

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:

Thursday 4th February 2021 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr. D. Nicholas (In the Chair)
Cllr. P Roberts
Cllr. A Vincent
Cllr. D Johnson
Cllr. E Blanche

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. G Matthews
Cllr. D Hardacre
Cllr. R Chapman
Cllr. H Hollifield

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

070 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2021, previously circulated to members were accepted as an accurate record. They were not signed as the meeting was remote during the Covid-19 pandemic.

071 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

072 Matters Arising

Matters Arising from the meeting on 14th January 2021 meeting of Council.

Item 067 - An item from Councillor Eddy Blanche – Dog fouling in Fochriw.

Councillor D Hardacre was unable to attend the meeting due to on-going issues accessing IT from home. The Clerk will chase and obtain an update in time for the next meeting.

Item 068 - An item from Councillor Paul Roberts – Parking at the bottom of Bailey Street in Deri. Councillor D Hardacre was unable to attend the meeting due to on-going issues accessing IT from home. The Clerk will chase and obtain an update in time for the next meeting.

Item 069 – Item not included on the agenda – Councillor David Haradcre' issues with IT / broadband. The Clerk wrote to Caerphilly CBC and received the following reply:

'Dear Amanda

Thank you for your email.

I am sorry to hear that you have been asked to put in a formal complaint on

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behalf of the Community Council. Please accept my assurances that my colleagues and I are continuing to work to resolve the connectivity issues experienced by Councillor Hardacre and are currently exploring an option to enable him to fully attend digital meetings.

In the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Kind regards,

Lisa Lane

Pennaeth Gwasanaeth Democraidd a Swyddog Monitro | Head of Democratic Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer

073 Planning Applications

The Clerk has contacted Caerphilly CBC as there were concerns that no information on planning applications relating to the Darran Valley have been received for some months. At the time of this meeting the Clerk had not received a reply as to why. This has now been resolved as the planning department had an old e-mail address no longer being used and have now rectified this in time for the next meeting.

074 Correspondence

074.01 Councillor Helen Hollified was unable to attend the meeting, but provided the following e-mail update on matters affecting the area:

- Forestry flooding into New Road- A pipe has been reinstated which should help with the diversion of water.
- Sheep trespass in Deri – The Forestry Shepherd is to remove the sheep as soon as possible.
- Fencing reinstatement at the Bont Bren field area is underway.
- Problems at Caradoc's Bridge and flooding on cycle track are reported and will be investigated.

074.02 Councillor David Nicholas sent an e-mail update regarding the upgrade of the streetlights. The Chair was approached by a resident before Christmas about when the work would commence. The work to upgrade to low carbon emission is being carried out now and should be completed by 21st March.

075 Approval of Community Council Cheques

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£296.83	February 2021 salary
On-line BACS	£1,667.28	Extra Christmas decorations in Fochriw and Deri
Total	£1,964.11	

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076 Gwent Police crime update

There was no update received since the January 2021 meeting.

077 Budget 2021 – 2022. Councillors to submit ideas in time for the meeting

The Clerk asked all Councillors to consider budget items in time for this meeting, and the following ideas were submitted:

Councillor Name	Budget Idea
Helen Hollifield	Commitment to and investigation into the possibilities for provision for children and young adults during Easter or/and Summer if restrictions are lifted.
Helen Hollifield	Consider how we might provide online classes access using local fitness groups/trainers or 'artists' over Easter if restrictions aren't lifted.
Helen Hollifield	Litter picking equipment to be purchased by the council so that we can carry out our own picks in the Spring and join the Spring Pick.
Helen Hollifield	Application for a Local Places for nature grant in the Wildlife category to hopefully develop the grassed areas around the Darran/Brook in Deri https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/pages/category/nature
Helen Hollifield	Signage in areas that have a propensity for fly tipping that have the contact details for CCBC so that reporting can be quicker and also details the fines imposed.
Ann Vincent	An event to help the over 55's with isolation / mental health issues relating to the Covid-19 pandemic

Council were in favour of Councillor Ann Vincent' proposal – Councillor Paul Roberts offered to speak to both Community Centres (Fochirw and Deri) about holding an event for the over 55's.

Council felt Councillor Helen Hollifield' idea around Signage was a County Council matter, and not in the remit of this Council. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

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Council suggested the possibility of creating a sub-committee to discuss and asked the Clerk to talk to Councillor Helen Hollified after the meeting. The Clerk has spoken to Councillor Hollified and this needs a detailed discussion at the March meeting in order to progress with the budget and earmark expenditure for 2021/22. The projects suggested above require a Council vote and progression plan at the March 2021 meeting.

078 A brief update on the Wind Turbine grants.

The closing date for the Wind Turbine Grants was 31st December 2020. The Clerk reported that two applications have been received and are currently being checked and processed. Following a discussion Council agreed to extend the application deadline date to allow more local organisations time to apply.

079 Darran Valley Council Audit 2020 – 2021 – Conclusion of audit

The Clerk e-mailed the conclusion of audit documents to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Audit Wales will be raising the invoice in accordance with the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (will be presented at the March 2021 meeting).

The annual return was presented at this council meeting, and this entry in the minutes reflects that the Annual Return has been approved and accepted by the council.

The issues arising in the report were presented to council and an action plan will be produced,

The annual return and notice of conclusion of audit will be displayed in a Conspicuous place(s) for 14 day as soon as reasonably possible.

It will also be placed on the Darran Valley Community Council website, including the last approved statement of accounts and auditor's report.

080 Date and time of the next meeting:

Thursday 4th March at 6pm (using Microsoft Teams).