

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:

Thursday 6th May 2021 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams

This was the Annual General Meeting

Present

Cllr. D. Nicholas (In the Chair)
Cllr. A Vincent
Cllr. E Blanche
Cllr. H Hollifield
Cllr. G Matthews

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. R Chapman
Cllr. D Hardacre – unable to join due to on-going IT issues
Cllr. D Johnson
Cllr. P. Roberts

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

015 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

016 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

017 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th April 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.

018 Matters Arising from the meeting on 8th April 2021 not already included on the agenda.

All matters and actions were carried out.

Specific updates

An update on Item 010 – Summer Scheme

Further to the April 2021 meeting a quote has been received from Sports Caerphilly for Summer provisions ages 7 until 11 (ages 7 and under will receive resource packs).

Option 1

- 2 days a week (1 at both Deri & Fochriw)
- 2-hour afternoon slots, for x 4 weeks
- 2 days of skateboarding (1 at both Deri & Fochriw)
- Sporting equipment/PPE/First Aid box
- Flyers/Marketing produced and distributed in local area

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Costings = £1,740

Option 2

- 2 days a week (1 at both Deri & Fochriw)
- 2-hour afternoon slots, for x 4 weeks
- 4 days of skateboarding (2 at both Deri & Fochriw)
- Sporting equipment/PPE/First Aid box
- Flyers/Marketing produced and distributed in local area

Costings = £2,140

Option 3

- 4 days a week (2 at both Deri & Fochriw)
- 2-hour afternoon slots, for x 4 weeks
- 4 days of skateboarding (2 at both Deri & Fochriw)
- Sporting equipment/PPE/First Aid box
- Flyers/Marketing produced and distributed in local area

Costings = £2,780

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Following discussion Council voted for option 3. The Clerk will inform Sports Caerphilly of this decision. Councillor A Vincent wanted clarification on safety issues, especially around skateboarding – Councillor H Hollified and the Clerk confirmed they are insured, and DBS checked. The Clerk also explained the middle 4 weeks of the holiday were chosen, as families usually go away towards the end, with a week off at the beginning to relax.

An update on item 012 - Street lights being turned off in Deri and Fochriw (safety issued being raised)

As requested, the Clerk wrote to Caerphilly CBC regarding safety concerns and the following reply received:

'The tragic death of Sarah Everard has raised the safety of women on the streets at a national level, and it is clear that there are a number of variables, such as behaviours, the judicial system, urban design, contribute to the perception and reality of safety on our streets, not only for women but for the community as a whole. Both UK government and devolved governments are seeking to address these concerns through a number of policy interventions at this time.

At a local level, like so many other councils across the country, we took the decision to reduce carbon emissions and costs, through a phased introduction of new replacement LED light installation, coupled with selected part-night lighting (midnight – 5.30am). This programme has recently concluded and our existing policy position, sets out the need to review the impact of these changes once a reasonable period of time has passed. This review, when undertaken will capture and consider the full impact of these changes as well as set out our next steps. Throughout the implementation phase of this programme, officers have regularly met with colleagues from Gwent Police to

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review our crime statistics and any representations that have been made, and these have been addressed on a case by case basis.

As the implementation programme has recently been completed, formal meetings between Gwent Police and Council officers will now take place on a quarterly basis as a minimum, to consider area and localised crime data, which will be supplemented with data from the Community safety partnerships and any other relevant sources of data. This first meeting, which is currently being arranged, will focus upon women and vulnerable user groups and how any areas which are identified can be addressed through a multi-agency approach. We firstly need to establish the nature and extent of such concerns across the county borough, as I am sure you will appreciate that we need to develop a response that mirrors the unique circumstances we have here in Caerphilly county borough. The response to each issue, is likely to be multi-faceted as such matters tend to be quite complex in nature.

Furthermore, in due course we intend to seek the views from the community regarding this specific issue, to ascertain if our response at a local level is appropriate and at a national level will use this data to inform a series of political discussions regarding our current national policy position.

