

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 5th October 2017 at 6.00 pm.

Present

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

Apologies

Cllr. C. R. Roberts

In Attendance

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

50 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on Thursday 7th September 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.

51 Declarations of Interest

51.01 Planning Ref. 17/0706/COU

Councillor D. Nicholas declared an interest in this application based on its proximity to his home address.

51.02 Planning Ref. 17/0706/COU

Councillor D. Hardacre declared an interest in this application owing to ongoing involvement in this application in his capacity as a County Borough Councillor.

52 Matters Arising

52.01 Minute No. 44.04_2017/18 Darran Valley History Group

Moved. Clerk to write to thank the Lord Lieutenant for his attendance and kind words at this event.

52.02 Minute. No. 47_2017/18 Christmas Lighting 2017/18

The Clerk confirmed the additional lighting had now been purchased.

53 Gwent Police

PCSO Rachel Lewis apologised for the absence of Inspector O'Keefe and the delay in the timing of the Schools Speed Awareness Competition before providing Council with a brief update of developments throughout the

Community Council area. The update included statistics on reported crime within the last month as outlined below:

- 8x Crimes of which
 - 2 related to Public Order Offences
 - 2 related to Vehicle Crime
 - 4 related to Theft or Criminal Damage

PCSO Rachel Lewis then took questions and areas for further investigation from Councillors. These included:

- The issue of excessive speed in Fochriw – the stretch of road adjacent to the Fish & Chip Shop highlighted as of significant concern, and in need of further monitoring.
- Continued illegal parking and excessive speed on Bailey Street, Deri.
- Problem car parking on 'match days' at Fochriw AFC.
- Issues at Tea Caddy House, Deri. Council requested that contact be established with the owner / landlord to discuss these issues.
- Parking at Fochriw Primary School – mornings and afternoons.
- Excessive speed at Groesfaen, made worse by the issue of obscured signage.
- The need for wider publicity associated with the use of the 101 and/or email services.
- Continued nuisance parking at Plantation Terrace, Fochriw.
- The continued issue of problem parking at Deri RFC was again highlighted for review. Cllr K. O'Hagan advised Council that in the absence of progress, he had written directly to Mr. Mayo of Deri RFC to articulate his concerns and request preventative measures be considered.
- The continuing and growing issue of Anti-Social Behaviour in Fochriw (as highlighted by local resident Mr. P. Duggan) was also highlighted for review.

Cllr. Hardacre advised Council that Inspector O'Keefe has reinstated local meetings at Rhymney Station with County Borough Members. A first date was however still to be confirmed.

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

54 **Planning Applications**

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

55 **Correspondence**

55.01 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Draft Annual Report 2018/19

The Clerk summarised Section 13 of the report which makes particular reference to Community and Town Councils. The Clerk focussed on:

Determination 44: Community and Town Councils must make a payment to each of their members of £150.00 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, and consumables etc.; and

Determination 46: Community and Town Councils in Groups A (Darran Valley being in Group A) are authorised to make an annual payment of up to £500.00 to one member in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150.00 payment highlighted in Determination 44.

Moved. Clerk to write to explore the implications for Community Councillors who also hold a County Borough role.

Moved. Clerk to review early in the new year for final recommendations and subsequent impact on financial planning and precept discussions planned for February 2018.

Moved. Clerk to agenda Annual Report 2017/18 voluntary recommendations for discussion at the November meeting of Council.

55.02 Wales Government

Review of the role of Community and Town Councils – Establishment of an Independent Panel.

Moved. Noted on file.

Moved. Clerk to respond to highlight the financed and unfinanced work of the Community Council.

Moved. Clerk to include appropriate literature on the Community Council website.

55.03 Caerphilly CBC

Invitation to attend an event focussed on reviewing the outputs of the 'Caerphilly We Want' consultation, to be held at Ebenezer Baptist Church, River Terrace, Pengam, NP12 3XB on Wednesday 25th October 2017 between 10am and 1pm.

Moved. Noted on file.

Moved. Councillors to attend as appropriate, securing their space in advance via the following link:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/future-scenarios-iii-making-it-happen-tickets-37876907851

55.04 Caerphilly CBC.

On Street Parking Enforcement (Civil Parking Enforcement)

Notification of the proposed timescale regarding the transfer of responsibility from Gwent Police to Caerphilly CBC. The narrative highlighted the difficulties faced by the timescale and the potential for a 15 to 24-month delay to these arrangements.

Moved. Noted on file.

55.05 Western Power Distribution.

Certificate of Unmetered Supply.

Moved. Clerk to forward to Elsbury Plant Ltd for completion / return as appropriate.

55.06 Caerphilly CBC.

Invoice for Election Recharge 2017.

Moved. Payment £1,624.91.

- 55.07 Amazon / Mr. G. O. Williams
Invoice for Vouchers for Schools Speed Awareness Campaign
Moved. Payment £200.00.
- 55.08 Elsbury Plant Ltd
Invoice for Additional Lighting.
Moved. Payment £1,159.20.
- 55.09 Anna Lewis. WHQS Environmental Officer at Caerphilly CBC
Notification of a clean-up exercise planned for Gelligaer and Merthyr Commons scheduled to take place on November 9th 2017.
Moved. Councillors to attend / support as appropriate.
- 55.10 Anna Lewis. WHQS Environmental Officer at Caerphilly CBC
Email narrative highlighting early work and proposed prioritisation of projects following Anna's recent consultation in Fochriw.
Moved. Clerk to write to Anna Lewis to question clarity on her approach to post consultation communication.
Moved. Clerk to provide a hard copy of Anna's early thinking to all Councillors at the November meeting of Council.
- 56 **Approval of Community Council Cheques**
The attached list of Community Council cheques was approved by members and amounted to **£04,776.64**.
- 57 **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. An offer to type Cllr. Hardacre's report for circulation was made by Cllr. K. O'Hagan although this was declined. Cllr. Hardacre then answered questions from Councillors. Within his report, Cllr. Hardacre updated Council on:
- Road surfacing work at the rear of Glynmarch Street has been completed.
 - Bulge in the wall. National Resources Wales have attended and assessed the situation.
Cllr. K. O'Hagan advised Council that he had reported this matter on May 31st 2017.
Moved. Cllr. Hardacre to confirm whether the bulge was being continually assessed for road safety purposes.
 - Sale of Council Land at Prices Yard was progressing and was with Caerphilly CBC's Legal Department.
Cllr. K. O'Hagan questioned whether the Community Council would be consulted on this proposed sale.
Moved. Clerk to question and report at the November meeting of Council.
Cllr. K. O'Hagan also questioned whether the terms of the sale would be made public, making reference to a recent email exchange with Todd from Caerphilly CBC's Legal Department.
Cllr. Hardacre responded to advise that he did not believe details of this transaction / negotiation would be released as a matter of course.

- His request to remove the log pile at the entrance to Parc Cwm Darran.
- A meeting with the Angling Club to assess measures to reduce the issue of dumped vehicles in water courses on the common.
- Work to address sheep trespass in Fochriw – minuted separately.
- Traffic / parking problems on Match Day at Fochriw AFC (Treharris AFC as the home team) – minuted separately.
- Extension work at Fochriw Community Centre, including the temporary suspension of the Youth Club.
Cllr. K. O'Hagan questioned whether the impact of the loss of the Youth Club had been assessed and if the lost hours of consultation would be reinvested.
Cllr. D. Hardacre confirmed the balance of lost time would be reinvested when the Youth Club was reinstated.
- Police & Crime Commissioner Public Surgeries. The nearest beng held at Bargoed Library on November 18th between the hours of 10am and 12noon.
- A project to be completed within the next two months and in advance of winter at the rear of Glan-y-nant, Fochriw.

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

58 **Caerphilly CBC Countryside.**

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

An email report was accepted from Mr. Peter Lewis. Within his report, Mr. Lewis highlighted:

Visitor Centre/Café/Campsite

The centre, cafe and campsite closed the end of September. We are in the process of comparing visitor numbers using the centre from last year to this year but considering the poor summer weather we experienced I think they have been about the same. The campsite income has shown a slight drop of about 9% but considering the wet weather that's to be expected.

Site Works

- Ongoing litter picking in the park and on the cycle-route
- Re-pointing to patio wall ongoing
- Flailed main road overgrowth
- Hedges cut on drive
- Site preparation for Food festival
- Probation cut back overgrowth on cycleway from centre to Prices Yard
- Strimmed Memorial Garden
- Strimmed around amphitheatre for school visit
- Cut vision splays at Penybank
- Local Nature Reserve signs delivered and ready to fit
- Ogilvie Olympics repairs: Deliver due mid-October and fitted by end of October
- Our Dragonfly metal sculpture has been delivered and is ready for fitting in the next 3 weeks

- Our Coot benches should be with us for fitting in the next 3 weeks

Events

We had about 700 attend our Food Festival on the 23rd September which was good for a first event. We hope to run this same event next year and will try to make it bigger and better.

