

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 6.30 pm.

---

### Present

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

### Apologies

Cllr. H. Holifield	Cllr. P. Roberts
--------------------	------------------

### In Attendance

Mr. G. O. Williams	Clerk
Inspector Andy O'Keefe	Gwent Police

### 01 Minutes and Apologies

The following amendments were noted to the minutes of the meeting of Council held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.

#### 01.1 Minute No. 113.4\_2017/18

Note amendment. Noticeboard in Fochriw not Deri.

#### 01.2 Minute No. 114\_2017/18

Gwent Police.

The Clerk addressed a point of clarity raised by Cllr. K. O'Hagan regarding the following extract:

*Cllr. K. O'Hagan also highlighted the Committee at the Rugby Club had refused to place cones, as this would indicate responsibility, although acknowledged that a poster advising against parking illegally had been displayed within the Club.*

The Clerk confirmed the above was an account of the statement made at the March meeting of Council. The Clerk went on to confirm the issue of responsibility would sit with Gwent Police.

### 02 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

### 03 Matters Arising

#### 03.1 Minute No. 57, 65.03, 78.01, 90.01, 99.01 and 113.01\_2017/18.

Report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor - Wall between Groesfaen and Deri.

The Clerk updated Council that no further update on progress had been received from Natural Resources Wales.

03.02 Minute No. 116.5\_2017/18.

Letter from Mr. E. Blanche. Fochriw & Pentwyn Residents Association.  
Cllr. D. Hardacre confirmed action has been taken on the road surface at Ael-y-bryn, Fochriw. Cllr. D. Hardacre also made reference to a point of legality regarding the statement of liability referenced in Mr. Blanche's earlier letter / email to the County Borough.

#### 04 **Gwent Police**

Inspector Andy O'Keefe provided Council with a brief update of developments throughout the Community Council area. Within his report Inspector Andy O'Keefe brought Councils attention to the following statistics for the month of March 2018:

- 24 Incidents. Of which 13 resulted in Crime:
  - 2x Anti-social behaviour;
  - 1x Involving a laser pen in Fochriw; and
  - 1x Youths damaging a bus shelter.

Council directed by the Clerk then discussed the three key issues previously circulated to Inspector Andy O'Keefe:

##### 1. Parking at Deri Rugby Football Club

Cllr. K. O'Hagan summarised for the Inspector the various attempts taken and associated discussions at Community Council meetings since 2014 linked to this ongoing problem. Inspector O'Keefe advised that whilst he was not fully aware of the issue, his local Officers were, yet advised that policing was prioritised on intelligence and a combination of algorithms linked to threat-risk-harm, highlighting Gwent Police are not receiving a volume of calls linked to this issue. Cllr. K. O'Hagan highlighted this was potentially owing to the potential fear of repercussion. Cllr. K. O'Hagan questioned whether a log of historical patrols / attempted visits would be readily available. Inspector O'Keefe advised this information was not available.

Moved. Inspector O'Keefe to arrange for an educational visit to be completed, and for ongoing monitoring of the situation. To support this agreed activity, Cllr. D. Hardacre summarised the opening pattern of the Rugby Club and highlighted that a new Secretary had recently been appointed.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan advised the Inspector and Council of his intention to distribute a letter highlighting this matter and associated efforts to local residents. Cllr. K. O'Hagan requested Inspector O'Keefe's support in the accuracy of his correspondence.

Moved. Cllr. K. O'Hagan to liaise as appropriate with Inspector O'Keefe regarding the wording of this correspondence.

##### 2. Personalisation of Gwent Police's 101 Leaflets

Cllr. K. O'Hagan highlighted feedback received whilst election campaigning, feedback suggesting local residents aren't aware of the cost model associated with calling 101 and/or the ability to remain anonymous when reporting claim / anti-social behaviour.

Moved. Inspector O'Keefe agreed to explore further with Gwent Police' Corporate Communication Team.

Moved. Clerk to share an image example of the previously personalised leaflet implemented locally.

### 3. Wider use of Social Media – Facebook as oppose to Twitter

Cllr. K. O'Hagan highlighted feedback that local residents are more familiar with Facebook than Twitter. Inspector Andy O'Keefe said that he would have to agree to disagree with analysis suggesting to the contrary. Inspector O'Keefe then highlighted that Gwent Police' Facebook Page was managed centrally within Corporate Communications and owing to technical difficulties could not be accessed by technology used by Officers / PCSO. This does not pose a problem for the use of Twitter hence the current approach. The Inspector concluded by advising that further App-based technology was being considered alongside the existing offering (including Intranet / Blog) via a Social Media Sharing Application called crowd control.

