

**DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN**

Meeting was remote using BT telecoms facility during the Covid-19 pandemic

Minutes of the last meeting of the above Community Council on:

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 6.00 pm (30 minutes to formally sign off annual return 2019-20)

**Attendees**

**Present**

Cllr D Nicholas (In the Chair)

Cllr H Hollifield

Cllr R Chapman

Cllr A Vincent

Cllr G Matthews

**Absent and Apologies**

Cllr D. Hardacre

Cllr P Roberts

**In attendance**

Ms A Pallister (Clerk)

**01 Minutes and Apologies**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (previously circulated to members), were accepted as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairperson Cllr D Nicholas.

**02 Darran Valley Community Council Annual Return for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 sign off**

The Clerk shared the annual report for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, which was checked by an external auditor. The auditor made one recommendation (consider the use of an on-line accounting system - the Clerk will investigate and bring options to council at a future meeting). Community Councillors officially signed off the return.

### **03 Discuss and agree a plan for meetings in 2020**

Councillors advised the Clerk to seek advice from Caerphilly CBC on what other Community Councils are doing during the pandemic. The Clerk investigated, and advised Council that other Community Councils are meeting remotely using various platforms, such as Zoom, Skype and MS Teams. Based on this, Council decided to resume following the same method.

### **04 Fochriw Councillor vacancies – update and decide next course of action**

Since the previous meeting Cllr Keiron O’Hagan resigned. The resignation was accepted by the Chair and Caerphilly CBC informed. The Clerk sought advice from Mr David Beecham (Electoral Services Manager at Caerphilly CBC). The Clerk followed the advice given, by advertising a ‘Notice of casual vacancy’ on the Darran Valley Community Council website, and on local notice boards. Ten electors from the ward affected were entitled to call an election by contacting the Returning Officer within 14 working days from the date of notice (3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020) . The notice was written (according to the legislation), with a deadline date of 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. The date passed with no applications, and no calls for an election. Council decided to appoint the two applicants who applied for the previous Fochriw Ward vacancy (who were delighted to accept).

### **05 GAVO and other granting scheme 2020**

The Clerk shared the GAVO grant allocation report for the period 2019-20. Council decided to ask GAVO to run the scheme for 2020-21 – advertising will start in September 2020. Councillors also wanted to know if the administrative fee would be applied to the new budget only, and not the amount carried forward from 2019-20 (£1,469.25). The Clerk confirmed the fee is only charged on the new money - the balance from last year will be rolled over. GAVO informed the Clerk that they have made substantial changes in last year's round to run the grant independently, with a third sector panel from outside of the area, and with a maximum amount of £1000 per grant. Cllr Ann Vincent asked for a copy of the criteria selection used – the Clerk has requested, but is not in receipt of it as yet. Cllr Robert Chapman would like to discuss other options for running the wind turbine grant scheme 2021-22 (this will be included as an agenda item in 2021).

Council decided to start the small grant scheme immediately. The Clerk has advertised on the website, plus notices have been put up around the villages.