

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 22nd March 2018 at 6.30 pm.

Present

Cllr. P. Roberts (In the Chair)
Cllr. G. Matthews

Cllr. P. Thomas
Cllr. K. O'Hagan

Apologies

Cllr. H. Holifield
Cllr. D. Nicholas

Cllr. R. Chapman

In Attendance

Mr. G. O. Williams
PCSO Childs
PCSO Savva

Clerk
Gwent Police
Gwent Police

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chairperson of Council, Cllr. P. Roberts was elected to Chair.

111 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on Thursday 1st February 2018, previously circulated to members. Cllr. K. O'Hagan proposed two amendments, both of which were accepted by Council. The following amendments were noted.

111.1 Minute No. 109_2017/18

Report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor

Cllr. K. O'Hagan's offer to supply supplementary information on the work undertaken in the Community Council area was not recorded as an intervention. In addition, the subsequent refusal to accept this additional information was not recorded, including advice from the Chair that this information would be better reported in a newsletter.

111.2 Minute No. 110_2017/18

Sheep Trespass at Fochriw

Although the original minute reads 'owing to time constraints this item although itemised was not discussed' it was acknowledged this had not been announced by the Chairperson of Council.

A copy of the minutes was signed by the Chairperson Cllr. P. Roberts. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. H. Holifield, Cllr. R. Chapman, and Cllr. D. Nicholas.

112 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

113 Matters Arising

113.1 Minute No 57, 65.03, 78.01, 90.01 and 99.01_2017/18. Report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor.

The Clerk updated Council on a telephone conversation with Gareth Roberts of Natural Resources Wales, in which Mr. Roberts confirmed that as of Thursday 22nd February 2018, two areas were being reviewed for remedial action, although the extent of any work was still to be agreed.

113.2 Minute No 59, 65.04, 78.03, 90.02 and 99.02_2017/18. Community Benefit Fund.

The Clerk confirmed that further to a follow-up conversation with Mr. Cormac Skelly of Bluemerang Ltd, a payment for £2,597.50 in respect of payment for 2017-18 for the Groesfaen Turbine had been made. The Clerk advised Council that he was yet to confirm this owing to the frequency and timing of bank statements.

Moved. Clerk to report at the April meeting of Council.

113.3 Minute No. 87, 90.07 and 99.5_2017/18. To receive report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan confirmed that he had liaised directly with Mr. Graham Owen at Caerphilly CBC, the material having since been successfully removed.

113.4 Minute No. 99.6_2017/18. Safety of Community Noticeboard in Deri.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan confirmed the Noticeboard had been fixtured and fitted with a lock, for which he has key access.

113.5 Minute No. 99.8_2017/18. Deri OAP Trip

The Clerk confirmed that owing to inclement weather the above-mentioned trip to Gloucester had been rearranged for 11th April 2018 and necessary changes to the Community Council website had been made. Cllr. K. O'Hagan questioned the number of confirmed attendees, to which Cllr. G. Matthews confirmed 25 or 26.

113.6 HMRC Quarter 3 2017-18

The Clerk advised Council its December 2017 CHAPS payment had not been processed by Lloyds Business Banking as Lloyds Bank required the in-branch attendance from two of three signatories. Owing to this complexity the Clerk advised Council he had made the associated payment to HMRC and put arrangement in place for a return to direct cheque payment for future payments.

Moved. Reimbursement Payment to the Clerk.

113.7 Summer Scheme Funding 2018_High Sheriffs Fund for Gwent

The Clerk advised he had received notification that Council had not been successful in its recent application for grant funding. The Clerk advised Council that he had since followed up to query the outcome, only to be verbally advised the scheme had been oversubscribed with other applications prioritised owing to their direct impact on crime.

Moved. Clerk to agenda Summer Scheme for the April meeting of Council.

113.8 Minute No. 100. Gwent Police. Adaptation of 101 Leaflets

The Clerk confirmed he had received a response from Inspector O'Keefe in which the Inspector advised he had forwarded Council's query to Corporate Communications at Gwent Police for comment.

Moved. Clerk to report at the April meeting of Council.

