

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 7th December 2017 at 6.00 pm.

Present

Cllr. R. Chapman (In the Chair)	Cllr. D. Hardacre
Cllr. G. Matthews	Cllr. K. O'Hagan
Cllr. D. Nicholas	

Apologies

Cllr. C. R. Roberts	Cllr. H. Holifield
Cllr. P. Roberts	Cllr. P. Thomas

In Attendance

Mr. G. O. Williams	Clerk
PCSO. Hughes	Gwent Police
PCSO. Godwin	Gwent Police

Fochriw Primary School – Speed Awareness Campaign

(Results are not for onward communication until the School / Pupils have been informed).

8x Runners Up. Each winning a £10.00 Amazon Gift Card

1. Chloe No surname supplied.
2. Name not supplied.
3. Janelle Jones.
4. Ella Pickett.
5. Ellie No surname supplied.
6. Chelsea Doyle.
7. Bailey No surname supplied.
8. Paige No surname supplied.

1x Overall Winner. Winning a £20.00 Amazon Gift Card

1. David No surname supplied.

Moved. Cllr. G. Matthews, Cllr. K. O'Hagan and Cllr. D. Nicholas to attend Deri Primary School on Friday 15th December 2017 at 09:15 to award the winners of the Speed Awareness Campaign, as agreed at the November meeting of Council.

Moved. Clerk to work with PCSO Mahoney to identify a mutually agreeable date for a representative of Council and Gwent Police to attend Fochriw Primary School to announce the winners and award prizes.

Moved. Clerk to progress the development of a banner for display outside of both Primary Schools.

76 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on Thursday 2nd November 2017, previously circulated to members, were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairperson Cllr. R. Chapman.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. C. R. Roberts, Cllr. H. Holifield, Cllr. P. Thomas and Cllr. P. Roberts.

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Roberts had been absent for five consecutive meetings, his last attendance owing to ill-health being at the June meeting of Council. The Clerk confirmed any Councillor who fails to attend six consecutive meetings of Council would by default cease to be a member of the Council.

77 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

78 Matters Arising

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

A discussion ensued following recent changes to the state of the bulge / wall at Groesfaen. Councillor Hardacre advised that discussions between Natural Resources Wales and Caerphilly CBC were still ongoing regarding the extent of remedial works.

Moved. Noted on file.

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

The Clerk advised Council that a payment for £2,000.00 from the Cefn Bach turbine was being processed although was yet to be confirmed or receipted. The Clerk also confirmed further progress was being made with Bluemerang with a payment anticipated in early 2018, to include an indexable RPI uplift. The total annual payment therefore being approx.£2,597.50.

Moved. Clerk to update and agenda for the February meeting of Council.

78.04 Minute No 74. Independent Remuneration Panel 2017/18

Cllr. K. O'Hagan proposed an amendment to Council's agreed approach to the payment of travel. Cllr. K. O'Hagan proposal being that Community Council related travel within the Community Council area be considered as permissible expenditure.

Moved. Clerk to research the approach taken by Community Councils across the County Borough and to agenda for discussion / decision at the February meeting of Council.

Moved. Payment. Cllr. K. O'Hagan – Community Councillor Annual Allowance 2017/18.

78.05 Armistice Day 2017

Moved. Following discussion, it was agreed the Clerk should write to thank Mr. Peter Price and Mr. Eddy Blanche for their efforts in organising the two remembrance events held in Fochriw.

79 **Gwent Police**

PCSO Hughes and Godwin provided Council with a brief update of developments throughout the Community Council area and answered questions from Councillors. The discussion included:

- A detailed explanation on the process and uses associated with ASBO and CBOs. This explanation included the role of other agencies / departments such as Tenancy Enforcement, the Youth Offending Service and the Courts Service in administration and enforcement
- Issues at the old Post Office (34 Moore's Row);
- Problems at the Health Centre in Fochriw. PCSO Godwin confirmed that no reports had been received;
- Your Voice Priorities – Parking at Pontlloftyn Road, Fochriw;
- The transition of responsibility for parking enforcement scheduled for April 2018; and
- Damage and theft at Fochriw Community Centre.

