

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the last meeting held at Parc Cwm Darran Visitor's Centre, Deri, of the above Community Council on Thursday 1st February 2018 at 6.30 pm.

Present

Cllr. H. Holifield (In the Chair)
Cllr. G. Matthews
Cllr. D. Nicholas

Cllr. D. Hardacre
Cllr. K. O'Hagan
Cllr. R. Chapman

Apologies

Cllr. P. Thomas

In Attendance

Mr. G. O. Williams	Clerk
PCSO Rachel Lewis	Gwent Police
PCSO Russell Childs	Gwent Police

97 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on Thursday 4th January 2018, previously circulated to members, were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairperson Cllr. H. Holifield

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. Thomas

98 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

99 Matters Arising

99.1 Minute No 57, 65.03, 78.01 & 90.01_2017/18. Report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor.

Councillor Hardacre confirmed the scheme was still in development with Mr. Julian Higgs (Engineer) leading on behalf of Caerphilly CBC. Cllr. O'Hagan questioned whether a timescale for resolution had been established. Cllr. Hardacre confirmed that as the wall is owned by Natural Resources Wales he was unable to confirm.

Moved. Clerk to write to Natural Resources Wales to question the timescales associated with remedial action and to report at the March meeting of Council.

99.2 Minute No 59, 65.04, 78.03 & 90.02_2017/18. Community Benefit Fund.

The Clerk confirmed receipt of a payment for £2,000.00 from the Cefn Bach turbine, although confirmed that no further update was available regarding funding from the second turbine.

Moved. Clerk to follow-up and report at the March meeting of Council.

99.3 Minute No 74, 78.04 & 90.3. Independent Remuneration Panel 2017/18

The Clerk confirmed that following consultation with Town and Community Councils across the Local Authority area that none reimburse for 'in area'

travelling expenses. The Clerk also confirmed the County Borough also adopt this approach for County Borough Councillors.

Moved. Clerk to agenda for decision at the March meeting of Council.

- 99.4 Minute No. 87 & 90.06_2017/18. To receive report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor.

Sale of triangle at Prices Yard.

Cllr. Hardacre confirmed liability for any potential accident on the site would sit equally between Price Haulage and Caerphilly CBC.

- 99.5 Minute No. 87 & 90.07_2017/18. To receive report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor.

Asbestos Waste at Cefn Y Brithdir still to be removed. Cllr. Hardacre advised that Officers had been unable to locate the waste and presented a printed map of the area to allow Cllr. O'Hagan to pinpoint the area in question. Cllr. O'Hagan confirmed the maps did not cover the area where the waste had been left.

Moved. Cllr. K. O'Hagan and Cllr. Hardacre to liaise regarding exact location and to chase progress with Officers at Caerphilly CBC.

- 99.6 Safety of Community Noticeboard in Deri.

Moved. Cllr. Hardacre to pursue remedial action with Officers at Caerphilly CBC.

- 99.7 Community Council Minutes_December 2017

Cllr. O. Hagan highlighted his request articulated at the January meeting to amend the December minutes had not been reflected in minutes from the January meeting of Council. It was subsequently agreed Minute No. 87 (To receive report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor) be updated to reflect the input and action of Cllr. O'Hagan. Amendment included below:

- Gas board works on Pontlloyn Road. Cllr. O'Hagan confirmed that following a period of inactivity on the site, he had established contact with the Gas Board to request a more immediate completion and clearance of works.
- The issue of water damage at Coronation Crescent. Cllr. O'Hagan confirmed he had been in touch with Welsh Water to report and accelerate remedial work.

- 99.8 Deri OAP Trip

It was confirmed the above-mentioned delayed trip from Autumn 2017 would take place on Wednesday 28th February 2018.

Moved. Clerk provided a poster for distribution/display and name collation sheet to Cllr. Matthews.

Moved. Clerk to promote on the Community Council website.

Moved. Payment.