For your information, most of the streetlights are equipped with a photo electric control unit (PECU) which switch the lantern "on" when light levels fall and "off" when the light levels rise. The PECUs also measure the length of time that the light is "on" (this being the whole period it was dark) and from this measurement it calculates the middle of this period – solar midnight. The following night, at this predetermined midnight point the lantern is extinguished and a factory set time delay is instigated which after five and a half hours, the lantern is again switched "on". Whilst solar midnight is closely aligned with 00.00 hrs, it is not exact. The time period between dusk and dawn is calculated continuously and goes toward compiling a running average against which the middle of the dark period is calculated more accurately on an ongoing basis. Each photocell is autonomous, determines its own operation and compensates for the naturally changing dark period.

There is no facility for end user alteration of this equipment and unless an obvious mistake has been made in the application of this Policy, officers have no discretion in undertaking amendments.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Regards

Thomas Huw Llewelyn

Uwch Beiriannwr | Senior Engineer

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council'

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019 Planning Applications

Reference	21/0366/FULL
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Tue 06 Apr 2021
Application Validated	Thu 22 Apr 2021
Address	1 New Road Deri Bargoed CF81 9GJ
Proposal	Erect a detached garage to the rear of the property
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available

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

020 Correspondence

007.01 'For your information – please share / Ar gyfer eich gwybodaeth – rhannwch

Please find A4 Telephone Scams poster that I have created – this can be printed at A4 or A3 so it is a reminder to people to be careful when answering the telephone.

The PDF is 2 pages and can be printed double sided so it is Welsh one side and English the other, or the PNG files can be used in Social Media / Websites.

Please feel free to distribute as you see fit
Cyber Protect Officer

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will add this to the Darran Valley Community Council website and will also forward to Councillors to put up in local areas.

007.02 'Dear Council,

We are writing to ask if you would consider giving our organisation a donation from your 1/2 penny rate to our newly formed Community Interest Company which is called Retired Police Dogs of Gwent (RPD of Gwent). RPD has 9 committee members, which is made up by current servicing Gwent Police Dog handlers, ex-serving Gwent PD handlers, Animal Welfare Lay Visitors for Gwent Police and a person who is Gwent Police Staff. RPD of Gwent has been set up to promote the wellbeing of retired Police

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dogs, by providing financial assistance to the owners of the retired dogs who have served with

Gwent Police force, as sadly, it is extremely hard to obtain pet insurance for an ex-serving Police dog. Our aim is to give financial assistance for veterinary care for illness or injury via a grant application from the owner of the retired Police dog. Each application for assistance goes before our committee for us to decide if we can help and how much monies we can grant each application. Sadly, some vet's bills can cost £1000's of pounds, and recently one of our retired dogs need surgery which cost over £3000, which is a huge amount for an owner who kindly adopts one of our retired dogs to fund. To enable RPD of Gwent to be able to help our wonderful, retired Police dogs who have served

our community's tirelessly, we desperately need funds to help us achieve our goals, and we ask if you would kindly donate some monies to help our wonderful retired Police dogs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

(Treasurer of RPD of Gwent)

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Councillor Ann Vincent would like more details before deciding. The Clerk will forward to all Councillors and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

007.03 – The Senior Committee Service Officer sent details regarding a new initiative called 'Caerphilly Care'. 'What is 'Caerphilly Cares' and how did it come about? The 'Caerphilly Cares' team, a team of established Caerphilly County Borough Council staff, will offer a new centralised coordination and response triage service for those county borough residents in need of support for issues such as food poverty, debt or rent arrears, isolation or loneliness. The COVID pandemic saw residents present themselves to the council for support, often for the very first time. It became apparent that these individuals often required multiple interventions and support from a number of different council departments. 'Caerphilly Cares' aims to offer the individual a single point of contact with the team, who will assist that individual in getting to the root cause of their issue, meaning they will only need to explain their situation once'.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will add this to the Darran Valley Community Council website and will also forward to Councillors to put up in local areas.

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021 Approval of Community Council Payments

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£75.35	HMRC Tax to 5 th April 2021
On-line BACS	£296.83	Clerk's salary May 2021
Total	£372.17	

022 Gwent Police crime update

The Community Support Officer for the Darran Valley (Jaswant Singh), submitted the following written update:

Fochriw

Patrols continue around the area on the top of Ael-Y-Bryn street, and since warning tickets have been issued, no cars have parked on the bus stop.

Patrols continue around the area to see if there are speeding vehicles on Brook Row & Pontlottyn Road (outside School).