Cllr. R. Chapman thanked PCSO Hughes and Godwin for their report and for attending the meeting.

80 **Planning Applications**

The Clerk confirmed that one application for planning had been received since the last meeting of Council.

Case Ref. 17/1002/FULL

Location: 9 Glynmarch Street, Deri, Bargoed, CF81 9HZ

Proposal: Construct two-storey rear extension and attic room at 9 Glynmarch Street, Deri, Bargoed, CF81 9HZ.

Applicant:

Moved. Council raise no objections to the proposal.

Moved. Clerk to query the status of sewer covers as part of any planned development.

81 **Correspondence**

81.01 Caerphilly CBC. Mayor's Office

Electronic Christmas Card.

Moved. Noted on file.

81.02 Gerald Jones MP

Christmas Card.

Moved. Noted on file.

81.03 Western Power Distribution.

Temporary Unmetered Connections for festive Lighting Christmas 2017/18.

Moved. Noted on file.

81.04 Caerphilly CBC

Festive Lighting Indemnity 2017/18.

Moved. Clerk to complete and return as appropriate.

81.05 Welsh Government

Notification of the appropriate sum under Section 137(4)(A) of the Local Government Act 1972. The limit per elector for 2018-19 having been set at £7.86.

Moved. Noted on file.

81.06 Grant Aid Section137

Acknowledgements and thanks.

- Deri Crafters
- Darran Valley History Society

Moved. Noted on file.

81.07 Welsh Housing Quality Standard

Email update from Anna Lewis of Caerphilly CBC on the status of projects planned in Fochriw. Anna's update read as follows:

Please update the Community Council that the following projects have been approved for Fochriw:

- Fencing on Bridge by Community Centre
- Extra play facilities in Rhodfa Ganol Park – Roundabout, Hop Scotch, Snakes and Ladders.
- Outdoor Gym
- Fencing of play area around teenager pod and kick about adding a picnic bench
- Sheep issue resolution – Springs on gate and reinstate latch at Glan Y Nant
- Fence and gate at Railway terrace
- Clean up – Estate and Common – Already Complete
- Improvements to “Dingle” area – to be carried out by Communities First, Gavo, Groundwork – Bench and assault course for toddlers
- Lighting Column x2 Cae Glas Newydd
- Lines on children's MUGA area, used by community and school
- Fencing between Bryn Nant & School
- Parking Resolutions at Ael Y Bryn

Please note that the clean-up has already gone ahead. A press release was in the Caerphilly Campaign and on the Caerphilly CBC website.

Please will you make the Council aware these projects may take a long time to be completed as there are processes such as planning applications and procurement that will take considerable time. I am also reliant of our other departments to implement the works and it will depend on their capacity to be able to complete their work.

82 **Approval of Community Council Cheques**

The attached list of Community Council cheques was approved by members and amounted to **£00,840.63**.

Please Note. Only one signatory was present, consequently the release of cheques and payments was deferred to the January meeting of Council.

83 **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.

Visitor Centre

We have had some fire and electrical safety works carried out in the centre this month to keep up to date with building regulations.

We had 2 days teacher Training based in the park this month.

Site Works

- Ongoing litter picking in the park and on the cycle-route.
- We brushed the leaves off the cycleway.
- Carried out ditching works and unblocked culverts.
- Ogilvie Olympics repairs: This should be completed by the middle of next week.
- Dragonfly: Awaiting fitting.
- Coot benches: Awaiting fitting.
- New lakeside bins delivered, awaiting fitting.
- About 90% of the timber has been removed from the storage area opposite Prices Yard.
- We had a new compost toilet delivered last week which will be fitted in the New Year, probably lakeside.
- Park Services guys will be thinning the trees along the inflow channel to the lake in the New Year.

Events

Our Christmas Wreath making event held last Saturday was fully booked and went very well. Preparations are now completed for our Snowman making event this Saturday which again is fully booked up. We have now started preparation works for our Reindeer making event on the 16th December which once again is fully booked up.

Miscellaneous

We have been allocated grant money to create additional animal sculptures in and around the Wild Boar Amphitheatre, which is good news. I have been meeting with wood carvers and metal fabricators to take this forward. Ongoing.

