

**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 November 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 October 2019.
4. Matters Arising from the October 2019 meeting of Council.
5. Planning Applications.
6. To receive Community Council Correspondence.
7. Approval of Community Council Cheques / Payments.
8. To receive report from Gwent Police and / or Caerphilly CBC Community Safety Team.
9. Gelligaer and Merthyr Common. Update from the Commons Officer
10. Aneurin Bevan UHB. Presentation. Integrated Wellbeing Network - Caerphilly
11. Resident Participation
12. Recruitment and Selection. Community Council Clerk
13. Community Councillor Vacancy. Opportunity for Co-Option
14. Quarter 2 Income & Expenditure Report

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 October 2019 at 6.30pm.

Present

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

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. H. Holifield
Cllr. A. Vincent

Apologies were also received from the Commons Officer.

In Attendance

Mr. G. O. Williams Clerk
PCSO. Rhys Griffiths Gwent Police
PCSO. Rachel Pearce Gwent Police

One local resident was also present – Mr. E. Blanche.

52 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2019, previously circulated to members were reviewed and the following amendment for accuracy / completeness agreed.

Minute 48. OAP Annual Trip 2019

Cllr. K. O'Hagan requested an additional sentence be included referencing the need for evaluation prior to any future expenditure.

Please note. Cllr. D. Hardacre' reference to Minute 43.05 was not considered a matter of accuracy and is therefore not recorded.

The original record was then signed by the Chairperson Cllr. D. Nicholas. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. H. Holifield and Cllr. A. Vincent.

53 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

54 Matters Arising

54.01 Minute No. 26, 29.03 and 43.01 2019/20

Wind Turbine Community Benefit Fund 2019/2

The Clerk updated Council that actions agreed at the September meeting of Council had been performed with materials relevant to the 2019/20 scheme circulated to members by email. Cllr. K. O'Hagan advised Council that he had

not yet reviewed this information. Cllr. K. O'Hagan went on to articulate that he would prefer to receive papers ahead of Council, allowing time to review in advance of the meeting. The Clerk agreed to this for all future papers, although highlighted agreed actions were discussed, agreed and minuted in the June, July and September meetings of Council.

Moved. Payment of Community Fund for 2019/20 to GAVO. £4,582.50.

The Clerk updated Council that he had received an email and copy letter from the Darran Valley History Group, articulating their disappointment to have had their previous application rejected and requesting additional consideration be given to a revised application. The Clerk advised Council he had since spoken to Mrs. Button to explain Council's approach for 2019/20 and that he had forwarded necessary application information by email.

54.02 Minute No. 35 and 43.04 PSPO at Cefn Brithder

The Clerk advised Council he had been in further discussion with Mr. Owen Ashton of Caerphilly CBC who was now in a position to supply a key and key safe for use at Fochriw Community Centre.

Moved. Cllr. D. Hardacre agreed to collect the key and key safe, and to work with local resident Mr. E. Blanche (in attendance and volunteering support) to coordinate installation.

Moved. On installation, and in the absence of appropriate signage, the Clerk to liaise with relevant emergency services to advise of the key's location.

54.03 Minute No. 36 and 43.05 Summer Scheme 2019

The Clerk updated Council that as requested an exercise to gather feedback had been developed and commenced.

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

54.04 Minute No. 42. Casual Vacancy Fochriw Ward.

The Clerk advised Council that preparations were in place to advertise the casual vacancy from Monday 7th for the statutory period of 14 working days.

Moved. Clerk to update progress at the November meeting of Council.

The Clerk also notified Council of interest received from local resident, Mr. E. Blanche.

Moved. Noted on file pending the outcome of the casual vacancy advertisement.

54.05 Minute No. 50. Armistice Day Arrangements 2019

The Clerk advised Council that as requested, he had ordered two 18" wreaths.

Moved. Payment £37.00.

Cllr. D. Hardacre provided Council with an update regarding arrangements in Fochriw, Cllr. Hardacre working alongside Mr. Price in the organisation of this years' service.