113.9 Minute No. 107. Community Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk confirmed information received from Mr. David Beecham on February 19th 2018 advised a valid call for a by-election in the Deri Ward had been received. The Clerk then advised Council a Notice of Election had been published on March 13th 2018. This information having been published on the Caerphilly CBC and Community Council websites with posters positioned at Deri Library and Deri Community Council. The Clerk also advised Cllr. K. O'Hagan had positioned further posters on March 15th on the Noticeboard in Deri and at the shop on the Square.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan articulated his disappointment the Notice of Election had not been distributed more widely, highlighting that in his opinion the democratic process had not been followed, adding that timescales were too tight. Cllr. K. O'Hagan requested that improvements to advertising / publishing notices be made. The Clerk then confirmed two candidates had submitted their interest and therefore an election would take place on April 19th 2018. The Clerk finally advised Council on the use of polling cards and requested Council decide whether polling cards should be used. Council unanimously agreed to the use of polling cards.

Moved. Clerk to advertise the Statement of Nominations.

Moved. Clerk to advise Mr. David Beecham of Council's decision to use Polling Cards.

113.10 Minute No. 109. Report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor

Use and associated parking of Caerphilly CBC vehicles.

The Clerk confirmed receipt of three emails from Officers at Caerphilly CBC, namely Christina Harry (Chief Executive), Mark S Williams (Interim Corporate Director - Communities), and Tony White (Waste Strategy and Operations Manager). All three emails apologised for the inappropriate use and advised that guidance would be issued to staff. Mr. White also requested registration numbers of these vehicles be supplied to ensure staff are identified and directly approached regarding this matter.

114 **Gwent Police**

PCSO Savva and Childs provided Council with a brief update of developments throughout the Community Council area. Within their report PCSO Savva and Childs brought Council's attention to the following statistics for the month of February:

- 39 Incidents. Of which 9 resulted in Crime:
 - 4x Violence without injury;
 - 2x Public Order offences;
 - 1x Vehicle related;
 - 1x theft (Other); and
 - 1x Violence with injury.

PCSO Savva and Childs also reported seven anti-social behaviour calls, one of which related to youth nuisance in Fochriw and the alleged use of a laser pen. Other topics of discussion included; a Section 59 (Nuisance from a Vehicle) issued to a driver adjacent to Deri Primary School, continued Public Order disturbance at Morrisons, Bargoed; and the positive outcome from the recent enforcement day. It was noted that not one vehicle was found to be parked illegally on Bailey Street during the enforcement period. Cllr. K. O'Hagan acknowledged parking in Bailey Street had improved. It was also acknowledged increased policing presence at both Deri and Fochriw Primary Schools was having a positive impact of behaviours. The discussion progressed to discuss Gwent Police' current use of Social Media – chiefly Twitter. Cllr. K. O'Hagan questioned why Facebook was not as extensively used, Twitter only engaging a particular demographic. PCSO Savva and Childs were asked to liaise with Inspector O'Keefe and subsequently with Corporate Comms at Gwent Police to question the potential and wider use of Facebook to cascade messages and activities. PCSO Savva and Childs also confirmed that further to recent reports of inappropriate parking at Deri RFC they and/or colleagues had as of yet been unable to attend.

Parking problems associated with events at Deri RFC

Cllr. K. O'Hagan summarised actions associated with the long-term difficulties faced by illegal and inappropriate parking by individuals attending a variety of events and functions at Deri RFC, Cllr. O'Hagan's initial concern having been raised via Gwent Police's 101 service in September 2014. Cllr. K. O'Hagan detailed a number of failed or incomplete actions associated with education, compliance and/or potential for remedy (the potential for the use of cones) in dealing with this matter. Cllr O'Hagan's narrative highlighted that despite having been provided with dates of events, evenings of opening and meeting dates for the committee, Officers at Gwent Police had failed to attend from an educational visit perspective. 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.

Moved. Clerk to write to Inspector O'Keefe to request his attendance at a future meeting of Council to detail what action has already been undertaken and what future action is planned to address this matter.

Cllr. P. Roberts thanked PCSO Savva and Childs for their report and for attending the meeting.

