

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the last meeting of the above community council on Thursday 3rd December 2020 at 6pm using Microsoft Teams.

Present

Cllr. D. Nicholas (In the Chair)
Cllr. R. Chapman
Cllr. H Hollifield
Cllr. A Vincent

Cllr. E Blanche
Cllr. P Roberts
Cllr. D Johnson
Cllr. G. Matthews

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. D. Hardacre

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister Clerk

051 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th November 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.

052 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

053 Matters Arising

Matters Arising from the meeting on 5th November 2020 meeting of Council (below).

053.1 Minute number 040 / members of the community joined the meeting to raise concerns about flooding in Deri.

The Clerk was actioned to write to the Chief Executive of Caerphilly CBC expressing concerns and requesting an urgent update. The Clerk actioned this immediately, and received a very quick reply the following day. The Chief Executive asked Marcus Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure at Caerphilly CBC) to respond; who subsequently send the following e-mail:

'Dear Amanda, thank you for your recent e-mail to Christina. Please see below an extract from the response sent to Cllr Hardacre earlier today which should address the questions raised.

I note the points raised and I wish to confirm that the following actions have been or are being undertaken.

- *We are currently arranging contractors to remove every other bar from the bottom section of the trash screen and we anticipate this will be completed within the next 4 weeks. This will increase the free bore of access to the culvert for flows. At the moment the bars are spaced quite tightly which allows*

very small debris to become trapped very easily and block access to the culvert quite quickly from what we have been observing during heavy rain in recent months.

- Flood gate expression of interest letters have been sent out to all properties affected by Storm Dennis and surveys are currently ongoing. This is being managed by Caerphilly Private Housing Department and they confirmed they will installed by the end of the financial year. Funding for these works have been secured from Welsh Government.*
- CCBC is also undertaking a flood investigation study in the Mill Road area which is being funded through Welsh Government and we anticipate this will be completed by May 2021. This is not a quick process and requires a lot of data gathering to ensure the best proposed solutions can be developed and designed. The studies include capacity checks and design options available to alleviate flooding from surface water and culverts that have been affected by flooding and considers the wider catchment analysis that feeds into the culvert. A cautionary note is required here as the outcome of the appraisal does not guarantee any scheme will be funded. The details will be submitted to WG who will determine if any future funding is warranted.*

I hope this is of help, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the relevant officers directly. Michelle Johnson and Gareth Richards would be the main contacts for the proposed works.'

053.2 Minute number 048 / review of procedures for the approval of Council Funds.
The Clerk developed a process flow chart to address the approval of payments / donations outside Council meetings. This was shared at the meeting with one final adjustment to in the event of an equal vote. This final amendment agreed is that the Chair is authorised to make the final decision.

053.3 Minute number 049 / speed limits through the villages and a review of signage / traffic calming / road crossing measures.
Councillor Hollified confirmed the petition has been handed to Councillor David Hardacre to pass on to Caerphilly CBC.

053.4 Minute number 050 / Christmas lights.
The Chair thanked Councillor Rob Chapman for his hard working on the organisation of additional Christmas lighting. The Clerk has paid for the additional lighting in full, and all were switched in with the usual lighting on 2nd December 2020.

Councillor Rob Chapman informed everyone about a few issues with the new Christmas tree lights in Fochriw. The contractor underestimated how many lights the tree in Fochriw would need, but they've managed to put the lights on one side of the tree facing the public for now, and the switch on went well. The lighting of the tree was low key due to the current Covid-19 social distancing guidelines. Jaydee-Lee local child of courage was invited by Councillor Robert Chapman to turn on the new Christmas tree lights in Fochriw. Jaydee-Lee was delighted to do this, and the new lights have been warmly received by residents.

Jaydee-Lee won child of courage award In Pride of Britain 2019 after saving her Brother and Mother's life. Jaydee-Lee spotted the carbon monoxide alarm light had turned red from green, and quickly knew what to do – she told her mother Lindy the number to phone.

Furthermore, one of the switches in Deri was faulty so one the new figurines was lit up 24/7, and the other figurine was not initially working. Councillor Rob Chapman was dealing with both these issues as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Robert Chapman reported the many compliments received from members of the local community.