- 100 **Gwent Police**

PCSO Lewis and Childs provided Council with a brief update of developments throughout the Community Council area. Within their report PCSO Lewis and

Childs brought Councils attention to the following statistics for the month of January:

- 30 Incidents - 13 Deri / 17 Fochriw. Of which;
 - 2 resulted in crime; and
 - 3 incidents of anti-social behaviour, all within the Fochriw Ward.

Moved. Clerk to write to Inspector O'Keefe to question the approach taken on local adaptation to Gwent Police' 101 Leaflets and to report at the March meeting of Council.

PCSO Lewis and Childs also highlighted plans for a zero-tolerance enforcement day in relation to parking. PCSO Lewis and Childs then answered questions from Council. Topics of discussion included parking and associated ticketing on Bailey Street, Deri. Cllr. Nicholas requested a focus be provided on the junction of Hill Street to New Road. PCSO Lewis and Childs confirmed that no reports had been received relevant to parking associated with events at Deri Rugby Football Club. Cllr. O'Hagan highlighted that a Twitter Tweet to Inspector O'Keefe had driven positive activity with a policing presence provided at Fochriw Primary School within less than a couple of days. PCSO Lewis and Childs also confirmed PACT priorities for Fochriw – parking the current focus / priority. PCSO Lewis and Childs advised Council that feedback / advice could be received through a number of channels including PCSO / PC allocated mobile phones and through email contact (details available on the Gwent Police website). PCSO Lewis and Childs did however advise that reports of crime / anti-social behaviour should be reported via 101 and 999 owing to the complexity of off-duty rotas and work-related commitments. Cllr. O'Hagan brought the Officers attention to the lack of attendance at surgeries delivered from Deri Library – no presence having been provided on two recent occasions. Cllr. O'Hagan went on to question whether surgeries could be split with a focus afforded to the community of Fochriw and also questioned whether the surgery approach was effective. PCSO Lewis and Childs advised that they could facilitate street surgeries in Fochriw, and also confirmed that no formal evaluation of the effectiveness of surgery consultation.

Cllr. H. Holifield thanked PCSO Lewis and Childs for their report and for attending the meeting.

Contact details for Caerphilly CBC Community Safety Team
Mrs. Margaret Reed
Email. reedm@caerphilly.gov.uk
Tel. 07917136344

101 **Planning Applications**

The Clerk confirmed that no application for planning had been received since the last meeting of Council.

102 **Correspondence**

102.1 HMRC

Full Payment Submission for period ending 5th January 2018.

Moved. Noted on file.

102.2 Don Elsbury Plant Sales Ltd

Invoice for the install and removal of Council's Christmas Lighting for the period December / January 2017-18.

Moved. Payment.

102.3 Wales Government. Independent Panel

Review of Community & Town Councils in Wales

The 'Independent Review Panel' are holding a drop-in session in Merthyr Tydfil on Monday 12th February. This will provide Council with an opportunity to engage and discuss with the Panel Councils views on the future of the sector.

Moved. Cllr. K. O'Hagan, Cllr. D. Nicholas, Cllr. D. Hardacre and Cllr. G. Matthews to attend and represent Council.

102.4 Friends of Fochriw Primary School PTA

Written application for grant funding.

Moved. Payment £100.00.

102.5 Caerphilly CBC

Notification the 5-man Community Cleansing Team will operate across the Community Council area during w/c 5th February 2018.

Moved. Clerk to respond to request a focus on a range of areas highlighted by Council, including: common / mountain area; mountain area at Rhiw Cantorian; road and verge stretch from Parc Cwm Darran to the village of Deri; blocked drain (fallen vegetation) at Hill Street Deri causing flooding and cascade of loose stone; rear of St Peters Church Deri and area at Mill Road, Deri.

102.6 Darran Valley History Group

Request for financial assistance to ensure a name initially omitted from the recently completed war Memorial in the village of Deri is included.

Cllr. Hardacre confirmed to Council that he had been able to secure financial support and consequently financial support was not required.

