

**DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN**

**Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams**

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**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

**032 Members of the public**

No requests to attend from members of the public.

**033 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**034 Minutes and Apologies**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (AGM), previously circulated to members were accepted as an accurate record. They were not signed as the meeting was remote.

**035 Matters Arising from the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May (AGM) 2021 not already included on the agenda.**

All matters and actions were carried out.

**Specific updates**

**An update on Item 018 – Summer Scheme**

All final plans were put in place for the summer scheme. Councillor Duncan Johnson took delivery of the sports equipment.

The play packs were delivered by Councillor P Roberts.

Deri Primary School informed the Clerk they were 9 packs short as one of the classes were omitted from the figures given. The Clerk has ordered an extra 9 packs and these will be delivered to those children early September when back at school. It was not possible to deliver them before as contact details could not be given due to data protection guidelines.

Councillor P Roberts commented how impressed he was with the play packs, and the high quality of what was in them; he also said it was a delight to see

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the children walking out of school with them, and this is what community councils are for. Councillor E Blanche would like us to investigate including packs for nursery aged children next year (aged 3 to 5). The Clerk explained this was due to safety regulations around the toys in the packs, but we will look into this next year and find a solution.

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

It was noted that the outcome of the consultation period has not been decided yet.

**027 - To consider the appointment of Council's Internal Auditor for the year ending 31st March 2021.**

The Clerk informed Council that the usual auditor was unable to undertake the work for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. In order to comply with audit date deadlines, the Clerk sought permission to use another auditor outside the meeting (Harris Basset Chartered Accountants) who would charge the same amount (£200 plus VAT). All Councillors voted and agreed with this option.

**029 - Councillors Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations 2021/22.**

Some Councillors were unable to attend the AGM, and therefore decided on remunerations in this meeting.

The new Chair Councillor P Roberts wishes to donate the Chairpersons allowance (£300) to Deri and Fochriw Primary Schools and will not be take the Councillor expenses.

Councillor D Johnson wishes to take up the £150 Councillor yearly expense payment.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will organise these remuneration payments.**

**036 Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to discuss.

**037 Correspondence**

037.01 Councillor E Blanche asked the Rangers to attend the gates at the start of the park footpath in Fochriw and cut back the nettles encroaching on the entrance. It had been reported that a child fell in them and was stung quite badly. Councillor E Blanche noted at the meeting that this was now resolved including the grass cutting. Councillor Blanche also mentioned the waterfall - only locals are aware of it, so has asked about the possibility of adding signposting.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Councillor to provide an update at the September 2021 meeting.**

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037.02 Mr O'Hagan has written to Council with the suggestion of installing free drinking water (at the café in Parc Cwm Darran and by the outdoor gym in Fochriw). Council felt this would be very expensive and is likely to be a County Council matter; however, all agreed the principle is a good idea. Councillor H Hollifield is going to look into any grants that may be available for this.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Councillor Helen Hollified to investigate any grants that may be available to install free drinking water at strategic points in the Darran Valley.**

037.03 – Operation London Bridge e-mail from 'One Voice Wales' – Guidance for Community and Town Council. Operation London Bridge is the code name given to the passing of H M Queen Elizabeth the Second. This guidance note has been produced to assist Community & Town Councils to consider in advance the implications the passing of H M Queen would have on the activities of the Council and to help the Council plan what actions it wishes to take when the event occurs. It gives an outline of matters a Council may wish to consider and to what extent it may wish to engage with regard to Events, Flags, Websites, Portraits, Condolence Books, Area to Lay Flowers, the Proclamation, Church Services, Bells, Floodlights, Public Holidays and Dress Code.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will send a copy to all Councillors.**

037.04 – Correspondence with David Llewelyn (Service Development Lead – Integrated Wellbeing Services ABUHB). The Clerk and Councillor Helen Hollified made the other Councillors aware of some suggested initiatives that may benefit the Darran Valley Community and suggested inviting him to the next meeting to discuss. This was agreed.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will invite David Llewelyn to the September 2021 meeting.**

037.05 – One Voice Wales are asking for good practice guidelines on dealing with dog litter / fouling. This correspondence reminded Cllr E Blanche about the request this Council put in for extra dog litter bins – Councillor D Hardacre has been unable to attend meetings during the pandemic (IT issues) so we have not received an update on this. Councillor D Johnson said that Council R Chapman is in regular contact with Councillor Hardacre, and therefore the Clerk will ask him to receive an update in time for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will ask Councillor R Chapman to ask Councillor D Hardacre for an update on the dog fouling litter bins in time for the next meeting.**

