

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

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

Thursday 1st October 2020 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Present

Cllr D Nicholas (In the Chair)

Cllr H Hollifield (joined late)

Cllr R Chapman

Cllr A Vincent

Cllr P Roberts

Cllr D Johnson

Cllr E Blanche

Ms A Pallister (Clerk)

Absent and Apologies

Cllr D. Hardacre

Cllr G Matthews

024 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2020 (previously circulated to members), were accepted as an accurate record. The meeting was remote so not signed by the Chairperson Councillor D Nicholas.

025 Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

026 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to report.

027 Approval of Community Council Payments

The following payments were authorised at the meeting:-

On-line BACS	Clerk Salary September 2020	£00,296.83
On-line BACS	Out of office	£00,250.00
On-line BACS – Fochriw and Deri Primary School	Chairpersons allowance	£00,300.00

028 Report from Gwent Police

A representative from Gwent Police was unable to attend the meeting, but provided an e-mail update. The following actions / engagement took place in and around the Deri and Fochriw area:-

- Mobile speed checks have been conducted on Bailey Street, Deri and New Road in Deri with the majority keeping within the designated speed limit. However, the minority who did exceed the speed limit are being issued a warning letter from 'GO SAFE'.
- Off road' bike patrols have been conducted by PC Russell Childs and the Ranger for Gelligaer and Merthyr Common, which mainly take place on the weekends.
- Heavy vehicles that are exceeding the weight limit through Deri are being monitored with companies contacted in relation to this.
- Unnecessary obstruction tickets have been issued by officers on Bailey Street, Deri.
- During the month of September a local resident from the Fochriw area was issued with a section 59 warning for antisocial riding on an off road bike. Gwent Police are continuing to monitor the situation.
- Speed checks were conducted on Pontlottyn road, Fochriw and Brook road, Fochriw, with the same outcome as above. These are to be conducted on a monthly basis.
- Fochriw Primary school - 'Heddlu Bach' are beginning short listing for the new recruitment of mini Police Officers within the school community, and that CO318 RHYS GRIFFITHS will be involved in this process of application and short listing.

029 GAVO wind turbine grant scheme 2020-21

The launch of the GAVO wind turbine grant opened on 1st October; the closing date is 31st December 2020. Funding is available for local voluntary organisations from Deri, Fochriw, Groesfaen and Pentwyn (up to a max of £1,000).

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030 Item from Cllr Rob Chapman – funding for the toilet facilities at Parc Cwm Darran.

Cllr Rob Chapman raised concerns about the closing of the toilet facilities at Parc Cwm Darran as Caerphilly CBC do not fund it over the winter period. During the Covid-19 pandemic the park has been used a lot by local residents and Cllr Chapman put forward a motion to fund the toilets over the winter period. All agreed it would be an advantage to local residents to keep it open, and following discussions two proposals were put forward:-

1. Cllr Rob Chapman would like Darran Valley Community Council to consider funding it.
2. Cllr Ann Vincent would like an approach made to Caerphilly CBC asking them to consider funding it as an exception this year. Cllr Vincent also shared an article from the BBC which can be used to argue the case:-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52774794>

Councillors voted for option 2, but this will be discussed and reviewed again at the next meeting once a response has been sought from Caerphilly CBC.

031 – Item from Cllr Eddy Blanche – funding for the building a sleigh with lights on in the village of Fochriw.

Cllr Eddy Blanche put forward a proposal to build a sleigh with lights in the village of Fochriw and requested some funding to do it. Further investigation is required to find out if there are any permissions / health and safety issues required.

032 – Update on the flooding in Deri

Cllr Paul Roberts previously raised concerns about flooding in Deri due to excess soil in Mill Road. The Clerk has made several attempts to obtain an update from Caerphilly CBC, but is still waiting for a response.

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033 – Petition to put a zebra crossing outside Deri Primary School

Cllr Paul Roberts informed Council about a petition to put a zebra crossing outside Deri Primary School. The petition is gaining a lot of support as there are concerns about the safety of children going to and from school. The Clerk was asked to write to the petition organiser and offer Council' full support of the petition.

034 – Dog fouling in Glan y nant Fochriw

Cllr Eddy Blanche said there has been an issue with dog fouling at Glan y nant in Fochriw, and would like it jet washed with dog bins provided. Councillors advised Cllr Blanche to raise the issues with Cllr David Hardacre.

035 – Website

It was noted that the old website is still live and listed first when searching on the internet. The Clerk will ask Caerphilly CBC to remove the old website so that residents are directed to the new updated one.

036 – Members of the public attending meetings

The Clerk was asked to design a poster to inform public members of the Darran Valley that they are welcome to attend Council meetings. Clerk will design the poster and send copies to all Councillors to distribute in the villages. Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend any meetings of the Community Council, although there are occasions when meetings must go into private session when dealing with matters of a confidential nature. Members of the public do not have the right to speak at a meeting unless invited to do so by the Chair, although time has been set aside at the start of each meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity ask questions or raise an issue. During Covid-19, meetings are taking place using Microsoft Teams and the poster will guide members of the public on how they can participate.

037 – Darran Valley Council Section 19 and 137 Grant Aid for 2020-21

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Council recently granted various voluntary organisations grant funding for various projects. One application was received from a local business, and discussed at the meeting. Unfortunately the section 19 and 137 grant is only available to voluntary organisations, therefore Council could not approve it. The Clerk will write to the applicant explaining the reasons why.

038 – Funding for the lighting of a Christmas tree in Fochriw and lights in Deri (Christmas 2020)

In addition to the usual Christmas decorations Council asked the Clerk to investigate costs of lighting a tree in Fochriw and adding lights in Deri. Clerk will obtain all quotes and report back.

039 Possibility of a COVID-19 grant scheme

Councillor Duncan Johnson previously raised the idea of the possibility of a grant to help local organisations / businesses with a COVID-19 grant for items such as PPE. Councillors reviewed this at October's meeting, and agreed there are already grants available to support local business via the Caerphilly CBC website.