

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:

Thursday 8th April 2021 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr. D. Nicholas (In the Chair)

Cllr. A Vincent

Cllr. D Johnson

Cllr. E Blanche

Cllr. H Hollifield

Cllr. R Chapman

Cllr. P. Roberts

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. G Matthews

Cllr. D Hardacre – unable to join due to on-going IT issues

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

001 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

002 Declarations of Interest

Were received from Councillors P Roberts and D Nicholas regarding agenda item (possibility of funding skips at two allotment sites).

003 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th March 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.

004 Matters Arising from the meeting on 4th March 2021 not already included on the agenda.

085.02 From Caerphilly CBC News online dated 25th February 2021

'The Council would like your views on the introduction of an appointment booking system at all Household Waste Recycling Centres'.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk wrote to Caerphilly CBC noting Council's objections to the proposal, on the grounds of concerns over the likely increase in fly tipping. The Clerk received a response explaining that it's still in the consultation phase, and no decision has been made. Also, Caerphilly CBC believe it will improve recycling rates, stop queuing outside waste recycling centres, and prevent commercial contractors using it inappropriately. Following a detailed discussion Council would like a representative from Caerphilly CBC to attend the

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May 2021 meeting to answer specific questions. It was noted that Caerphilly CBC has a good recycling rate, and if commercial organisations cannot use the recycling centre there is likely to be a big increase in fly tipping on the Darran Valley mountains. The Clerk will ask the representative to attend the next remote meeting, and let Councillors know the name of the representative.

085.03 Natural Resources Wales meeting invite

Councillor Helen Hollified attended the meeting and reported back. There were no specific issues affecting the Darran Valley geographical area.

005 Planning Applications

Case Ref. 21/0201/NCC

Site Area: 627m² Location: Former Tabernacle Chapel Hall Chapel Street Deri (UPRN 000043172064) Proposal: Vary condition 7 (approved plans) of planning consent 15/0251/FULL (Demolish the existing chapel hall and erect two dormer bungalows) to reduce the size of the two dwellings Case Officer: Elizabeth Rowley (01443 864776 : rowlee@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Darran Valley Map Ref: 312811 (E) 201888 (N) Community Council: Darran Valley Community Council Expected Decision Level:

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: There was no objections to this proposal.

Case Ref. 21/0198/RET Site Area: 4415m² Location: Land At Grid Ref 311173 206438 Fochriw Road To Hill Road Pontlottyn (UPRN 000043177962) Proposal: Retain and complete raising of the ground levels and new land drainage Case Officer: Anthony Pyne (01443 864523 : pynea@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Darran Valley Map Ref: 311174 (E) 206439 (N) Community Council: Darran Valley Community Council Expected Decision Level:

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: There was no objections to this proposal, and it was noted this does not come under the Darran Valley boundary.

006 Correspondence

006.1 *'Dear Community Council,*

I hope this email finds you safe and well. The reason that I am contacting you today is regarding a project that we are hosting in Caerphilly Town Centre in March - June 2022. We are in the early stages of planning, but I'd like to give you an overview and some potential opportunities to get involved.

'A Dogs Trail with Snoopy' (<https://adogstrail.org.uk/>) is a project that is being hosted in Cardiff, it follows an established model and has an amazing proven track record with trails such as the 'Snow Dogs Trail' in Cardiff in 2017. Having seen the initial launch of the trail in November 2020 I contacted Dogs Trust with a view of extending the project and having a mini trail in Caerphilly;

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the transport links between Caerphilly and Cardiff offer a perfect opportunity to extend the trail into our county borough.

Wild In Art who are working with Dogs Trust on the project have worked on over 50 successful trails with the benefits to the local economy being great. Additional benefits of the trail include the promotion of health and well being, generating tourism and driving footfall to the area, supporting local businesses, raising the profile of the area in general and promoting the outdoors. To give you an insight, the 'Snow Dog' Trail in 2017 attracted 350,000 people to visit the trail over the 10 weeks, 1/5th stayed overnight with an estimated economic value of 10 million to the area.

At the moment the agreement with CCBC and Dogs Trust is for 6 characters to be located in and around Caerphilly Town Centre, with any additional characters that may form part of the trail being generated through sponsored characters. There is also a school and community learning programme running alongside the main project to encourage 'packs' of smaller dogs to be located at indoor venues such as Caerphilly library, Caerphilly leisure centre and shop foyers etc.