Moved. Noted on file.

84 **Sheep Trespass – Community of Fochriw**

It was acknowledged that further improvements had been made, with no sheep having been sighted in the village in the past two to three weeks. Council did however recognise the improvement could also be down to the time of year with the sheep having been moved elsewhere.

The Clerk updated Council on the production of a draft leaflet / poster for issue to residents in early spring. The Clerk advised this draft had already been endorsed by relevant departments at Caerphilly CBC.

Moved. Clerk to circulate copies of the draft at the meeting minutes for editorial comment.

85 Future of Community Safety in Wales. Update from Cllr K. O'Hagan

Further to Cllr. K. O'Hagan's attendance at the above-mentioned event held at Rodney Parade, Newport, on Wednesday 27th September 2017, Councillor O'Hagan provided Council with a verbal report, summarising the key points from the event. Within his report Cllr. K. O'Hagan outlined Welsh Government's ambition for policing to be a devolved responsibility, thus allowing for a greater degree of localism and increased accountability. This being of vital importance in supporting a more coordinated multi-agency approach, most of which is a devolved responsibility. Cllr. O'Hagan also summarised how the Crime & Disorder Act of 1998 Section 17 should be used to impact proposed changes to service delivery.

Cllr. R. Chapman thanked Cllr. K. O'Hagan for his report.

86 Meetings of the Community Council

The Clerk updated Council that he had been in contact with both Community Centres, only to be advised of no availability on Thursday evenings.

Moved. Clerk to explore the suitability, availability and associated hire costs of Deri Library, Ysgwyddgwyn Chapel, St Peters Church, the Pentecostal Church in Fochriw.

Moved. Clerk to prepare a costed discussion document and to agenda for decision at the February or March meeting of Council.

87 Caerphilly CBC Report.

To receive report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor

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

Groesfaen & Deri.

- Traffic lights on Groesfaen Hill whilst a telephone company clears channels.
- The bulge in the wall from Groesfaen to Deri. Referenced under matters arising.
- Upgrade of the sewerage along the railway line is a continuing piece of work.
- Sale of triangle at Prices Yard. Still with Caerphilly CBC legal.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan advised that he had attempted to gain clarity on the status of this transaction through the use of a Freedom of Information request, only to be advised the transaction was yet to be confirmed / complete.

Moved. Cllr. Hardacre agreed to confirm how long this proposal had been with Caerphilly CBC legal and to report at the next meeting of Council.

Moved. Clerk to liaise again with Mr. T. Broadhurst of Caerphilly CBC to confirm the status / requirement of consultation with the Community Council.

- The movement of logs and decommissioning of the log store.

- Cllr. K. O'Hagan confirmed that he had not received a response to his earlier letter to Deri RFC and that he planned to follow up in the coming weeks.

Fochriw.

- Gas board works on Pontlottyn Road.
- The removal of the telephone box adjacent to the Memorial Stone.
- Change to policy regarding free school meals, impacting both Primary Schools.
- The issue of water damage at Coronation Crescent.
Moved. Cllr. Hardacre to follow up with Officers at Caerphilly CBC.
- Cllr. K. O'Hagan brought Councils attention to the recent clearance of illegal dumping at Cefn Y Brithdir, yet advised that the asbestos waste dumped and subsequently reported in May 2017 was yet to be removed.
Moved. Cllr. Hardacre to follow up with Officers at Caerphilly CBC.

Cllr. R. Chapman thanked Cllr. D. Hardacre for his report.

Date of Next and Future Meetings

Thursday 4th January 2018 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

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

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

Meeting Closed at 8.30pm.

_____ **Chairperson**

APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHEQUES

Date of Meeting

Thursday 7th December 2017

Minute Number

82

Cheque No.	Nature of Payment / Payee	Amount
001828	Salary / Mr. G. O. Williams	£00,222.83
001829	Sundries / Mr. G. O. Williams	£00,022.80
001830	Councillor Allowance / Cllr. K. O'Hagan	£00,150.00
CHAPS	Quarter 3 Tax & NI / HMRC	£00,445.00
Total		£00,840.63