Inspector O'Keefe then answered further questions / took observations from Community Councillors. The issue of recent parking congestion and obstruction at Hillside & Ogilvie Terrace Deri was highlighted by Cllr. Hardacre with an invitation to a to be arranged site meeting extended.

Cllr. R. Chapman thanked Inspector Andy O'Keefe for his report and for attending the meeting.

## 05 **Planning Applications**

The Clerk confirmed no applications for planning had been received since the last meeting of Council. Cllr. K. O'Hagan requested a further tightening of the process, whereby the Clerk circulates by email any applications received, thus allowing for full consideration of the planning request in advance of Council meetings.

Moved. Clerk to introduce this new process with immediate effect.

## 06 **Correspondence**

### 06.1 HMRC

Full Payment Submission for period ending 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Moved. Noted on file.

### 06.2 Dawn Bowden AM for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

Notification of surgery dates for April 2018.

Moved. Noted on file.

### 06.3 Caerphilly CBC

Invoice for Web Hosting & Maintenance 2017-18.

Moved. Payment.

### 06.4 Print Evolution.

Invoice for Sheep Trespass Leaflet Printing.

Moved. Payment.

### 06.5 Zurich Municipal Insurance.

Invoice for Council Indemnity Insurances 2018-19.

Moved. Payment.

- 06.6 Email from local resident Mr. Robert Stephens.  
Fractured drain cover on the right side of the road facing Bargoed between the lights and Groes-Faen.  
The Clerk advised Council that on receipt of this email, he had raised this matter with CRM at Caerphilly CBC and remedial action was being taken in partnership with Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water as owners of the drain cover.
- 06.7 Email from local resident Mr. Robert Stephens.  
Parking congestion and obstruction at Hillside & Ogilvie Terrace Deri (CF81 9 JB) – Including copy of correspondence to Caerphilly CBC, Welsh Highways Agency and Gwent Police.  
Moved. Clerk to write to Caerphilly CBC in support of Mr Stephens' concerns and call for traffic / parking management consideration in the area.  
Moved. Cllr. D. Hardacre to convene a site meeting to include relevant Officers from Caerphilly CBC / Gwent Police and local residents to explore approaches to resolution.
- 06.8 Email from local resident Mr. Robert Stephens.  
Application for Section 137 Grant Funding – Defibrillator Project / Deri.  
Moved. Councillors to attend the public meeting scheduled for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to better understand the ask and governance infrastructure linked to this application.  
Moved. Clerk to defer decision for discussion at the June meeting of Council, following receipt of supplementary information.
- 06.9 Letter from local resident Mr. Peter Price.  
War Memorial and associated annual remembrance service in Fochriw – Request for Council to adopt organisation.  
Moved. Clerk to make contact with Mr. Peter Price to better understand the necessary organisation and the reasoning behind two services being organised in Fochriw. Clerk to report at the June meeting of Council.
- 07 **Approval of Community Council Cheques**  
The attached list of Community Council cheques was approved by members and amounted to **£02,183.91**.
- 08 **Caerphilly CBC Countryside.**  
**To receive report from Peter Lewis Senior Ranger Parc Cwm Darran.**  
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Peter Lewis. A report covering two months is to be received at the Annual General Meeting.
- 09 **Wind Turbine Community Benefit Fund**  
The Clerk circulated a draft term of reference and proposed timeline for consideration by Council, a copy of which can be found in Annex 1.  
Moved. Clerk to circulate an electronic version for editorial consideration by Councillors and to agenda for discussion / decision at the Annual General Meeting of Council.

10 **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:

- A delay to week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 for the remedial work on the wall between Deri and Groesfaen;
- Parking problems at Hillside, Deri – reported under correspondence;
- Deri Defib Project – reported under correspondence;
- The development of two roles: Commons Ranger and Administrator;
- The wood yard is nearly empty;
- Continued negotiations on the proposed ownership / sale of land issue at Prices Yard;
- Confusion over the location of proposed outdoor fitness equipment in Fochriw;
- The closure of Fochriw Community Centre (w/c 9<sup>th</sup>) for flooring; and
- Final approvals with the redevelopment of the Concrete Factory site in Deri – proposal for 14 dwellings.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan highlighted the need to remind Council staff / Contractors to tidy area on completion of work at Deri Newydd. Cllr. K. O'Hagan also questioned whether prosecution action had been taken following the supply of photographic evidence of illegal tipping having been provided by a Fochriw resident. Cllr. D. Hardacre to investigate and report at the next meeting of Council.