115 Planning Applications

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

Case Ref. 18/0171/FULL

Location: Chapel Cottages Mill Road Deri Bargoed CF81 9HG

Proposal: Erect a part two storey, part single storey extension to provide lounge/dining room and two bedrooms

Applicant: Mr D Hill Chapel Cottage Mill Road Deri Bargoed CF81 9HG

Moved. Council raise no objections to the proposal.

116 Correspondence

116.1 HMRC

Full Payment Submission for period ending 5th February and 5th March 2018.
Moved. Noted on file.

116.2 HMRC

Guidance on finished the old tax year 2017 to 2018.
Moved. Clerk to action as appropriate.

116.3 Caerphilly CBC

Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee – 12th December 2017
Subject: Decriminalisation of Parking – Stage 1 report.

The Clerk summarised for Council the likely associated timescale for the transfer of this work and responsibility, highlighting the implications of April and October applications to Welsh Government and the quoted overall timeline of between 15 and 24 months.

Moved. Noted on file.

Moved. Clerk to forward a copy of the report to Cllr. K. O'Hagan.

116.4 General Data Protection Reform

The Clerk advised Council that he was in ongoing dialogue with colleagues at the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), One Voice Wales and Caerphilly CBC regarding the associated implications of this change which take effect from 25th May 2018. The Clerk also advised he was to attend / undergo associated training on this subject on Wednesday 28th March 2018 and would prepare and report recommendations at the Annual General Meeting of Council scheduled for Thursday 3rd May 2018.

Moved. Clerk to agenda for the Annual General Meeting of Council

116.5 Letter from Mr. E. Blanche. Fochriw & Pentwyn Residents Association

The Clerk reported receipt of the above-mentioned letter, copied to Council but addressed to Cllr. D. Hardacre in his County Borough capacity regarding the break-up of the carriageway at Ael Y Bryn Fochriw.

Moved. Clerk to liaise with Mr. E. Blanche to ensure the necessary work had since been completed. Should this work not have been completed the Clerk was instructed to write to Highways at Caerphilly CBC to request this work be completed as a matter of urgency.

116.6 Gerald Jones MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

Notification of surgery dates for March and April 2018.

Moved. Noted on file.

116.7 Dawn Bowden AM for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

Notification of surgery dates for March 2018.

Moved. Noted on file.

116.8 The Pension Regulator

Automatic Enrolment Duties. Redeclaration of Compliance.

The Clerk confirmed that he had already completed and submitted on Council's behalf.

Moved. Noted on file.

116.9 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2018

In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Clerk reported receipt of the above-mentioned report which will have effect for the financial year 2018 / 2019. A copy of the report can be found here: <http://gov.wales/irpwsb/home/publication-reports/58592459/?skip=1&lang=en>

The Clerk summarised the changes to the draft report received in October 2017, the key change being the grouping of Town and Community Councils based on income and the associated impact on Determination 44 and 45 of the report.

Moved. Clerk to agenda for consideration at the Annual General Meeting of Council to include consideration of Determination 48 – Councillor Travel Expenses.

117 **Approval of Community Council Cheques**

The attached list of Community Council cheques was approved by members and amounted to **£00,672.45**.

118 **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/Café/Campsite

The visitor centre and café will be open from the 30th March this year. We have recently had a wood burner fitted in the seating area of the café which should make it a more inviting area to sit in.

The campsite has required a lot of external electrical improvement works this year so we are behind in this preparation for the new season. Weather has also impacted on the new mini event arena we are constructing there so I have made the decision to delay opening the area until mid-April to allow the works to be safely completed.

Site Works

- Ongoing litter picking in the park and on the cycle-route.
- On-going cutting and chipping of snow damaged trees
- On-going high pruning of damaged branches
- We have thinned the trees along 75 % of the inflow channel this year
- Coot benches: Fitting next week.
- New lakeside bins: fitting next week.
- New Compost toilet: Fitted and will be open in the next couple of weeks.
- Wild boar, grass snake and woodpecker wooden sculptures fitted.
- Steel ant sculpture: 50% completed due to be fitted end of March.
- Twmpath mini event arena: Work started completion date end of March.
- Repairs to Wild Boar Amphitheatre: Start next week

- Repairs to fence line: Fencing completed awaiting deliver of gates for corrals.