Deri

Patrols continue around the area for off-road vehicles on the common and Mill Road, which leads from the common into the village.

There are also controls around the area for Vehicles congregating at Cefn Bach farm, Deri, and to see if there speeding Vehicles on New Road & Bailey Street (outside the school).

Community Council are currently pushing for a CCTV camera in the Village of Deri – PC Singh advised they will support this, however advised they require the community to be reporting incidents to in order to provide crime figures to the Local Authority to support this development. Records show there isn't anything on note for both areas.

Other items

023. A representative from Caerphilly CBC - discussion around the household waste booking system - Principal Wastes Management Officers Rhodri Lloyd and Ricky Vaughan.

Rhodri Lloyd explained that Caerphilly CBC manage 6 waste management facilities, and other Councils have implemented a waste management booking system – Rhodri Lloyd added that the benefits of adopting a booking system include better control of traffic flows, recovery, and recycling rates; as well as reducing misuse of the sites. The Council have gone out to consultation with the results due imminently.

The Darran Valley Councillors asked the Officers to attend, as they are very concerned fly tipping will increase if the booking system is implemented. Councillor A Vincent wanted to know what would happen if everyone wants to book at the same time and day, for example on a Saturday when they are not

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working. Both Officers said as there are 6 sites so there should be enough capacity, although Councillor A Vincent added that the Darran Valley Community should be able to access their nearest / local site. Councillor Vincent also added that there is already an increase in fly tipping, and this will only make it worse.

Councillor E Blanche noted regular use at the sites, and has found very few issues with queueing at the sites so does not see this as a problem, and also agreed if someone is unable to get a booking fly tipping is likely to increase. Councillor D Nicholas asked how residents access the booking system and had concerns about the elderly – Ricky Vaughan said there would be various options including on-line, telephone and via the post office. Councillor D Nicholas also expressed disappointment at having to pay £16 to have a settee removed, and this isn't helping the fly tipping situation either. Councillor A Vincent agreed that this is unfair as the community are already pay council tax. Ricky Vaughan explained this is due to a minority of overuse of the system. Councillor H Hollified asked if it does go ahead could it be done on a trial basis first to monitor if there is a significant increase in fly tipping. The Chair (Councillor D Nicholas) thanked the Officers for attending the meeting and listening to Council's concerns and disagreement with the booking system proposal.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) items

- 024. Declaration of interest (Register of members interests) 2021-22 – review and refresh.**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
There were no changes to report regarding members declarations of interest (they remain the same as the 2020-21 period).
- 025. Appointment of a Chairperson for the ensuing year.**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
Councillor P Roberts was proposed by Councillor E Blanche.
This proposal was seconded by Councillor G Matthews
- 026. Appointment of a Vice-Chairperson for the ensuing year.**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
Councillor A Vincent was proposed by Cllr D Nicholas This proposal was seconded by Councillor G Matthews.
- 027. To consider the appointment of Council's Internal Auditor for the Year Ending 31st March 2021.**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
It was proposed and seconded that Council reappoint the current post holder – Mrs Julie Richards.

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028. Community Council Budget & Financial Reconciliation.

The following budget was agreed at the April 2021 meeting, and the Clerk noted a bank balance of £17,651.46 at 31st March 2021.

Darran Valley Community Council – Approved 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
		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

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		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
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
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

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029. Councillors Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations 2021/22.

All community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Councillor D Nicholas wishes to take up the £150 payment this year. Councillors H Hollifield, A Vincent, G Matthews, and E Blanche wish to decline it.

The Clerk will contact the other Councillors unable to attend the meeting.

030. Chairperson payment to cover expenses. (Monetary value afforded to the Chairperson Allowance at £300.00).

Community and town councils can provide a Civic Head payment to the mayor/chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses. Council acknowledged and adopted this determination, retaining the monetary value afforded to the Chairperson Allowance at £300.00.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

The new Chair was unable to attend the meeting, therefore this will be discussed at the June 2021 meeting.

031. Date and time of the next meeting:

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Thursday 10th June 2021 6 until 7.30 pm will be remote due to Covid-19. Councillor A Vincent

proposed whether or not face-to-face meetings should resume at the June meeting. This will be dependent on current Covid-19 guidelines.