

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the last meeting of the above community council on Thursday 5th November 2020 at 6pm using Microsoft Teams.

Present

Cllr. D. Nicholas (In the Chair)	Cllr. E Blanche
Cllr. R. Chapman	Cllr. P Roberts
Cllr. H Hollifield	Cllr. D Johnson

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. G. Matthews	Cllr. D. Hardacre
Cllr. A. Vincent	

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister	Clerk
Mrs. W Scanlon	Member of the community
Mrs. P Andrew	Member of the community

040 Members of the community joined the meeting to raise concerns about flooding

Two members of the public joined the meeting to raise serious concerns on behalf of the community regarding flooding fears. Residents had been informed that the repairs to the grid and the flood gates will not be carried out until April 2021 due to funding. However, Council and residents feel this is unacceptable, as there is already silting issues and we are not in the winter period yet. The two residents who participated in the remote meeting expressed how they and other residents are living with the fear of having their homes flooded. Clerk will write to the Chief Executive of Caerphilly CBC expressing these views and asking for an urgent update.

041 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st October 2020, previously circulated to members were accepted as an accurate record. They were not signed as the meeting was remote during the Covid-19 pandemic.

042 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

043 Matters Arising

Matters Arising from the meeting on 1st October 2020 meeting of Council (below).

043.1 Minute number 031 / funding for the building a sleigh with lights on in the village of Fochriw - Cllr David Hardacre advised via e-mail that the idea of a sleigh at Christmas will not be allowed under current county council rulings (maybe next year after conditions improve). Due to fire regulations imposed on the community council the sleigh would not be allowed the storage facilities

required at the community centre. It would also need approval from the highways and the health and safety department. For the proposal to go ahead it would have to be done as a private citizen and not associated with council. Cllr Ann Vincent offered to approach event group colleagues and provide an update at the next meeting.

043.2 Minute number 032 / flooding in Deri – The Clerk has now received an update from the Caerphilly CBC – the earth and silt which has been left on site is due to the presence of Japanese knotweed and needs to be removed by a specialist contractor. A contractor has been commissioned and has already removed approximately ¾ of the debris from site, however, further work is required, and they anticipate this will be removed within the next 3 weeks.

044 Planning Applications

The Clerk confirmed there were no applications in relation to Darran Valley Community Council.

045 Correspondence

045.01 Covid grants – support for businesses

Eligible businesses across the Caerphilly county borough were able to apply for new coronavirus grant support 29th October 2020, The process, timescales and eligibility criteria were all prescribed by Welsh Government and Caerphilly CBC, along with all other local authorities, are essentially acting as agents to support Welsh Government in delivering this scheme.

046 Approval of Community Council Cheques

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£2.820	2 x figurines in Deri and lighting of a tree in Fochriw
On-line BACS	£51.00	3 x wreaths for remembrance Sunday from the Royal British Legion
On-line BACS	£18.24	Stamps
On-line BACS	£296.83	Clerk October 2020 salary
On-line BACS	£50.00	Contribution to Gwent police for children's Halloween
On-line BACS	£72.00	75% broadband costs June-September 2020

Total £3.308.07

047 Gwent Police

The Clerk was unable to obtain an updated crime report in time for the meeting.

048 Review of procedures for the approval of Council Funds

It has become apparent that processes need to be tightened regarding the authorisation of payments that cannot wait until the next council meeting. The

Clerk will write a process flow chart to address this issue. It will be discussed for approval at the next meeting.

049 Speed limits through the villages and a review of signage / traffic calming / road crossing measures

Councillor Helen Hollifield raised concerns about the road safety and the need for a zebra crossing outside Deri Primary School. Councillor Hollifield will ask Councillor David Hardacre for an update.

050 Christmas lights

A full feasibility study has been carried out to investigate the possibility and costs of extra festive lighting in the Darran Valley. Based on the results of this feasibility study Council approved the costs of two figurines to be installed in Deri and Christmas tree lighting in Fochriw at a total cost of £2350 plus VAT.

050.01 Christmas figurines in Pentwyn

Highways informed the Clerk it is not possible to put lights in Pentwyn as they are prohibited on wood poles. Wood poles are owned by Western Power Distribution and used to distribute the electricity supply throughout much of the villages of Deri and Pentwyn. They will not consent to any equipment other than a streetlight to be fixed upon them. Highways do not consent to catenary cables being linked between our metal street lighting columns, nor between buildings and crossing over the highway.

050.02 Christmas figurines in Deri

Highways confirmed there are some streetlights on Mill Road which have already been converted for figurines, and therefore suitable for figurines. Councillor David Nicholas and Councillor Helen Hollifield will visit Mill Road; obtain the lamppost numbers for two figurines, and report back to the Clerk.

050.03 Lighting of the Christmas tree on private land in Fochriw.

Highways confirmed that if permission is sought from the owner it can be done. Councillor Rob Chapman has received this and sent a copy the Clerk for the file.