Events

Our summer events program is due our shortly.

Education

- 12th February St Gwladys Primary 40 pupils
- 13th February St Gwladys Primary 50 pupils
- 15th February St Gwladys Primary 50 pupils
- 16th February St Gwladys Primary 50 pupils
- 27th February Bryn Primary 58 pupils
- 13th March Park Primary 25 pupils
- 14th March Bryn Primary 50 pupils
- 15th March Gilfach Fargoed Primary 30 pupils
- 16th March Gilfach Fargoed Primary 28 pupils

Moved. Noted on file.

119 Wind Turbine Community Benefit Fund

The Clerk urged Council to make progress in advertising the fund, highlighting that it was more important to encourage ideas than it was to define boundaries. Cllr. K. O'Hagan highlighted to Council how the fund could be more impactful if organisations applying for the fund were required to match fund any donation.

Moved. Clerk to prepare publicity material, application / interest process and associated timeline for consideration at the April meeting of Council.

120 Report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor

Cllr. D. Hardacre was not present and consequently unable to provide a report. Cllr. K. O'Hagan suggested that on occasions when Cllr. D. Hardacre was unable to attend, that he could provide a written report.

Moved. Clerk to liaise with Cllr. D. Hardacre on this matter.

121 Meetings of the Community Council

A. Protocol of Council Meetings

The Clerk briefly highlighted the need for Council to be more action / outcome focused, with Council meetings conducted in a more respectful manner. The primary purpose of Council being to represent local residents and to aspire to improve facilities and opportunities across the Community Council area. The Clerk referred members back to the Good Councillor Guide as a good practice guide. Cllr. K. O'Hagan requested consideration be given to the appropriate training of Community Council Chairpersons – the Chair role being pivotal in the successful running of meetings.

Moved. Clerk to make enquiries on the availability and associated cost of training.

B. Location of Council Meetings.

The Clerk confirmed he had been unable to produce a balanced report, the key factor being an inability to secure a venue in the Community of Fochriw

on a Thursday evening – the Community Centre not being available and the Pentecostal Church having not responded to two requests for information and availability. Following discussion, it was agreed the Clerk revisit all locations to request availability Monday through Friday and to agenda / report at the Annual General Meeting of Council on May 3rd (papers to be provided in advance). It was acknowledged Councillor availability to attend on another evening during the week would be a consideration in the decision-making process.

C. Councillor Expenses.

The Clerk reiterated the information supplied at the February meeting of Council. It was agreed this matter be considered in the round alongside items A and B at the Annual General Meeting of Council on May 3rd 2018.

122 Sheep Trespass at Fochriw

The Clerk advised Council he had been in contact with both Mr. Lyndon Ross of Caerphilly CBC and Dr Robert Smith Clinical Scientist (Lead for Zoonoses and GI Infections) at NHS Wales to receive editorial comment on Council's proposed leaflet, chiefly in relation to a request from Cllr. K. O'Hagan to include a narrative relevant to the potential impact of sheep excreta on human health. The Clerk circulated a copy of the revised leaflet for final comment. Cllr. K. O'Hagan requested an additional line be included relevant to an increased risk to pregnant women during lambing season.

Moved. Clerk to amend as appropriate.

Moved. Clerk to arrange for one thousand A5 colour leaflets to be produced in readiness for distribution at the April meeting of Council.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan also requested the matter of Sheep Trespass be prioritised on future Community Council meeting agendas.

Moved. Clerk to include as Item 5 directly following Matters Arising.

Date of Next and Future Meetings

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

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

Thursday 7th June 2018 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

Wednesday 4th July 2018 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

Meeting Closed at 8.20pm.

_____ **Chairperson**

APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHEQUES

Date of Meeting

Thursday 22nd March 2018

Minute Number

117

Cheque No.	Nature of Payment / Payee	Amount
001839	Salary / Mr. G. O. Williams	£00,222.83
001840	Sundries (Postage & Photocopy) / Mr. G. O. Williams	£00,011.30
001841	Quarter 3 Tax & HMRC / Mr. G. O. Williams	£00,438.32
Total		£00,672.45