

**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 7th February 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 3rd January 2019
4. Matters Arising from the January 2019 meeting of Council.
5. Planning Applications.
6. Presentation from the Commons Ranger.
7. To receive Community Council Correspondence.
8. Approval of Community Council Cheques / Payments.
9. To receive report from Gwent Police and / or Caerphilly CBC Community Safety Team.
10. Community Council Budget and Precept 2019-20.
- 10a. Summer Scheme 2019.
11. Quarter 3 Income and Expenditure Report.
12. Public Participation in Community Council Meetings.
13. School Governor Vacancy. Fochriw Primary School.

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 3rd January 2019 at 6.30pm.

Present

Cllr. R. Chapman (In the Chair)	Cllr. D. Nicholas
Cllr. D. Hardacre	Cllr. P. Thomas
Cllr. A. Vincent	Cllr. P. Roberts
Cllr. H. Holifield	

Apologies

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

Mr. G. O. Williams Clerk

PC593.	Paul Broad Gwent Police
CO230.	Jess Mahoney Gwent Police
CO218.	James Godwin

The Chairperson of Council, Cllr. R. Chapman opened the meeting by welcoming Councillors and Gwent Police Officers, and wishing members a Happy New Year for 2019.

62 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st November 2018, previously circulated to members were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairperson Cllr. R. Chapman

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. G. Matthews and Cllr. K. O'Hagan.

63 Declarations of Interest

63.1 Cllr. D. Hardacre, Cllr. P. Roberts and Cllr. R. Chapman declared an interest in agenda item 15. Fochriw Community Centre. Food Distribution Scheme. Moved. Noted on file.

64 Matters Arising

64.1 Minute No. 19.7, 29.02 and 52.02 2018-19

Accuracy of this minute was deferred for clearance at the February meeting of Council.

64.2 Minute No. 22.7 and 54.02. Request to purchase land at Cefn Road, Deri, Bargoed.

The Clerk updated Council that he had recontact Mr. James to re-request his assistance owing to the financial risks associated with the appointment of external professionals. The Clerk advised that he was awaiting contact in the

hope of agreeing a site meeting to better understand potential sales values and associated costs.

Moved. Clerk to update on progress at the February meeting of Council.

- 64.3 Minute No. 43.6 and 54.04. Community Councillor Training. Chairing Skills
Following discussion, it was agreed the current Chair, Cllr. R. Chapman attend represent Council.

Moved. Clerk to update One Voice Wales as appropriate.

- 64.4 Minute No. 45 and 54.06. Wind Turbine Community Benefit Fund
The Clerk confirmed that he was yet to hear from one of the Asset Management Companies (Bluemerang Ltd) regarding a community benefit fund payment for 2018/19.

Councillors confirmed that progress on the 2018/19 scheme were progressing well following a meeting held in early December 2018.

- 64.5 Minute No. 60. Sheep Trespass

The Clerk reported the following receipt of information from Mr L Ross
Caerphilly CBC

Deri / Parc Cwm Darran

Since the 1st September 2018 to 1st November 2018 we have received 9 service requests relating to 7 occurrences for animal trespass in the area.

These were received from 3 different customers.

On 6 occasion no sheep were present and on one occasion the farmer was in attendance to remove the animals present

We have received another service request and arrangements are being made for Officers to attend with Countryside Services Staff to impound any sheep present on the bend above Parc Cwm Darran

The issue of the fences in and around the forestry has caused problems when the fire brigade gained access to fight the fire. I believe colleagues at Parc Cwm Darren are trying to resolve this.

Fochriw

Since the 1st September 2018 to 1st November 2018 we have received 6 service requests relating to 4 occurrences for animal trespass in this area.

These were received from 2 different customers.

On 2 occasion no sheep were present and on 2 occasions the farmer was in attendance to remove the animals present

Cllr. D. Hardacre confirmed Caerphilly CBC do not possess an animal pound, advising they work with a local farmer who provides this facility on their behalf.

Moved. Noted on file.

65 **Planning Applications**

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

66 **Correspondence**

- 66.1 HMRC

Full Payment Submission for period ending 5th December 2018.
Moved. Noted on file.