Moved. Noted on file.

102.7 Caerphilly CBC

Letter from Mr. Carl Nesling Assistant Community Safety Officer regarding the annual review of the surveillance camera located at Fochriw.

The Surveillance Camera Commissioner has put a responsibility on Local Authorities to justify any deployment of surveillance cameras via a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA). Such assessments are now required before deploying any new cameras and for assessing the continuing need for existing cameras. PIA's consider whether there is a justified need for the deployment of cameras, for example serious, frequent antisocial behaviour. It also considers the impact on those subjected to the surveillance, whether such actions are proportionate to the problem they aim to address and if other less intrusive measures have been considered. Within his narrative, Mr.

Nesling made reference to the following statistics relevant the Fochriw camera in the period 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017:

- 1997 targeted CCTV patrols carried out by Operators;
- 2 incidents reported to police by CCTV;
- 4 incidents monitored by CCTV not requiring police attendance;
- 1 police request for assistance for live incidents; and
- 7 police requests to view retrospective CCTV footage after incident has already occurred.

Following discussion, Council agreed to support the continuation of this facility chiefly as a deterrent measure. Cllr. K. O'Hagan abstained from the vote as he was uncertain on the wider public's views on the camera.

103 Approval of Community Council Cheques

The attached list of Community Council cheques was approved by members and amounted to **£02,243.13**.

104 Caerphilly CBC Countryside.

To receive report from Peter Lewis Senior Ranger Parc Cwm Darran.

A written report was received from Mr. Peter Lewis within which the following was referenced.

Café

The café franchise has now come to the end of its 3-year lease so will go out to tender very soon.

Site Works

- Ongoing litter picking in the park and on the cycle-route.
- We have spent a lot of our time cutting damaged trees caused by the heavy snow and wind that occurred before Christmas.
- High pruning of damaged branches
- Park Services have cleared some of the trees along the inflow channel which has opened up the views nicely
- Ongoing chipping fallen trees.
- Ogilvie Olympics repairs are now mainly completed
- Dragonfly: Waiting for lake water levels to drop before fitting.
- Coot benches: Awaiting fitting.
- New lakeside bins delivered, awaiting fitting.
- About 95% of the timber has been removed from the storage area opposite Prices Yard.
- New Compost toilet: Order placed.
- Wild boar and woodpecker wooden sculptures: Order placed, works due to be fitted mid-February
- Steel ant sculpture: Order placed, due to be fitted mid to end of February.
- Twmpath mini event arena in campsite: Order placed works due to start mid-February.
- Repairs to Wild Boar Amphitheatre: Order placed works due to start mid-February.
- Repairs to fence line: Order placed works due to start this week.

Events

Our Summer events program is due our shortly.

Education

We are taking lots of bookings for school visits already.

Moved. Noted on file.

105 Community Council Precept & Draft Budget 2018/9

Following discussion, it was agreed that Council would freeze the Community Council precept at £12,480.00 for 2018/19.

Moved. Clerk to notify Mrs. N. Roberts, Interim Head of Corporate Finance as appropriate.

Community Council Draft Budget 2018/19

The Clerk shared with Council a copy of Council's Budget for 2018/19. Following discussion, it was agreed that Council work within these values

Darran Valley Community Council Draft Income & Expenditure Budget 2018-19			
Income		Expenditure	
Approx. C/F 31/03/2018 Mainstream	£13,300.00	Clerk's Salary & On Costs	£05,000.00
Precept	£12,480.00	Chairperson's Allowance	£00,300.00
Anticipated VAT Reclaim 2017-18	£00,540.00	Out of Office	£00,250.00
Wind Turbine 2017-18	£04,500.00	Telephone & Broadband	£00,200.00
Summer Scheme Grant – High Sheriff Funds	£04,000.00	Room Hire	£00,250.00
		Insurance & Subscription	£00,600.00
		Stationery & Postage	£00,500.00
		Website	£00,600.00
		Section 137 Grants	£02,000.00
		Wind Turbine Grants	£09,000.00
		Section 137 Trip	£01,000.00