054 Planning Applications

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

055 Correspondence

055.01 'The Caerphilly Conversation' resident survey

'Dear Councillors,

I hope you're keeping well. The council has launched a large-scale resident survey called 'The Caerphilly Conversation' which seeks views on a number of key areas, including:

- *Understanding resident views on the council's response to COVID-19*
- *Helping shape the council's recovery over future years*
- *Helping inform our deliberations over next year's budget*
- *Informing our ongoing discussions around place shaping over the medium to longer term*
- *Providing specific insight that can help shape the ten corporate reviews linked to the Team Caerphilly – Better Together transformation strategy*

The full online version of the questionnaire can be found via the links below:

English version: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/caerphillyconversation>

Cymraeg version: <https://www.caerffili.gov.uk/trafodaethcaerffili>

A special edition of Newslines is also being readied for print, in order that every household in Caerphilly county borough can receive a physical copy. The survey will be delivered to homes w/c 7th December.

An abridged version of the survey, which draws out 6 key questions from the longer survey will also form the basis of our digital media campaign. We're conscious that not everybody will wish to spend the time to complete the full version, and we'll also use these short, sharp questions in focus group sessions that will be held with harder to reach audiences over the coming weeks.

*The survey will close on **Sunday 3rd January 2021** with the output then being fed in to budget discussions scheduled for Scrutiny in January.*

We would be very grateful indeed if you are able to encourage residents to get involved in the Caerphilly Conversation by completing the survey (and we'd obviously like you to consider completing it yourself too). For those of you who manage social media accounts, there will also shortly be a digital media campaign using the council's digital channels, which will run throughout the consultation period. We'd be really grateful if you could help by sharing some of the content, and where possible also using the hashtags #caerphillyconversation and #trafodaethcaerffili

Many thanks in advance for your support. If you need anything else, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Hayley Lancaster

*Uwch Swyddog Cyfathrebu | Senior Communications Officer
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council'*

055.02 'Choose YOUR High Street This Christmas' - Promotional Campaign

*'Please see attached and below details on the '**Choose YOUR High Street This Christmas**' promotional campaign aimed at increasing footfall in the town centres this Christmas. This information is being posted to all town centre retailers today but please can you share with Town Councils and Community Councils so that they can share this with the local business community.*

We hope that lots businesses will participate in the campaign and look forward to receiving their exciting offers. Please note that instore offers are for town centre businesses only but online offers are open to all businesses in the county borough that can enhance the Christmas shopping experience.

Deadline for all offers is Monday 19th October, see attached for full details.

Please ask businesses to email their offers as per the attached newsletter to events@caerphilly.gov.uk or they can submit them via the online form <https://www.visitcaerphilly.com/choose-your-high-street-this-christmas>

Please share within the Caerphilly County Borough business community.

*Kind Regards
The Events & Marketing Team'*

056 Approval of Community Council Cheques

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£296.83	Clerk November 2020 salary
On-line BACS	£148.18	HMRC payment for Clerk salary
Total	£445.01	

057 Gwent Police crime update

The following crime update was received from Gwent Police:

'Please encourage your residents to follow us on twitter to see up to date information from your local team, you can follow us on @gpcaerphilly.

Can I also say a huge thank you to you all for your help and donations with Halloween. Without your help it would never have been possible, we managed to give so many children a treat on Halloween and we are extremely grateful for all your help.

Officers have also given many tickets for persons breaching the COVID-19 guidelines throughout the community.

Officers also attended and laid wreaths on cenotaphs around the Rhymney areas on Remembrance Sunday. Such a sad time to not see the usual gatherings to pay respects. It was lovely to see people in their doorsteps at the 11th hour to come together in a two minute silence.

A male from the Fochriw area has pleaded guilty in court for drink driving offences after being dealt with by Rhymney officers.

Rhymney Npt have been conducting patrols around the Rhodfa Ganol area due to increased calls regarding ASB. We have received reports of youth's causing nuisance to residents – throwing stones shouting abuse etc. If anyone knows who these persons are please contact your neighbourhood team to let us know.

Officers have conducted joint patrols the local ranger, tackling off road vehicles and fly tipping. We are pleased to say that there have been a lot of seizures and Section 59 warnings issued to persons riding illegally on the common.

Rhymney Npt have also conducted speed checks throughout the Deri and Fochriw areas. We are pleased to say the average speed recorded was under the local speed limit.'