66.2 HMRC

Full Payment Submission for period ending 5th January 2019.
Moved. Noted on file.

66.3 Caerphilly CBC

Letter requesting Council instruct the Principal Authority of its Precept requirements for 2019/20 by no later than 28th February 2019.
Moved. Clerk to agenda for discussion at the February meeting of Council.

66.4 Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Letter advising Council of the Commissioner's plan to raise its annual precept for 2019/20 in order to protect policing numbers at 1,290 until at least 2020/21.
Moved. Noted on file.

66.5 Wales Government

Letter updating Council on implementation of policy approaches relevant to the Community and Town Sector, a by-product of the recent findings of an Independent Review Panel.
Moved. Noted on file
Moved. Clerk to agenda for discussion at the March / April meeting of Council.

66.6 Wales Audit Office

Invoice for Audit of Accounts 2017/18.
Moved. Payment.

Wales Audit Office – End of Year Audit

Completion and Certification of the Annual Audit for the year ended 31st March 2018.

The Clerk advised Council that the external auditor's report stated that on the basis of their review, the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Auditor General for Wales' requirements and no matters of concern have been highlighted.

Moved. Noted on file.

Moved. Clerk to conclude associated activities, including the completion of the publication of conclusion of audit, satisfaction survey and notification of audit timescale for 2019/20.

66.7 Lloyds Bank

Receipt of Sheet No. 27 from Account x1x4x4x9
Receipt of Sheet No. 28 from Account x1x4x4x9
Moved. Noted on file and for finance file.

66.8 Welsh Government

Notification of the appropriate sum under Section 137(4)(A) of the Local Government Act 1972. The limit per elector for 2019-20 having been set at £8.12.

Moved. Noted on file.

- 66.9 One Voice Wales obo Wales Government
Survey on the use of Welsh Language by Town & Community Councils.
Moved. Clerk to complete on behalf of Council.
- 66.10 Caerphilly CBC
Draft Proposals for 2019/20. Notification of period of widespread public consultation concluding on January 11th 2019.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 66.11 Caerphilly CBC
Invoice for Community Council Summer Scheme 2018.
Moved. Payment.
- 66.12 Caerphilly CBC
Countryside. Parc Cwm Darran Report: January 2019.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 66.13 Education Achievement Service for South East Wales
Notification of a Minor Authority Governor vacancy at Fochriw Primary School.
Moved. Clerk to agenda for discussion at the February meeting of Council.
- 66.14 Gelligaer and Merthyr Common – Volunteer Group
The Clerk shared information provided by Cllr. K. O'Hagan. This information highlighted Cllr. O'Hagan's recent volunteering with a Cardiff Conservation Group, repairing the walls at Pentwyn Church, and highlighted an event to be held on 16th January 2019 at the Education Centre, Cwm Bargoed Disposal Plant, Fochriw, CF48 4AE.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 66.15 Elsbury Access Platforms
Notification that PAT and fault testing of Community Council equipment will be completed in February 2019, with reports to allow Councils to make decisions on replacement / repair earlier in the financial year.
Moved. Noted on file, awaiting the report.
- 67 **Approval of Community Council Cheques**
The attached list of Community Council cheques was approved by members and amounted to **£03,169.95**.
- 68 **First Responder Scheme**
Cllr. A. Vincent provided Council with a verbal overview of the Welsh Ambulance Service First Responder Scheme. Within her update, Cllr. A. Vincent confirmed First Responders in Wales are volunteers who donate their spare time to attend appropriate 999 calls and provide first hand emergency care to people in their own community. When a 999 call is made, first responders are alerted by one of three control centres and are sent to certain types of calls the same time as an ambulance so they can provide essential care until the vehicle reaches the scene. The volunteers are trained by the

Welsh Ambulance Service to administer basic first aid skills, oxygen therapy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of a defibrillator.

Following discussion, it was agreed Council explore the potential for a scheme in the Darran Valley, although acknowledged covering all associated costs from Council fund, might be problematic.

Moved. Clerk to explore absolute costs and to report at the February / March meeting of Council.