		Schools 137	£00,600.00
		Christmas Lighting	£02,000.00
		Audit	£00,600.00
		Summer Scheme	£04,000.00
		Councillor Expense / Allowance	£01,500.00
		Council IT Renewal	£00,750.00
		Blank	£00,000.00
Total	£34,820.00	Total	£29,150.00
Projected Balance Year ending 31.03.2019			£05,670.00 (£02,000.00 Earmarked – Lighting Renewal)

106 Quarter 3 Income and Expenditure Report

The Clerk provided Council with a detailed report of the financial expenditure incurred during Quarter 3 of 2017/18 (October to December 17). Within his report, the Clerk advised Council of the following income and expenditure values.

Darran Valley Community Council. Quarter 3 Expenditure Report

Expenditure Heading	Budget	Quarter 3 Expenditure	Percentage of Budget	Variance with Budget (Explanation)
Clerk's Salary & On Costs	£05,000.00	£03,782.82	75.66%	Projected underspend / saving of £500.00 .
Chairperson's Allowance	£00,300.00	£00,300.00	100%	Annual payment made.
Out of Office	£00,250.00	£00,250.00	50.00%	On profile.
Telephone & Broadband	£00,300.00	£00,187.83	62.61%	Underspend / saving of £112.17 .
Room Hire	£00,250.00	£00,181.50	72.60%	Underspend / saving of £68.50 .
Insurance & Subscription	£00,500.00	£00,568.17	113.63%	Overspend of £68.17 .
Stationery & Postage	£00,500.00	£00,167.17	33.43%	Projected underspend / saving

				of £250.00.
Website	£00,600.00	£00,600.00	100.00%	On profile.
Section 137 Grants	Lower £01,500.00 Upper £02,000.00	£01,800.00	90.00%	Projected to be on profile. *£600.00 Schools included here.
Section 137 Trip	£01,000.00	£00,450.00	45.00%	Projected underspend / saving of £130.00. *Anticipated cost Deri OAP Trip £420.00.
Christmas Lighting	Lower £01,500.00 Upper £02,000.00	£01,166.82	58.34%	Projected overspend of £656.02. *Anticipated Lighting Costs 2017/18 £ 1,489.20.
Audit	£00,600.00	£00,636.65	106.10%	Overspend of £36.65.
Wind Turbine Grants	£05,000.00	£00,000.00	0.00%	No decision for 2017/18 yet made.
Election 2017	£04,000.00	£01,624.91	40.62%	Underspend / saving of £2,375.09.
Renewal of Council IT	£00,750.00	£00,000.00	0.00%	No decision for 2017/18 yet made.
Summer Scheme	£04,000.00	£04,000.00	100.00%	On profile.
Councillor Expenses	£00,000.00	£00,150.00	N/A	Not budgeted / profiled for 2017/18. Overspend of £150.00.
Total	£27,050.00	£15,865.87	58.65%	Projected underspend / saving of £2,524.92

Darran Valley Community Council. Quarter 3 Income Report

Income Heading	Anticipated Income 2017-18	Actual Received (YTD)	Percentage of Anticipated	Variance or Narrative
Precept	£12,480.00	£12,480.00	100.00%	Total Payment received
C/F Wind Turbine 2016-17	£02,500.00	£02,500.00	100.00%	Payment received October 2016*
C/F Wind Turbine 2017-18	£02,500.00	£02,000.00	80.00%	One of two Community Benefit Fund Payments Received.
VAT 2015-17	£00,715.36	£00,715.36	100.00%	Payment received June 2017.
Total	£18,195.36	£17,695.36	97.25%	Awaiting Second CF Wind Turbine 2017/18*

107 **Community Councillor Vacancy**

The Clerk confirmed he had requested information and advice from Mr. D. Beecham of Caerphilly CBC. The Clerk confirmed that following the meeting of Council it was his responsibility to issue a notice of casual vacancy. The Clerk went on to confirm timings:

- Notice displayed from Friday 2nd February 2018 (Day0)
- Closing date for Mr. D. Beecham to receive a call for election* would be 22nd February 2018.