I appreciate that this trail is being hosted in Caerphilly Town Centre and that you may not see the direct benefits of any involvement for your community, however I was wondering if you see any potential in getting involved by supporting the involvement of schools in your area. We really want to include all of the schools in the borough and not just those in the Caerphilly area to make it inclusive for all. At the end of the project all the sculptures created by the schools are owned by the schools that created them, there is therefore potential that if you supported the schools in your area that at the end of the main trail you could host the characters somewhere in your local community for a set period of time ... like a 'Welcome Home' event. They could potentially be located at indoor venues such as libraries, empty shop windows and supermarket foyers for example. It could be your own 'Welcome Home' event, which would be a totally separate event to what would have already taken place in Caerphilly. These are just options I'm throwing around really to gauge your opinion; below is a bit more information on the school's element of the trail.

Information on Schools Involvement

Schools and community groups who wish to be involved in the project will have a £750 fundraising pledge to cover the cost of the mini character. It is essential to reiterate that there are no contractual obligations for schools/community groups to raise the £750, as long as there is a pledge for each school/community group involved to commit to try and raise some funds towards paying for the character, which essentially costs £750 to commission. Any concerns schools/community groups have regarding the fundraising can be discussed with Dogs Trust on a case by case basis and should not form a barrier for involvement as we want the trail to be inclusive to all. More about the learning programme and what it will involve can be found

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here <https://adogstrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Learning-Sales-Pack-Spring-2022-FINAL.pdf>

Schools from all over the borough have been known to get involved in Caerphilly events previously, when we have hosted wheelbarrow decorating competitions for the Caerphilly Flower Festival and banner decoration displays for Caerphilly Medieval Christmas Market, as whilst these events are not hosted in your local community they are events that unite the borough by involving schools from all over. The schools project is full of fun and will give children a sense of pride and ownership within the community when their character is on display for all to see.

There are additional options available, such as sponsoring a main character in the trail, which can be discussed further if interested, however I thought involvement from the learning programme perspective would be the most attractive option. If the project sounds like it is something of interest to your Community Council then I could look to connect you with Dogs Trust, the project leaders, so that they can present the project to you in more depth and to outline the full range of opportunities that are available and the best way to move forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time in looking over the above and I will look forward to hearing from you. If you have any other ideas/suggestions at this stage then please let me know.

Kind Regards

Stacy Francis

Swyddog Digwyddiadau | Events Officer

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to forward to Councillor R Chapman (Fochriw Primary), and Councillor David Hardacre (Deri Primary School) so they can bring it to the attention of Deri and Fochriw Primary Schools.

006.2 'Hi All,

A request was made at your Joint Community Council Liaison meeting for an update on the Management of Waste Recycling Sites, I have been given the attached update in relation to the contamination incident at the Bryn Group.

Kind regards

Emma

See below

Operator: Bryn Aggregates Ltd Facility: Gelliargwellt Farm, Gelligaer Road, Hengoed. CF82 8FY NRW are planning to undertake an investigation into the complaints we have received regarding plastic contamination present within

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the bund week commencing the 12th April 2021. This investigation will involve numerous colleagues from NRW including the use of an excavator a consultant and the use of a drone on site. Our investigations are complex, and it has taken a lot of planning to organise as we need to ensure that this investigation is thorough, representative and can stand up to any potential court scrutiny. We will always also be following all the relevant risk assessments and COVID rules at all times. We have commissioned an independent consultant to undertake this investigation on our behalf, and all evidential samples taken throughout the investigation will be transported to an independent laboratory for analysis. We anticipate the on-site investigations to last about 3 days and then a report will be written by the independent consultant on the findings. Once we have this report it will be reviewed by NRW and dependent on the findings it may or may not be available to the public for some time. We have also discussed this investigation / process in detail with Hefin David MS, local councillors and residents on the 22nd February 2021. NRW will provide further updates on the investigation as soon as we can, we are hoping that everything goes to plan on the 12th April 2021'.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Following discussion this does not affect the Darran Valley Community Council.

007 Approval of Community Council Payments

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

| | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| On-line BACS | £445.36 | Zurich Insurance – annual renewal |
| On-line BACS | £296.83 | Clerk's salary April 2021 |
| On-line BACS | £190.00 | One Voice Wales Annual Membership |
| On-line BACS | £200.00 | Caerphilly CBC – Annual support and maintenance for the website |
| On-line BACS | £1,826.75 (takes in to account DVCC funds already held by GAVO) | GAVO Wind Turbine Grants - The original invoice was for £4,777.46 see comments under item 010 on reasons for this amendment. |
| Total | £2,958.94 | |

008 Gwent Police crime update

The new Community Support Officer for the Darran Valley is Jaswant Singh, who submitted the following written update:

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Fochriw:

Since barriers have been put up on the green in front of the shop, hopefully the situation with off-road bikes has calmed down.