Moved. Clerk to work with Cllr. A. Vincent in the development of posters to attract and assess interest in the scheme.

69 Vehicle Speed / Speed Survey. Brook Row, Fochriw

The Clerk reported receipt of an update to Council's previous correspondence from Mrs. T. Swarbrick Caerphilly CBC. Within Mrs Swarbrick's email she updated Council on the recent survey undertaken on Brook Row (tapes located within the residential area).

The survey was carried out between 26/9/18 and 2/10/18. 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.

Council acknowledged Mrs. Swarbrick's report and summary. Following discussion, it was requested the Clerk to write to articulate Council's continued concern, and to request a site meeting to discuss further. It was also requested that a site meeting at Groesfaen, on the road between New Road and Groesfaen Terrace be arranged.

Moved. Clerk to report at the February / March meeting of Council.

70 Review of OAP / Seniors Trip.

Cllr. P. Nicholas highlighted to Council his and his wife's direct experience and associated disappointing relating to the lack of clear guidelines on eligibility, both in terms of the definition of OAP / Senior and the extension of opportunity when an eligible resident required support from an age / area ineligible carer / aide-companion. Cllr. H. Holifield responded confirming that information supplied was merely advisory, the principle advice being to seek clarity from the Community Council Clerk.

The Clerk highlighted to Council that whilst attendance over the previous four years from Fochriw had remained strong / at capacity, attending numbers in Deri had steadily declined from the low-mid forties to twenties during the same period.

Following discussion, Councillors unanimously agreed that more work was needed to engage greater attendance from Deri and to strengthen eligibility criteria, thus avoiding the potential for confusion or ambiguity.

Moved. Clerk to explore options for the refinement of eligibility criteria in advance of any proposed trip in 2019/10.

71 **Access to Capel Brithdir**

The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence (previously circulated) from Mr. E. Blanche, Fochriw & Pentwyn Resident Association.

Following discussion, it was requested the Clerk write to articulate Council's disappointment at the apparent lack of local consultation on this matter, both with the Community Council and local residents, and to request further consideration be given to this issue, as a matter of urgency. Within Council's correspondence, it was requested the Clerk acknowledge the issue and cost associated with illegal tipping, and the need for some measure of control. It was also requested the Clerk question what alternative approaches have been considered, including the potential for a key management system, thus allowing controlled access for local residents and visitors to the area.

Moved. Clerk to report at the February / March meeting of Council.

72 **Fochriw Community Centre. Food Distribution Scheme**

Councillors acknowledged the development of this scheme and use of Fochriw Community Centre for any limited distribution. Owing to inaccuracies reported on local Social Media, Councillors confirmed for the minutes that the scheme has not been endorsed nor sponsored by the Community Council.

Moved. Noted on file

73. **CCTV in Deri. Cllr. P. Roberts.**

Cllr. P. Roberts highlighted to Council feedback from local residents, which questioned the absence of CCTV as a deterrent in the village of Deri. The Clerk referenced previous discussions on this matter dating to 2016/17, when both the statistical evidence base (reported crime) and costs associated with deployment, were considered insufficient and cost prohibitive.

Moved. Following discussion, it was agreed the Clerk explore outline costs and potential options of funding and to report at the March meeting of Council.

74. **Gwent Police**

Ward Manager Broad provided Council with a brief update of developments throughout the Community Council area. Within his report Ward Manager Broad brought Council's attention to the following statistics for the month of December 2018:

- 29 Incidents.
 - 17 Crimes:
 - 9x Violence (without injury);
 - 4x Theft;
 - 3x Public Order; and
 - 1x Vehicle Crime

Ward Manager Broad then took questions / areas of concern from Councillors.

Moved. PC Broad to investigate the Community Speed Watch Scheme with Inspector O'Keefe and to report at the February meeting of Council.
Cllr. R. Chapman thanked Officers for their report and for attending the meeting.

Date of Next and Future Meetings

Full Council. Thursday 7th February 2019, 6.30pm

Full Council. Thursday 7th March 2019, 6.30pm

Full Council. Thursday 4th April 2019, 6.30pm

Meeting Closed at 8.30 pm.

_____ **Chairperson**