

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:

Thursday 9th September 2021 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr. P Roberts (In the Chair)

Cllr. D Nicholas

Cllr. D Johnson

Cllr. H Hollifield

Cllr. G Matthews

Cllr. Cllr. E Blanche (joined late due to technical difficulties).

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. R Chapman

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

Cllr. A Vincent

PC Jaswant Singh

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

047 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

048 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

049 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22nd July 2021 previously circulated to members were accepted as an accurate record. They were not signed as the meeting was remote.

050 Matters Arising from the meeting on 22nd July 2021 not already included on the agenda.

All matters and actions were carried out.

Specific updates

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

The Clerk noted there was no update as this is still in the consultation phase.

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

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work for the financial year ending 31st 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. The Clerk noted the audit has now been fully completed and submitted to the Welsh Audit Office.

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. Councillor Helen Hollifield investigated this further and advised the Clerk of the circular economy <https://circulareconomy.wales/> and grants available via <https://wrapcymru.org.uk/taking-action/grants>. Furthermore, Bedlinog community council were part of a grant from Welsh government to provide water points to reduce the amount of single plastic waste. There is going to be a point at the climbing wall in Bedlinog and the parks. Councillor David Nicholas also suggested installing re-usable bottle recycling disposal bins.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Councillor Helen Hollifield offered to investigate further.

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: Keep on the agenda as Councillor Helen Hollifield is still investigating and identifying how and where these initiatives can be utilised in the Darran Valley.

045. Councillor E Blanche - Parc Cwm Darran Defibrillator Fund

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.

The Clerk also shared the for link which includes information on grants available for defibrillators. Councillor P Roberts provided an update at the meeting (the member of the public coordinating this has been unable to progress at present but will update the Clerk when there is news.

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Item 018 – Summer Scheme – The Clerk reported that Caerphilly CBC secured funding from the Welsh Government and Play Wales ‘Summer of Fun’. The funding received will pay the £2,780 that was agreed for the Community Summer Scheme in Deri and Fochriw so Darran Valley Community Council won’t have to fund it. The Clerk has also received positive feedback from the Sports Development Officer: ‘Feedback from the coaches was they really enjoyed coaching in different environments and delivering sessions to the children. Hearing from the coaches about how much fun the children had and how they can’t wait to come again was really pleasing to hear. I look forward to hearing from you in regard to next summer and can’t wait to deliver sporting activities for you again in the summer holidays.’

Item 046 – Clerk to investigate the possibility of face-to-face Council meetings – the Clerk reported that a risk assessment needed to be carried out at Parc Cwm Darran before any meetings could resume. As soon as there is an update on this the Clerk will inform Council.

051 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

052 Correspondence

052.01 – from Elsbury Access Platforms ‘I am contacting you today with regards to the Christmas figurines and Tree Lighting that we have in previous years installed and removed for you. As our planning for this year’s lighting across various areas is soon to be started, would you please be able to confirm that you require us to continue providing this service for you for the Christmas 2021 period. If we are required to continue providing this service for you, please could you also supply the required ‘Switch On’ date for the lighting within your community and any changes to your lighting plans, so we can ensure necessary arrangements are in place for this is completed. Below I have included this year’s costing for the figurines within your area for your reference.

Figurines

Installation, Removal & Storage per Figurine £65.00 + vat

Deri Tree Dressing £575.00 + vat

Fochriw Tree Dressing £260 + vat

Tamtorques either replacements for worn out ones or needed for new figurines (2 per figurines) £3.80 + vat each

Electrical PAT Testing - £1.60 + vat per item tested

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Following discussion Council voted to switch the Christmas lights on Saturday 27th November 2021.

Issues from last year.

The Fochriw tree lights were short as it wasn’t possible to add extra lengths to that type of lights due to the power supply. Elsbury have ordered in 2 x 100m multi-colour small globe static plus 2 150Va transformers with 1M Spacing for you, so an extra 100m than before to

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cover the tree. There will be no extra cost to Council, only the cost of dressing the tree. The other issue last year was that one of the switches in in Deri was faulty, so the lights were switched on 24/7. The Clerk is in discussion with Elsbury to ensure this problem is resolved for this year.