There have been patrols and warning tickets issued for vehicles parked at the bus Stop at the top of Ael-Y-Bryn Street.

Patrols will take place around the area to see if there are speeding vehicles on Brook Row & Pontlloctyn Road (outside the school).

Deri:

There will be patrols around the area for off-road vehicles on the common and Mill Road, which leads from the common into the village.

There will also be patrols around the area for vehicles congregating at Cefn Bach Farm in Deri, and to check for speeding vehicles on New Road & Bailey Street (outside the school).

Darran Valley Community Council are currently pushing for a CCTV camera in the Village of Deri – Jaswant Singh confirmed support of this; however, he advised that this is dependent on the community reporting incidents in order to provide crime figures to the Local Authority to support this development.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will send the contact details for Jaswant Singh to all Councillors. Councillor R Chapman noted the improvements at the top of Ael-y-Bryn (less parking at the bus stop), but there are still problems with off road bikes on the common by the old Pentecostal Chapel.

009 Budget 2021 – 2022.

| Darran Valley Community Council - Draft Income & Expenditure Budget 2021-22 | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Income | | Expenditure | |
| C/F 31/03/2020 | £10,675.00 | Clerk's Salary & On Costs | £04,500.00 |
| Precept | £12,980.00 | Chairperson's Allowance | £00,300.00 |
| Anticipated VAT reclaim 2021/22 | £936.79 | Out of Office | £00,250.00 |
| Wind Turbine | £04,777.46 | Telephone & Broadband | £00,200.00 |
| | | Room Hire | £00,200.00 |
| | | Insurance & Subscription | £00,600.00 |
| | | One Voice Wales membership | £00,190.00 |

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| | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|---|
| | | | |
| | | Stationery & Postage | £00,100.00 |
| | | Website hosting and maintenance | £00,840.00 |
| | | Section 137 Grants | £02,000.00 |
| | | Wind Turbine Grants | £04,777.46 |
| | | Section 137 OAP Trip | £01,000.00 |
| | | Christmas Lighting (Ops) | £04,500.00 Increase – extra lighting in Deri and Fochriw |
| | | Audit | £00,600.00 |
| | | Summer Scheme / half term / Youth Club | £04,000.00 (£2,000 carried forward from 2020) |
| | | Post lockdown wellbeing events over 55's in Deri and Fochriw | £01,600.00 |
| | | Councillor Expense / Allowance | £01,350.00 |
| | | ICO Data protection | £00,035.00 |
| | | Remembrance Sunday – plus extra poppies | £00,150.00 |
| Total | £29,369.25 | Total | £27,192.46 |
| Earmark Christmas lighting | | | £04,500.00 |
| Earmark Schools Summer Scheme / Youth Club | | | £04,000.00 |

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| | |
|--|---|
| Earmark Post lockdown wellbeing events over 55 clubs Fochriw and Deri / Community Centres for those not in both clubs. Ask the over 55's Clubs to invite those who are not members. Cllr David Nicholas will speak to the Community Centre Committee. Money is earmarked and for them to contact us when they re-open. Same amount mixed community events. Equal amount across the community. 800 for each area. | £01,600.00 (Fochriw / Deri over 55's club) £00,800.00 (Community Centres) £00,800.00 |
| Earmark Section 137 Grants | £02,000.00 |
| Earmark Section 137 OAP Trip – Roll over / on hold until Christmas 2021 due to Covid-10 or 2022. Will be reviewed September / October 2021. £500 for Fochriw and Deri. | £01,000.00 |
| Earmark Wind turbine | £04,777.46 |

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

The draft budget above was approved by Council, with the following comments

noted:

- **Most Darran Valley Councillors do not take the Councillors allowance, but this must still be factored into the budget.**
- **There will be no election until May 2022 (therefore no budget needed in this financial period)**
- **Post lockdown wellbeing events: Wait until there is certainty to lockdown restrictions. Councillor Paul Roberts was opposed to the funds being given to the Fochriw and Deri over 55 Clubs, as some residents over 55 in the area are not members of the clubs. However following discussion, it was agreed that money is earmarked for the over 55 Clubs (£800), Community Centres (£800). Councillor David Nicholas will inform the Community Centre Committee regarding this and ask them to contact us when they re-open.**
- **Funding for schools and youth clubs have been approved (details included under item 010)**
- **Section 137 OAP Trip – Roll over / on hold until Christmas 2021 due to Covid-19 or 2022. Will be reviewed September / October 2021. £500 for Fochriw and £500 for Deri.**

