

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 4th January 2018 at 6.30 pm.

Present

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

Cllr. D. Hardacre
Cllr. K. O'Hagan
Cllr. P. Thomas
Cllr. P. Roberts

Apologies

Cllr. C. R. Roberts

In Attendance

Mr. G. O. Williams Clerk

Chairperson Cllr. H. Holifield opened the meeting by wishing those in attendance a Happy New Year.

88 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on Thursday 7th December 2017, 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. C. R. Roberts.

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Roberts had been absent for six 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.

Moved. Clerk to liaise with Mr. D. Beecham of Caerphilly CBC regarding Cllr. Roberts' disqualification and the subsequent process for vacancy filling.

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

89 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

90 Matters Arising

90.01 78.01 Minute No 57, 65.03 & 78.01_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.

Moved. Noted on file.

90.02 Minute No 59, 65.04& 78.03_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.

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

- 90.03 Minute No 74 & 78.04. Independent Remuneration Panel 2017/18
The Clerk to report the findings of his research at the February meeting of Council.
- 90.04 Minute No 80_2017/18. Planning Case Reference 17/1002/FULL
The Clerk confirmed that issues associated with building over a drain would be addressed via Building Regs and would if appropriate require a 'Sewer Agreement' for issue by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.
- 90.05 Minute No 81.07_2017/18. Welsh Housing Quality Standard
Councillor O'Hagan recommended that Council encourage Miss Anna Lewis to consider appropriate publicity relevant to the agreed programme of work highlighted in the December minutes of Council.
Moved. Cllr. D. Hardacre to pursue with Miss Anna Lewis and to report at the next meeting of Council.
- 90.06 Minute No. 87_2017/18. To receive report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor.
Sale of triangle at Prices Yard.
Councillor Hardacre read aloud an email from Mr. Richard Crane of Caerphilly CBC. Councillor O'Hagan questioned the status of the landowner in relation to the potential for accident and associated liability.
Moved. Cllr. D. Hardacre to investigate and to report at the next meeting of Council.
- 90.07 Minute No. 87_2017/18. To receive report of Cllr. D. Hardacre County Borough Councillor.
Asbestos Waste at Cefn Y Brithdir still to be removed.
Moved. Cllr. K. O'Hagan and Cllr. Hardacre to liaise regarding exact location and to chase progress with Officers at Caerphilly CBC.
- 91 **Gwent Police**
Apologies for absence were received from Gwent Police.
- 92 **Planning Applications**
The Clerk confirmed that no application for planning had been received since the last meeting of Council.
- 93 **Correspondence**
- 93.01 Community Foundation in Wales
Confirmation of Council's application for grant funding – Application Ref. OGA120815. Council should expect to hear back regarding whether you have been successful or unsuccessful with this application by the 31st March 2018.
- 93.02 HMRC
Full Payment Submission for period ending 5th January 2018.
Moved. Noted on file.

93.03 Elsbury Platform

Email / letter of thanks for Council selecting them to support their festive lighting arrangements for 2017/18.

Moved. Clerk to liaise with Elsbury Platform to request a report on the current state of repair of its festive lighting, for consideration at the March / April meeting of Council.

94 **Approval of Community Council Cheques**

The attached list of Community Council cheques was approved by members and amounted to **£00,273.58**.

95 **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 further electrical safety inspections carried out to all outside electrical areas as part of the Councils new safety measures.

Site Works

- Ongoing litter picking in the park and on the cycle-route.
- The heavy snow before Christmas caused major tree damage in the park and along the cycle route. We spent three days clearing fallen trees along the cycleway just to make it safe to use and there is probably another months-worth of work needed to clear other fallen trees and generally tidy up, a job which we have already started.
- High winds have also caused significant damage to trees
- The heavy rains have meant that we have had to carry out lots of ditching works and unblock culverts.
- Chipping fallen trees.
- Ogilvie Olympics repairs: Awaiting contractor.
- 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: Meeting contractor next week for fitting prices.
- Park Services are thinning the trees along the inflow channel to the lake in the New Year.

Events

All three Christmas events were full booked and went really well apart from some disruption because of the snow.

Next week we will be sitting down to plan the summers events program.

Miscellaneous

Amphitheatre Animal sculptures: I am awaiting designs from the artists. These should be with me by next week.

Moved. Noted on file.

96 **Sheep Trespass – Community of Fochriw**

Further progress was reported, with no significant reports of sheep trespass over the Christmas and New Year period. Councillors then passed editorial comment on the 'Sheep Trespass Leaflet' requesting consideration be given to the inclusion of local images i.e. Gate at Glan-y-nant and additional narrative relevant to the disposal of food waste, predominantly vegetable peelings.

Moved. Clerk to make amendments as instructed and to present final version at February meeting of Council, before procuring the print of 1,000 copies for distribution in March.

Date of Next and Future Meetings

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

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

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

Meeting Closed at 7.25pm.

_____ **Chairperson**