Cllr. K. O'Hagan proposed a motion of change, articulating his proposal to substitute the civic responsibility of the Chairperson to lay a wreath on behalf of the Community Council, with a member of the community with connection to the war or armed forces. A lengthy debate ensued, discussing the role of Council as the elected representative of the community, the merits of offering the honour to a local resident who 'deserved' the honour following a period of

service, and difficulties and risks associated in identifying and subsequently including / excluding local residents meeting the appropriate criteria. As no seconder to the motion was secured, the motion fell and was not voted upon.

55 Planning Applications

The Clerk confirmed two applications for planning had been received since the last meeting of Council.

Planning Application. 19/0760/RET

Location. The Lodge, Cefn Road Upper, Deri, Bargoed, CF81 9GW

Proposal. Retain the change of use of a summer house to a holiday let, at The Lodge, Cefn Road Upper, Deri, Bargoed, CF81 9GW.

Moved. Council raise no objections to this proposal.

Planning Application. 19/0714/FULL

Location. 12 Plantation Terrace, Fochriw, Bargoed, CF81 9JR

Proposal. Erect single storey rear extension and alterations at 12 Plantation Terrace, Fochriw, Bargoed, CF81 9JR

Cllr. K. O'Hagan advised that as he had not seen plans relevant to this proposal, that he was not in a position to provide an informed opinion. A discussion ensued in which Cllr. K. O'Hagan challenged Councillors to ensure plans had been appropriately reviewed prior to passing judgement on future applications.

Moved. Council raise no objections to this proposal.

56 Correspondence

56.1 HM Revenue and Customs.

Full Payment Submission for period ending 5th October 2019.

Moved. Noted on file.

56.2 Lloyds Bank.

Receipt of Sheet No. 36 from Account x1x4x4x9.

Moved. Noted on file and for finance file.

56.3 Western Power Distribution

Temporary Unmetered Connection for festive period 2019/20.

Moved. Clerk to complete and return necessary paperwork.

56.4 Gerald Jones MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

Notification of surgery dates for October 2019.

Moved. Noted on file.

56.5 Caerphilly CBC

Invoice for provision of outdoor activities linked to the Community Council Summer Scheme.

Moved payment. £2,000.00.

56.6 Clerk. Mr. G. O. Williams

Invoice for telephone / broadband for quarter / bill period ending 24th September 2019.

Moved payment. £92.23.

56.7 Caerphilly CBC

Notification of change of date for the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee – a move from November 13th to November 20th 2019, commencing at 6pm.

Moved. Noted on file.

56.8 Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Notification and invitation to a 'Community Network' event to be held at Rodney Parade, Newport on Thursday 21st November 2019.

Moved. Noted on file.

Moved. Clerk to forward relevant information to Cllr. P. Roberts for consideration.

56.9 Eclipse Power

Email confirming intention to make the annual community charge donation relevant to the Cefn Bach Wind Turbine.

Moved. Clerk to watch for bank transfer donation.

56.10 Clerk. Mr. G. O. Williams

Letter of resignation. The Clerk advised Council that owing to increased work commitments, he was no longer in a position to support Council. The Clerk advised that he would not be standing down on the traditional four-week notice period, but would be working with Council for as long as is necessary and until an appropriate replacement is secured. The Clerk also advised Council, that he would not be claiming the £125.00 'out of office' payment due this month.

Moved. Clerk to prepare necessary information to support a recruitment and selection exercise and to agenda for the November meeting of Council.

57 **Approval of Community Council Cheques**

The attached list of Community Council cheques was approved by members and amounted to **£07,378.56**.

The Clerk updated Council that he had removed Cllr. P. Thomas from Council's list of signatories and now needed to seek out and secure a replacement.

Cllr. P. Roberts volunteered to become Council's third signatory. This was subsequently approved by Council, with no additional volunteer identified.

Moved. The Clerk and Cllr. P. Roberts to arrange the completion and return of relevant paperwork.

58 **Gwent Police**

PCSO Griffiths and Pearce provided Council with a verbal update of developments throughout the Community Council area, firstly reporting the following statistics for the month of September 2019:

35x Incidents

14x in Deri / Groesfaen and 21x Fochriw / Pentwyn

Of which there were 5x crimes in Deri / Groesfaen and 9x crimes in Fochriw / Pentwyn, one of which being anti-social behaviour, personal to the victim.