010 An update on the Summer Scheme provisions 2021

The Clerk and Councillor Helen Hollified had an on-line meeting with the Parent Network. Due to Covid-19 there is uncertainty about whether the summer scheme can go ahead for this financial year – there are also rollover funds left over from the previous financial year. The Parent Network advised us that Caerphilly CBC are not encouraging summer schemes go ahead yet, but one of the ideas being considered is the distribution of resource packs for children aged 7 and under (giving the children a reason to go outdoors leaving

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technology behind for a couple of hours, for example old fashioned games such as hula hoop, skipping, chalk and bubbles and hopscotch)

If the Covid-19 restrictions change the possibility of pop up events are being considered for ages 7 to 11.

The Youth Centres are unlikely to re-open until Autumn 2021, but funding can be offered for an event for teenagers as well.

Also, a memorial project to remember the Covid-19 pandemic that the whole community can get involved with.

Council have agreed to earmark £4,000 (includes last years un-used budget of £2,000 for all ideas above).

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Council voted to go ahead with the resource packs for ages 7 and under and investigate provisions for ages 7 and over at a future date (likely Whitsun once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted further). The Clerk will contact relevant individuals to find out the numbers of children aged 7 and under. Also voted to buy packs for individual children rather than families. The Clerk will also contact the history group for ideas around a memorial project for Covid-19 (suggest they apply for wind turbine funding).

011 Possibility of funding for two skips at the allotment

During Covid-19 the allotments have seen a big increase in usage, which has resulted in the build up of rubbish. It was proposed that Council provide funding for the skips as a one-off payment due to the unprecedented situation. There was a very detailed conversation, with comments noted as below:

- Concerns that Caerphilly CBC have not funded the skips, Councillor A Vincent would like the Clerk to contact Caerphilly CBC and raise objections as to why they are not funding the skips.
- Councillor D Nicholas was concerned that If this is approved, it will set a precedent (this Community Council only has a small yearly precept).
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Council voted to fund the skips at an estimated cost of £300 as a goodwill gesture due to the increased demand during the pandemic (make clear this is a one-off only payment due to the pandemic). This will cover the cost of two skips for one day only.

Noted that Councillors D Nicholas and A Vincent voted against it.

012 Street lights being turned off in Deri and Fochriw (safety issued being raised)

Residents have raised concerns about the amount of lights going off at 12 and coming back on at 5 am, when some residents are travelling to work etc in the early hours of the morning. The Darran Valley is a rural area, and the streets are black with no visibility when the lights are turned off.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will write to Caerphilly CBC expressing the fears of residents and report back to Council.

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013 Update on the Wind Turbine Grants

The Annual grant scheme was launched in 2020 against a backdrop of the pandemic. It has been publicised through the Community Council and GAVO websites and social media pages as well as through direct email bulletins to third sector forum and mailing lists. The initial closing date of 31st December was extended to February to enable groups to apply given the extended covid lockdown.

Three applications were received for this year, totalling £2,950.00, which were reviewed by the independent panel on 3rd March 2021. All three were considered satisfactory for the grant and the notification sent with Terms and Conditions for them to agree, sign and return.

All three organisations will be paid by BACS once the funding has been received from Council, utilising the small carry over from the previous year. As there will be balance in the fund GAVO would like to propose that the scheme remain open during the year, and publicised accordingly, (as is the case with other Solar/wind farm grants GAVO manages) to allow for organisations to apply once there is some return to normality as lockdown eases.

The financial breakdown to date appears below.

Lightsource Darren Valley Grant 2020/21 Dept 293

Budget £4,777.46 plus underspend from 2019 £1,469.25 less GAVO admin on 2020 amount

Grants = Maximum £1,000 per application

Admin GAVO = £477.00 (on 2020 figure only at 10%)

| Organisation | Amount Applied for |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fochriw Church | £ 950.00 |
| Friends of Deri Primary School | £ 1,000.00 |
| Friends of Fochriw Primary | £ 1,000.00 |

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Council were in favour of keeping the wind turbine grants open to assist organisations who have been unable to apply during the pandemic (Clerk will inform GAVO accordingly). Council were not in favour of paying the entire balance of the wind turbine income expenditure, so interest is gained in the treasurers account for the benefit of the community. The Clerk will ask GAVO to re-issue the invoice for the amount allocated above (if new applications are submitted, they will be paid via separate invoices).

014 Date and time of the next meeting:

Council were pleased to report there will be an Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6th May at 6pm using Microsoft Teams. The Chair thanked everyone for their patience and perseverance with remote meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic.