

**DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN**

Mr. G. O. Williams
Clerk to the Council / Clerc Y Cyngor

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Dear Member,

Your attendance is requested at the next meeting of the above Community Council which will be held at Parc Cwm Darran Visitor's Centre, Deri, on **Thursday 6th June 2019 at 6.30pm.**

Yours sincerely,

Geraint Williams
Clerk to Darran Valley Community Council

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of interest.
3. To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th April 2019.
4. To approve for accuracy the minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 2nd May 2019.
5. Matters Arising from the April 2019 meeting of Council.
6. To receive Internal Audit – Mrs. J. Richards
7. To receive Cllr. E. Stenner – Cefn Brithdwr PSPO
8. Summer Scheme July / August 2019
9. Planning Applications.
10. To receive Community Council Correspondence.
11. Approval of Community Council Cheques / Payments.
12. To receive report from Gwent Police and / or Caerphilly CBC Community Safety Team.

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 April 2019 at 6.30pm.

Present

Cllr. P. Roberts (In the Chair)
Cllr. D. Hardacre
Cllr. P. Thomas

Cllr. G. Matthews
Cllr. K. O'Hagan

Apologies

Cllr. H. Holifield
Cllr. A. Vincent

Cllr. R. Chapman
Cllr. D. Nicholas

In Attendance

Mr. G. O. Williams Clerk

One Local Residents (Mr. E. Blanche) was also present.

01 Minutes and Apologies

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2019, previously circulated to members were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairperson Cllr. P. Roberts.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. H. Holifield, Cllr. A. Vincent, Cllr. R. Chapman and Cllr. D. Nicholas

02 Declarations of Interest

- 02.1 Cllr. D. Hardacre declared an interest in Planning Application **19/0178/FULL**. Cllr. Hardacre took no part in the discussion thereon.
Moved. Noted on file.

03 Matters Arising

- 03.1 Minute No. 69, 77.4 and 88.2. Vehicle Speed / Speed Survey. Brook Row, Fochriw

Further to Council's most recent correspondence and site meeting / visit, Mrs. Swarbrick of Caerphilly summarised the following;

The survey carried out between 26/9/18 and 2/10/18 was undertaken adjacent to lighting column WD029. The average speed of all vehicles during the complete week was recorded at 27.6mph and the 85th percentile (i.e. the speed at which 85 percent of the vehicles are travelling at or below) was 33.3mph. In accordance with the Caerphilly County Borough Council Speed Management Strategy, for a site to be considered for speed reducing measures in the form of vehicle activated signs, a mean speed of at least 32mph and 85th percentile speed of at least 37mph is required within a 30mph

speed limit area. For consideration of traffic calming measures, mean and 85th percentile speeds of at least 37mph and 42mph respectively are required together with a history of personal injury collisions. Consequently, I'm sure you will appreciate that Brook Row does not meet the intervention criteria within the Speed Management Strategy for the implementation of speed reduction measures at this time.

I also provided the results of a survey carried out in February 2013 at the location indicated by Mr Chapman during the site meeting as having been requested for a survey by Eddie Blanche. This was attached to Lighting Column WD027. At that time the mean speed was 23.9mph and the 85th percentile was 32.9mph. Whilst it is appreciated that this is 6 years ago, as there have been no changes to the road layout since that time there is no reason to believe that speeds will have increased to anywhere near the threshold required for intervention.

I note that you have requested the raw data to allow both the Community Council and Mr Blanche to review it. Whilst I have provided the spreadsheets containing the data we hold for both sites, the 2013 data does not include individual speeds within each hour, only the mean and 85th percentile. I would also wish to reiterate that, as highlighted in June last year following Mr Blanche's report, the criteria within the Council's Speed Management Strategy is based on mean and 85th percentile speeds.

The spread of speeds on Brook Row and Pontlottyn Road are typical of the majority of roads surveyed within the County Borough and beyond. There will always be a minority of motorists who drive at inappropriate speeds, regardless of the speed limit, road characteristics or any speed reducing measures which are put in place. The use of the mean and/or 85th percentile speed within the criteria adopted within Caerphilly County Borough Council's Speed Management Strategy is standard practice and widely utilised within Speed Management Strategies across the UK.

If we were to implement speed reducing measures at every site where any vehicles travelled above the speed limit or based our criteria on the highest speed, practically every street in the County Borough would meet the criteria. As I am sure you will appreciate, implementing speed reducing measures at every site could neither be justified nor sustained in the current financial climate and would clearly be an inappropriate use of Council resources. The Council's Speed Management Strategy ensures that the Council makes the most appropriate use of limited resources via value-based decisions that are proportionate to the problem and level of risk posed from speeding traffic.

In light of the above, I am sure you will appreciate that there would be nothing to be gained by carrying out a review of the speed surveys.

The Clerk highlighted to Council that in the absence of progress Councillors might wish to develop a Community Speed Watch programme, in an area already highlighted suitable for such a scheme.

Moved. Clerk to circulate a copy of this correspondence to Councillors.

Moved. Clerk to supply Mr. E. Blanche with a copy of the raw data from 2013.

Moved. Councillors to consider the development of a Community Speed Watch programme / scheme.

- 03.2 Minute No. 71, 77.5 and 88.3. Access to Capel Brithdir
Further to Council's latest correspondence on that matter, the Clerk confirmed that he was yet to receive a response.
Moved. Clerk to report at the June meeting of Council.
- 03.3 Caerphilly CBC. Off Street Parking Notice
The Clerk advised Council that Caerphilly CBC wished to encourage insight on problem areas / times in support of a more sophisticated patrolling strategy – feedback to be provided verbally through CRM and electronically through a yet to be circulated capture tool. Cllr. K. O' Hagan questioned whether historical insight captured by Gwent Police would be shared to support similar.
Moved. Clerk to circulate tool when available.
Moved. Clerk to confirm whether insight from Gwent Police was to be shared in support of this agenda and to report at the June meeting of Council.
- 03.4 One Voice Wales. Chairs Training.
The Clerk confirmed that further to the postponement of the January 2019 training event, he had provisionally secured a slot at the same event to be held in Barry on May 14th.
Moved. Council to consider its representative at the Annual General Meeting of Council scheduled for May 2nd 2019.
- 03.5 Community Foundation in Wales
The Clerk updated Council that although he was still hear formally, he had been advised that Council's application for funding to support a Summer Scheme in 2019 had been unsuccessful.
Moved. Clerk to await formal correspondence before agending the matter of the Community Council Summer Scheme for the Annual General Meeting of Council scheduled for May 2nd 2019.
- 04 **Planning Applications**
The Clerk confirmed two applications for planning had been received since the last meeting of Council.
- Planning Application Ref. **19/0159/FULL**
Location: 9 Glynmarch Street Deri Bargoed CF81 9HZ
Proposal. Construct a detached garage.
Moved. Council raised no objections, although it was acknowledged that Councillors had no yet viewed plans associated with this application.
- Planning Application Ref. **19/0178/FULL**
Location: 3 Woodland Rise Deri Bargoed CF81 9JF
Proposal: Install an extra bedroom window on side elevation
Moved. Council raised no objections, although it was acknowledged that Councillors had no yet viewed plans associated with this application.
- 05 **Correspondence**
- 05.1 HM Revue and Customs
Full Payment Submission for period ending 5th April 2019.

Moved. Noted on file.

- 05.2 HM Revue and Customs
End of year submission for 2018-2019.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 05.3 HM Revue and Customs
Employee Tax Code Notification for 2019-2020.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 05.4 Lloyds Bank
Receipt of Sheet No. 31 from Account x1x4x4x9.
Moved. Noted on file and for finance file.
- 05.5 Zurich Municipal
Invoice. Council's Insurance Premium for 2019-2020.
Moved. Payment £443.14.
- 05.6 Caerphilly CBC
Invoice. Council's Web Hosting & Support 2018-2019.
Moved. Payment £600.00
- 05.7 GAVO
Summary write-up from the Darran Valley Wind Turbine Scheme Panel Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2019.
Moved. Clerk to write to GAVO to seek clarity on actions associated with both caveated applications, the differing of Councillor opinion on the status of the Friends of Fochriw Primary Schools application, and the implication of not spending the full grant on the 10% admin fee.
Moved. Clerk to report at the June meeting of Council.
- 06 **Approval of Community Council Cheques**
The attached list of Community Council cheques was approved by members and amounted to **£01,940.35**.
- 07 **Caerphilly CBC Countryside**
To receive report from Peter Lewis Senior Ranger Parc Cwm Darran.
No report was received from Mr. P. Lewis.
- 08 **Gwent Police**
Apologies for absence were received from Gwent Police.
Cllr. K. O'Hagan questioned whether following the transfer of off-street parking responsibilities from Gwent Police to Caerphilly CBC, if continued monthly attendance would be a good use of policing time – questioning whether a monthly statistical report might suffice.
Cllr. K. O'Hagan also questioned whether if Council was to persist with a monthly face-to-face intervention, whether a more structured approach to agreed action and follow-up would be prudent. Although a decision on future attendance was not taken, the following actions were agreed by Council.

