

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

Minutes of the last meeting of the above Community Council on:  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams

**Attendees**

**Present**

Cllr D Nicholas (In the Chair)

Cllr H Hollifield

Cllr R Chapman

Cllr A Vincent

Cllr G Matthews

Cllr P Roberts

Cllr E Blanche

Cllr D Johnson

**Absent and Apologies**

Cllr D. Hardacre

**In attendance**

Ms A Pallister (Clerk)

**013 Minutes and Apologies**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (previously circulated to members), were accepted as an accurate record. The meeting was remote so not signed by the Chairperson Councillor D Nicholas.

**014 Re-opening of the community centres**

Caerphilly CBC has issued guidance on the re-opening of community centres. The



Guidance for  
Community Centres r

document is attached here:-

**015 Declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest reported.

**016 Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to report.

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#### **017 Approval of Community Council Payments**

The following payments were authorised at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020:-

On-line BACS	SSE Electricity Christmas lighting for Tree at Deri Square	£00,042.45
On-line BACS	Clerk Salary August 2020	£00,296.83
On-line BACS	75% broadband costs for Clerk March-May 2020	£00,065.68
On-line BACS	Yearly payments expense / Cllr Duncan Johnson	£00,150.00
On-line BACS	Cost for BT Conference Call on 25th June 2020 to sign off annual accounts	£00,025.42

#### **018 Chairpersons allowance**

The Chairperson of a local council is legally obliged to take a £300 yearly allowance. The Chair of Darran Valley Community Council has opted to donate it to two primary schools in the villages each year. The Chair confirmed the allowance would also be split between the schools this year. The Clerk requested the Chair's bank details to process this transaction.

#### **019 Re-starting face to face meetings**

Councillors decided to continue with remote meetings and review at every monthly meeting. Since the last meeting Caerphilly CBC has gone in to local lockdown, so all meetings must remain remote for the foreseeable future. When face to face meetings resume the Councillors and Clerk will investigate the best venue to hold them.

#### **020 Litter picking scheme**

Councillor Helen Hollifield wishes to organise another litter picking event via 'Keep Wales Tidy', and asked the Clerk to check participants are covered by the council

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insurance. The Clerk checked this information and provided that we ensure government advice and guidelines, then cover would be valid. In order to further ensure cover is valid, we would need to make sure that we have risk assessed the potential exposures of the activity – This would include the usual risks such as injury, but now including COVID19. Provided that this is met, we do have public liability insurance in place to cover the activity.

#### **021 Flooding of the brook in Deri**

Councillor Paul Roberts raised concerns about the excess soil caused by flooding in Deri, and asked the Clerk to receive an update from Caerphilly CBC on when the soil will be removed. The Clerk wrote and called and is still waiting for an update.

#### **022 Darran Valley Community Council Grant Scheme**

The Councillors approved grants to organisations who applied in the local area. The Clerk contacted all those who applied to inform them of their successful application, and obtained their permission to add to the Darran Valley Community Council website. There were two applications that needed an extension and further investigation (to be discussed at the next meeting).

The following organisations have now been paid:-

- Church in Wales (St Mary's and St Andrew's Church, Pentwyn) have been awarded £100 to help with the general repair of the Church.
- Darran Valley History Group, Deri have been awarded £100. During the past month it has been brought to the groups attention that the name of a World War II victim is missing from the memorial garden – funding will help towards rectifying this.
- Darran Valley 55 Club, Deri – £100 has been awarded to subsidise their annual Christmas lunch for all members.
- Fochriw over 55's Club, Fochriw – £100 has been awarded to help encourage more members and go towards different activities.

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- Deri Regeneration Group, Deri – £100 has been awarded to help towards the general weekly running costs of the centre.
- Fochriw Allotments Association, Fochriw – £100 has been awarded for maintaining pathways around the allotments.

#### **023 Possibility of a COVID-19 grant scheme**

Councillors raised the idea of the possibility of a grant to help local organisations / businesses with a COVID-19 grant for items such as PPE. The clerk will share a financial forecast / update at the next meeting to see if this is financially viable, as community council funds are limited.