037.06 – One Voice Wales courses – the Clerk made Councillors aware of the various courses available through One Voice Wales and added that as a small community council we are entitled to some bursaries to fund them. The Clerk will send a list of all available courses to Councillors.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to send details of One Voice Wales courses and details of bursaries available to all Councillors.**

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037.07 – Prohibition and restriction of waiting and loading and on street parking places consolidation order 2019 (amendment order no 3 2020). The legal assistant from Caerphilly CBC sent details of copy notice which was advertised in the Western Mail on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The order came into effect on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The Clerk wanted to ensure all Councillors were made aware of it.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will send a copy to all Councillors.**

037.08 – Councillor E Blanche made Council aware of a new CCTV camera that has been installed at Rhodfa Ganol. The camera has been installed by Caerphilly CBC and is now live.

#### 038. Standing orders

This was not on the agenda, but there was a discussion around the reason there are no meetings in August, which instigated a discussion around standing orders. Council decided to review the standing orders at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will add review of standing orders to the September 2021 agenda.**

#### 039. Approval of Community Council Payments

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£2,855	The Parent Network – children's summer play packs
On-line BACS	£296.83 x 3	Clerk's salary June, July and August 2021
On-line BACS	£150.00	Councillor expense for Councillor D Johnson.
On-line BACS	£150.00	Chairpersons allowance donation to Deri Primary School.
On-line BACS	£150.00	Chairpersons allowance donation to Fochriw Primary School.

Total £4,195.49

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will check the Clerk's wages are approved automatically in the standing orders, if not this will be discussed in the September 2021 meeting.**

#### 040. Gwent Police crime update

The following written update was submitted by Gwent Police:

'Drug warrants have been carried out in the Fochriw areas with a positive result. Persons involved were arrested and are currently under investigation. We will update in due course with further results.'

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The neighbourhood team are still carrying out joint patrols with the Commoners ranger to prevent fly tipping in the area. Officers have also given out section 59 warnings to off road vehicles whilst conducting these patrols.

Officers have delivered rural crime prevention packs to farm owners to help them protect their property from thieves. The packs include smart water which allows residents to mark their belongings. Each smart water pack contains a specific 'DNA' number which will help us identify those committing crime'.

#### **041. Councillor D Nicholas – traffic incident at the bottom of Bailey Street.**

Councillor Nicholas was concerned about a traffic divert incident that caused chaos in Deri and was displeased with the reply from PC Jaswant Singh regarding the matter. Other Councillors also expressed concern about traffic issues and would like PC Jaswant Singh to attend the next meeting to discuss.

#### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

**The Clerk will ask PC Jaswant Singh to attend the next Council meeting.**

#### **042. Check member Register of interests 2021-22 is up to date.**

The register of interests was checked and amended during the meeting - the Clerk will add to the Council website.

#### **043. Sign off annual accounts and audit 2020-21**

#### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

The June 2021 was not quorate, so the accounts were discussed and signed off by Councillors at the July 2021 meeting. They were shared for inspection by all Councillors prior to the meeting.

#### **044. Local Places for Nature**

The Clerk made Council aware of two grants available:

<https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/pages/category/nature>

and <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/local-places-nature>

#### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

Ideas discussed included the Heritage Fund (brook in Deri) and Keep Wales Tidy (trees for Fochriw). Councillor H Hollifield and the Clerk will have a meeting to discuss and bring back to the September 2021 meeting.

#### **045. Councillor E Blanche - Parc Cwm Darran Defibrillator Fund**

#### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

The staff at Parc Cwm Darran are trying to raise funds for a defibrillator - Councillor Blanche wanted to find out what funding streams, for example the wind turbine grants maybe available to them for this fantastic cause. The wind turbine grants are only available to organisations with accounts. Councillor P Roberts proposed asking the residents association if they can apply and donate the money.

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The Clerk also shared the following link which includes information on grants available for defibrillators:

<https://calonhearts.org/PageContent/Grants%20&%20funding.pdf>

The Clerk also sent this link to Councillor Blanche during the meeting.

**046. Date and time of the next meeting:**

Council voted to start face-to-face meetings again.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will investigate the possibility of starting face-to-face meetings at the September 2021 and will report back to Councillors.**