Education

- 21st September provided log circle for Llanilleth Primary School.
- 22nd September Fochriw Primary Schools sponsored walk in the park
- 3rd October St Gwladys School visit 53 pupils

59 Community Benefit Fund

The Clerk updated Council that whilst he has written on numerous occasions he was yet to secure formal written agreement on future Community Benefit Fund payments from both Asset Management companies.

Following discussion, it was agreed further public consultation on the use of this fund should be considered, perhaps to compliment recent consultation and subsequent prioritisation associated with the WHQS Project.

Moved. Clerk to agenda for discussion at the February 2018 meeting of Council.

60 OAP Annual Trip 2017/2018

Following discussion, it was agreed Council would as in previous years organise a trip for the two OAP organisations, a date and destination still to be agreed.

Moved. Councillors to consult on both the date and proposed destination and to report at the November meeting of Council.

Providing similar / commensurate support to Deri and Fochriw Primary Schools was also discussed and agreed in principle, providing both Schools could confirm funding would be ring-fenced for non-curricular activities.

Moved. Clerk to liaise with the Head Teacher of both Primary Schools and to report at the November meeting of Council.

Moved. Clerk to write to the Head Teacher of Fochriw Primary to congratulate them on recent attendance statistics.

61 Meetings of the Community Council

Cllr. K. O'Hagan outlined to Council how operating differently would improve the interest and engagement of the local electorate and enhance visibility of Council / Council business. Cllr. K. O'Hagan's initial proposal being to move meetings of Council to more central locations. A discussion ensued which started to outline the pros and cons of this proposal. To allow Council to make an informed decision, it was agreed the Clerk undertake a scoping exercise and to report back to Council.

Moved. Clerk to agenda for further discussion at the December meeting of Council.

Moved. In readiness for the December meeting, it was requested the Clerk scope out and liaise with potential meeting venues to assess suitability, availability and associated rental cost.

62 **Sheep Trespass – Community of Fochriw**

The Clerk reported receipt of two pieces of associated correspondence. The first a letter from Gerald Jones MP highlighting that further to local concern he had written to Caerphilly CBC to request action be considered. The second being the associated response from Mr. Lyndon Ross Head of Public Protection at Caerphilly CBC highlighting what action had been taken to resolve the problem. Within Mr Ross' response, he did however acknowledge that due to Fochriw's unique characteristics and location, being an island surrounding by common land that this problem would never be totally solved. It was acknowledged that various Community Councillors had played an active role in supporting this call for action. It was also acknowledged more could / should be done in supporting consistency in reporting / recording, sheep having been spotted in the campsite of Park Cwm Darran on two separate occasions.

Moved. It was agreed Sheep Trespass be included as a standing agenda item, thus providing an opportunity to monitor progress and make continued progress.

Moved. Clerk to work with colleagues at Caerphilly CBC to consider the design, development and associated cost of producing an educational leaflet for distribution throughout the village. Clerk to report progress at the December meeting of Council.

Date of Next and Future Meetings

Thursday 2nd November 2017 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.00pm.

Thursday 7th December 2017 - Parc Cwm Darran Visitors Centre, 6.30pm.

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 5th October 2017

Minute Number

56

Cheque No.	Nature of Payment / Payee	Amount
001803	Salary / Mr. G. O. Williams	£00,222.50
001804	Telephone & Out of Office / Mr. G. O. Williams	£00,214.98
001805	Post & Photocopying / Mr. G. O. Williams	£00,010.05
001806	Additional Lighting / Elsbury Platform	£01,159.20
001807	Election Recharge / Caerphilly CBC	£01,624.91
001808	Grant Aid / Deri Crafters	£00,100.00
001809	Grant Aid / Deri Indoor Short Mat Bowling	£00,100.00
001810	Grant Aid / Deri Regeneration Group	£00,100.00
001811	Grant Aid / St Marys & St Andrews	£00,100.00
001812	Grant Aid / Darran Valley 55 Club	£00,100.00
001813	Grant Aid / Darran Valley History Society	£00,100.00
001814	Grant Aid / Friends of Deri Primary	£00,100.00
001815	Grant Aid / Ysgwyddgwyn Chapel	£00,100.00
001816	Grant Aid / Right Foundation	£00,050.00
001817	Grant Aid / Mayors Charity Appeal	£00,050.00
001818	Spoiled	Spoiled
001819	Tax & National Insurance / Post Office	£00,445.00
001820	Schools Competition Vouchers / Mr. G. O. Williams	£00,200.00
Total		£04,776.64