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

11 **Sheep Trespass at Fochriw**

Cllr. K. O'Hagan brought to Council's attention that a number of sheep had been seen in the village. The Clerk confirmed two could be seen earlier that evening in the area adjacent to the shops. Following discussion, it was agreed the Clerk raise two areas for remedial action with CRM at Caerphilly CBC – a lack of a spring on the gate at Pontlottyn Road and erosion of the wall in the adjacent area.

Moved. The Clerk to liaise as appropriate with CRM Caerphilly.

Moved. The Clerk distributed the Sheep Trespass Leaflets to Councillors for onward distribution throughout the community of Fochriw.

12 **Council Annual General Meeting Advertising**

Following discussion, it was agreed notices promoting the above-mentioned Council Annual General Meeting be displayed at:

- 3x Community Noticeboards;
- 2x Community Centres;
- Deri Library;
- Parc Cwm Darran; and
- The Community Council website.

The Clerk was also requested to email a copy of the notice to both Primary Schools.

13 **Access to Community Council Correspondence**

Cllr. K. O'Hagan highlighted an occurrence at the March meeting of Council where the Clerk obstructed view to correspondence relevant to the High Sheriffs Fund. Cllr. K. O'Hagan went on to question Councillor access to relevant Community Council correspondence. The Clerk firstly apologised for any offence caused, before confirming access should be provided where the supply of information would strengthen decision making on particular topics. The Clerk did however highlight when the supply of information could be problematic i.e. regarding personal information. The Clerk also highlighted the appropriate use of this information, illustrating the differential between acting as an interested local resident, Community Councillor and / or Community Council.

14 **Service Delivery at Deri Library**

Cllr. K. O'Hagan provided Council with a verbal overview of the facilities available at Deri Library. Cllr. K. O'Hagan's report included information on the following:

Open times

Monday and Wednesday 9:30 - 1 and 2 - 6

Clubs

Monday 10:45 -11:45 Tiny Tots (Term time only. Parents/Carers with young children up to School age: storytelling and singing etc.

Monday 15:30 – 16:30 Lego Club

Wednesday 15:30 – 16:30 Colouring Club

Monday and Wednesday 15:00 – 16:00. Homework Club i.e. use of computers, free photo copying.

Once a month on Monday 14:00 – 15:00. Adult Reading Group

Wednesday 16:00 – 16:30 Gwent Police Surgery

Regular class visits from Deri school

Bridges to Work/Inspire to Work. By appointment

Awards

2010 Library of the Year for Learning Promotion and Support.

2013 Community Education Informal Learning and Community Group Award. (In respect to the Darren Valley History Group, the group meets in the library).

2017 Julie was runner up in the UK for Public Library Champion.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan highlighted the Library is an excellent community resource which it would be good for the Community Council to recognise / advertise and financially support if possible. The more active members the library has then less likelihood of it closing. Cllr. K. O'Hagan then highlighted examples of activities provided at other libraries are Zoolab, Falconry, Circus skills, face painting ranging in cost from £150 to £60 - Bargoed Town Council having contributed toward the Harry Potter event at Bargoed Library.

Moved. Clerk to write to the Library (Julie) to thank her for her continued dedicated to services in the Community.

15 **Summer Scheme 2018**

The Clerk highlighted the financial impact of operating a Scheme in 2018 and suggested Council need to make a decision regarding the potential use of the Wind Turbine monies to fund any proposal. The Clerk also highlighted to Council the work undertaken to raise awareness of the 2017 Scheme, reporting numbers of beneficiaries at 202.

Moved. Clerk to explore costed model options and to agenda for decision at the Annual General meeting of Council.

Options to explore:

- Use of the wonderful local facility which is Parc Cwm Darran;
- The wider use of 'outdoor / outward bound' type activities - activities not traditionally experienced by children from the area; and
- To secure early engagement and sign-up to the scheme through engagement and parental consent based 'sign-up' agreed prior to the end of academic year.

**16 Off Street Parking, Bailey Street, Deri**

Cllr. K. O'Hagan brought to Council's attention the continued issue with illegal parking on Upper Bailey Street, Deri and requested whether Council could revisit previous attempts to negotiate the re-surfacing of the rear lane, thus allowing for adequate off-street parking. Cllr. D. Hardacre highlighted historical attempts and associated indicative costings i.e. £1k for hardcore fill of pot holes and £30-60K for a tarmac solution.

Moved. Cllr. D. Hardacre to re-engage Caerphilly CBC in the feasibility and associated cost of this work.

Moved. The Clerk to write in support of Cllr. Hardcare's approach as the County Borough Member.

**Date of Next and Future Meetings**

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

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

**Meeting Closed at 8.40pm.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chairperson**