PCSO Griffiths and Pearce then updated Council on a number of local issues including: the seizure of a motorbike/quad on the common; calls for anti-social behaviour in Fochriw with youths climbing scaffolding at building work at Ty Nazareth; and the abandonment and burning of stolen vehicles on the common. PCSO Griffiths and Pearce also updated on the continuation of the 'mini-police' initiative, delivered in partnership with colleagues from Fochriw Primary School.

The Clerk updated PCSO Griffiths and Pearce that Community Councillors are not copied into the monthly newsletter and requested future copy for onward circulation. PCSO Griffiths and Pearce agreed to pursue this on Council's behalf.

Cllr. D. Nicholas thanked PCSO Griffiths and Pearce for their report and for attending the meeting.

59 Land at Chapel Street, Deri, Bargoed

The Clerk advised Council that further to the September closing date, no interest had been shown in the purchase of land.

Moved. Council agreed for the closing date for interest to be removed and to continue to advertise for interest, reviewing as and when interest was received.

60 Sheep Trespass Fochriw

Cllr. K. O'Hagan updated Council on the continued issue of sheep trespass in Fochriw, highlighting to Council the potential health related issues associated with sheep faeces. Cllr. K. O'Hagan continued to update Council on conversations with Sian Hobbs of Caerphilly CBC, which included plans for meetings with local farmers. Cllr. K. O'Hagan concluded his update urging Cllr. D. Hardacre (this being a Caerphilly CBC accountability) to organise a public meeting to update on action and to educate. Cllr. D. Hardacre updated on the programme of work in development, which is to be mobilised into an action plan over the next two weeks or so. Cllr. D. Hardacre agreed to commit to the organisation of a public meeting, not for consultation purposes, but to educate and urge collaboration with local residents.

There was no agreed action for Council or the Clerk, merely a watching brief.

61 Caerphilly CBC Countryside

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

Visitor Centre/Café/Campsite

Normally at this point I would be writing that we are now closed for the winter however, we are extending the opening of the centre, café and campsite to the end of October. After such time we are looking to opening the café and centre throughout the winter period which will be manned by the franchised café staff. We have had most of our lighting replaced in the centre this week for LED through grant funding which should reduce electric bills in the future.

Site Works

Ongoing litter picking in the park and on the cycle-route.

Ongoing grass cutting to verges and amenity areas.
Pointing to walling on patio
Repairs to walling in campsite
Cutting to verges from centre to Prices Yard.
Cutting to campsite
Various fence repairs
Order placed for flailing to Bailey St, Deri to Bargoed and various hedges.
Some dangerous trees at different locations cut and removed.
Litter picking around the lake after the recent floods.
Checking culverts and ditches.
Removing windblown tree debris.
Cutting back to banking in main car park.

School Visits

13th September Ysgol Gymraeg Caerfilli 58 pupils school visit.
2nd Oct Ysgol Yr Graig Merthyr Tydfil 25 pupils school visit.

Events

I have been working on putting together ideas for our winter event program.

Conservative

We have been cutting out Local Nature Reserve meadows this month as well as strimming our ant meadows.
Cutting to lakeside verges.

62 **Resident Participation**

Cllr. K. O'Hagan opened the discussion highlighting his own experience as a local resident and the varied approach to participation since his appointment as a Community Councillor, stressing a need for consistency, to include an associated update / amendment to wording shown on the Community Council website. Cllr. K. O'Hagan advised Council that he had undertaken a limited assessment of practice in neighbouring Community Councils, the general feedback being that open public contribution at meetings was generally not permitted. The discussion deteriorated to a cacophony of raised voices related / associated with an incident at the July 2018 meeting of Council. Owing to this animated exchange, the Chair brought the meeting to a hurried close, although agreement was made that the Clerk would explore and work-up a revised approach for consideration at the November meeting of Council. Moved. Clerk to agenda and report at the November meeting of Council.

As the meeting closed, local resident Mr. E. Blanche wished to put on record his thanks to Cllr. D. Hardace for his support and perseverance in the coordination / installation of outdoor fitness equipment in the community of Fochriw.

Date of Next and Future Meetings

Full Council. Thursday 7th November 2019, 6.30pm
Full Council. Thursday 5th December 2019, 6.30pm (subject to change)
Full Council. Thursday 9th January 2019, 6.30pm

Meeting Closed at 8.10pm.

_____ **Chairperson**