

Safety work being done with SYDIC.

Involvement with schools – good contact with PCSO.

Members noted the following:

Members thanked Rhys for all his work in the community and wished him well for the future.

Members noted the loss of the Community Safety Wardens with CCBC from 1st April 2025.

39/2025 **COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDENS – CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Community Safety Wardens were not in attendance at the meeting and had advised the Community Council that their service would cease from 1st April 2025.

Members agreed for the Clerk to send a 'thank you' letter to the Community Safety Warden Manager at CCBC.

40/2025 **YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

The Youth Ambassador was not in attendance at the meeting.

41/2025 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2025.**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 13th February 2025 were approved as a true record.

42/2025 **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:
 - (i) Cash collection from Bonfire Night/Fireworks Display - £1855.00.

(3) **EXPENDITURE**

- (a) Members noted the following expenditure:
 - (i) Payroll – Month 11.
 - (ii) EE Telephone Bill (monthly direct debit) - £26.98

4. **A.O.B**

(a) **Financial Administration**

Members discussed the current financial situation and approved for the remaining balance of the following budget areas to be carried forward from the 2024/25 financial year to the 2025/26 financial year for projects that have not been completed and for invoices that will not be processed before 31st March 2025.

Audit
Maintenance
Christmas Lighting
Special Projects

5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- a. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Demolish existing conservatory, erect with a flat roof rear extension with a glass post balustrade 1 Upper Brynhyfryd Terrace Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4GL GRID REFERENCE - 311656(E) 191071(N)

43/2025 **CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT**

The Chair informed members that Tatws Sion Cent was launching the 3rd booklet in May and noted the increase in the local people involved since the first issue.

The Chair had attended a meeting at Ysgol Ifor Bach regarding changes to the site regarding the development.

The Chair had also attended a meeting on Abertridwr Square regarding the tree roots 'uplifting' the bricks.

44/2025 **THE GREEN PLAN**

Members proposed to arrange a meeting to discuss.

45/2025 **ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOGO COMPETITION**

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting in April.

46/2025 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING – 2025**

Members discussed and agreed for the Clerk to contact Elsbury for a quote for the December 2025 period, including 2 additional Christmas trees and lights, together with the usual installation and storage charges. Members agreed for the Clerk to

obtain 2 additional quotes for the same, from 2 other companies, and to provide the information at the next meeting in April.

47/2025 **ABERTRIDWR TOILETS**

Members discussed the information received from CCBC and the issues with the toilets going forward. Members agreed to put a poll on social media for residents regarding future use of the toilets, and CCBC Councillors would arrange a meeting with CCBC (M. Headington).

48/2025 **BONFIRE NIGHT 2025**

Members were informed that a separate meeting would be arranged with the organisers.

49/2025 **NOTICE OF MOTION – CROWN ESTATE**

Members discussed the Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Taylor and voted unanimously to support. Members agreed for the Clerk to be provided with contact details for WG and UK Government to send the Notice of Motion from Aber Valley Community Council.

50/2025 **ARMED FORCES DAY EVENT FUNDING 2025**

Members discussed the information received and agreed to forward any suggestions to the Clerk, for groups who may wish to receive the information.

51/2025 **BUTE ENERGY**

Item dealt with under Public Matters.

52/2025 **ANEURIN BEVAN HEALTH BOARD**

Item dealt with under Public Matters.

53/2025 **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

1. Site on Abertridwr Stretch, rubbish and fly-tipping and alleged unauthorised building work.
2. Congratulations letter to be sent from the Community Council to local resident who had received an award at the recent 'It's My Shout' film/tv awards held at the ICC in Newport. Details to be passed on to the Clerk.

3. CCBC response regarding the recent enquiry from the Community Council on the traffic congestion issues at the Bowls.
4. Proposals for beehives in the area, going forward, and agreed to include this in the Green Plan.
5. VE Day and street parties. Noted that CCBC Highways would normally advise closer to the time.

54/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 10th April 2025**.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson
Aber Valley Community Council