*10 electors (must be on the electoral register) from the ward where you have the vacancy to call for an election within 14 days. If there is no call for election Council must explore co-option as soon as possible thereafter.

Moved. Clerk to report progress at the March meeting of Council.

108 **Wind Turbine Community Benefit Fund**

Owing to time constraints this item although itemised was not discussed. The Clerk circulated the below an outline to support future conversations and it was agreed this matter be agended for discussion at the March meeting of Council.

Fundamental Principles

- Monies received should where achievable be spent in the financial year in which they are received.
- The Community Benefit Fund should NOT be used to replace the more traditional Section 137 Grant Aid, but should look to augment / compliment where appropriate.

- Council to consider awards at one meeting annually – Month and application process to be determined.

Geography of Award

- Organisations should be located within the boundary of the Community Council area.
- Organisations located outside of the Community Council area, must be able to illustrate exclusivity of delivery within the Community Council area &/or to Constituent Members Only.
- Organisations must be able to provide proof of constitution and last end of year accounts.

Applicant Type

- Charity
- Constituted Group (including Youth Clubs)
- Schools (including PTAs / Friends Of)
- Service Providers
- The Local Authority i.e. Countryside for 'added value' in Parc Cwm Darran
- The Community Council i.e. To support additional Christmas Lighting &/or to run Community focused events

Award Amounts

- To be determined and could be reviewed annually in line with applications. i.e.
 - 1x £2500.00
 - 2x £1250.00
 - 5x £500.00

Fund Theme

- To include, although not to be prescriptive
 - Supporting Young People & Families
 - The Environment & Enhancing the Community
 - Health & Wellbeing

109 Report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor

Cllr. D. Hardacre provided Council with a short verbal update of developments within the Darran Valley and invited questions both on his report and / or other subjects. Within his report, Cllr. Hardacre updated Council on:

- Recent developments at Fochriw Community Centre, including the installation of internal cameras, a retardant application to curtains and the establishment of a bingo evening, one of which had been cancelled owing to inclement weather;
- Welsh Housing Quality Standard. Outside repairs to be completed before moving to indoor works. Cllr. Hardacre also confirmed work completed up to six-years ago by Rockwool was still under guarantee until the Summer of 2018; and
- Pentecostal Church. Currently in the process of purchasing land for a potential extension;

Cllr. Hardacre then answered questions from Councillors. Cllr. O'Hagan brought to Councils attention reports of recent anti-social behaviour at Fochriw Health Centre and updated on reports the building was to be converted into a Health / Medical Centre. Cllr. O'Hagan also brought to Council's attention the issue of illegal parking and obstruction caused by Council vehicles in Glan-y-nant, Fochriw.

Moved. Cllr. Hardacre to liaise with relevant Officers at Caerphilly CBC to ensure appropriate behaviours and exemplar role modelling is in place when using / parking Council owned vehicles and machinery.

Moved. Clerk to write to the recently appointed Chief Executive of Caerphilly CBC to request a memo be drafted and distributed regarding the appropriate use and parking of Council Owned vehicles.

The Clerk confirmed the 'Report of the County Borough Councillor' would be included on all future agendas.

Cllr. Holifield thanked Cllr. D. Hardacre for his report.

110 **Sheep Trespass at Fochriw**

Owing to time constraints this item although itemised was not discussed.

Date of Next and Future Meetings

Thursday 1st March 2018 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

Thursday 5th April 2018 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

- Proposed Agenda Items
 - Summer Scheme
 - Deri Library
 - Off Street Parking, Bailey Street, Deri

Thursday 3rd May 2018 (AGM) - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

Meeting Closed at 8.40pm.

_____ **Chairperson**