Moved. Clerk to write to Gwent Police to request a monthly narrative for sharing with Councillors.

Moved. Clerk to introduce a more structured meeting approach, i.e. prompting feedback and completion of action discussed at the previous meeting of Council.

09 **Proposed Sale of Community Council land at Cefn Road, Deri.**

The Clerk updated Council on a template / stencil used by Caerphilly CBC in the proposed sale of land.

Moved. Clerk to produce and publish an equivalent template, highlighting that liability for costs associated with the transaction would be that of the purchaser.

Moved. Clerk to agenda for discussion / decision at the June or July meeting of Council.

Moved. Following a financial discussion, it was provisionally agreed that Council would discuss Council's future strategy to precept funding / community engagement at the July or future meeting of Council.

10 **Community First Responder Scheme**

Owing to financial implications, this item was deferred for discussion at the Annual General Meeting of Council scheduled from May 2nd 2019.

11 **School Governor Vacancy. Fochriw Primary School**

The Clerk updated Council on recent correspondence and somewhat confused communications from EAS South East Wales. The Clerk also updated Council on the only application received, from Mrs. C. Challenger of 23 Ael-Y-Bryn Street, Fochriw, CF81 9JW. Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed Council nominate Mrs Challenger as Council's representative.

Moved. Clerk to write to EAS and Fochriw Primary School to advise on Council's decision.

Moved. Clerk to contact Mrs. Challenger to advise accordingly.

12 **Summer Scheme 2019**

Owing to financial implications, this item was deferred for discussion at the Annual General Meeting of Council scheduled from May 2nd 2019.

13 **Gelligaer and Merthyr Common.Volunteer Group**

Cllr. K. O'Hagan brought to Council's attention the first of a series of volunteering and educational events to be organised by the Commons Officer.

Moved. Clerk to publish information to the Community Council website.

Moved. Clerk to write to request all Councillors be included in future correspondence

14 **Sheep Trespass**

Cllr. K. O'Hagan brought to Council's attention continued issues associated with sheep trespass, highlighting a number of areas of continued concern which required action. These included:

- the road between Deri & Pentwyn;

- the five-bar gate from the shop area in Fochriw to Glan-y-nant; and
- the gate at Pontlottyn Road.

Cllr K. O'Hagan advised Council he had negotiated with colleagues in Caerphilly CBC Highways for an 'Animals in the Carriageway' sign to be erect on the road between Pentwyn and Parc Cwm Darran. He also confirmed concerns regarding the gate at Pontlottyn Road had been escalated to Mr. P. Griffiths (Countryside, Caerphilly CBC) for consideration.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan advised his greatest concern was for access to the children's playground in Fochriw, advising Council that more must be done to address this area.

Moved. Clerk to write to colleagues at Caerphilly CBC to request consideration be given to necessary action associated with stopping trespass access to the children's playground.

Moved. Clerk to write to colleagues at Caerphilly CBC to rearticulate Council's concerns regarding Sheep Trespass and to prompt closer working between departments i.e. Environment Health / Highways.

Date of Next and Future Meetings

Full Council. Thursday 6th June 2019, 6.30pm

Full Council. Thursday 4th July 2019, 6.30pm

Full Council. Thursday 5th September 2019, 6.30pm

Meeting Closed at 7.50pm.

_____ **Chairperson**