052.02 – ‘My name is Lisa Yokwe and I am the Carer Friendly Officer for the Gwent region. Carer Friendly is a Carers Trust South East Wales initiative which aims to improve recognition of unpaid carers and increase their access to free local support. It is very common for people with caring roles not to recognise that they are unpaid carers or know what help is available to them. As part of my role I provide free 30minute carer awareness sessions to community groups and to community councils. During these sessions I highlight who unpaid carers are, the roles they may be undertaking and the types of support that they can get locally. I am also able to provide free signposting materials.

If this is something that you would be interested in or if you would like more details then kindly let me know.

Lisa Yokwe | Carer Friendly Officer Gwent
Carers Trust South East Wales’

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to obtain more information on how this can be utilised and help the Darran Valley Community.

052.03 – ‘Dear Amanda

I am writing with information about the Monmouthshire Building Society Charitable Foundation which offers modest donations to local charities, community groups and initiatives. The funding may be of interest to you and your constituents.

The Charitable Foundation was formed in 2000 and has contributed over £300,000 to local community groups, organisations and good causes across south Wales and the south west of England. The foundation is funded by Monmouthshire Building Society but run independently by a Board of Trustees. The foundation aims to provide modest donations that have a positive impact on the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our local communities.

Local community groups can apply for funding through the Monmouthshire Building Society website: www.monbs.com. You’ll find information about the Charitable Foundation and our other community initiatives under the ‘About’ section. Application Criteria does apply.

I have attached some information which may be of use for your community council website, social media pages or newsletter.

You can also find out more about the foundation through this video: <https://youtu.be/URIVXBkXsQ>

If you would like any further information about the foundation please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Andrea

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Andrea Law

Project Communications Officer
Monmouthshire Building Society'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to forward details to Councillor Helen Hollifield for consideration.

052.04 - Good morning all,

'As a matter of information, I have been contacted by residents regarding animal trespass, which has been particularly prevalent during the last few months. As a result, I have been writing to Caerphilly County Borough Council to address this issue. A meeting has now been scheduled for early September with the Council to discuss this issue. I would be grateful if you could make your members aware.

Kind regards,

Dawn Bowden

Welsh Labour Member of the Senedd/Aelod o'r Senedd Llafur Cymru
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney/Merthyr Tydfil a Rhymni'

052.05 - Dear Clerk,

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales has updated the guidance in support of the 2016 Model Code of Conduct.

I am attaching the guidance for your reference.

Please note that the 2016 Code of Conduct remains unchanged.

Regards

Paul R. Egan BA, Chartered MCIPD, CiLCA, F.Inst LM, FIPSM
Deputy Chief Executive and Resources Manager / Dirprwy Brif Weithredwr a Rheolwr Adnoddau

One Voice Wales/Un Llais Cymru'.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will circulate to the Councillors for comment.

053. Approval of Community Council Payments

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£181.00	The Parent Network – children's summer play packs (9 extra)
On-line BACS	£296.83	Clerk's salary September 2021
On-line BACS	£200.00	Harris Bassett Accountants – Auditing accounts year ending March 2021.
On-line BACS	£035.00	ICO – annual data protection fee.
Total	£0,712.83	

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054. Standing orders

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Following a detailed discussion there were no changes required to the current standing orders.

055. Traffic issues on Bailey Street

PC Jaswant Singh was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments, however Councillor Hollifield had a meeting with him the week before and provided a verbal update. PC Singh said there was little the police could do as there are no double yellow lines in the problem areas of Deri but advised that complaints are made by all individuals affected by the issues rather than going through the Councillors as this will provide more evidence of the the issues. He also advised logging al incidents and taking photographs where possible. The Clerk asked if any feedback could be taken back to PC Jaswant Singh – Councillors would like to request double yellow lines are placed between house 1 – 6 on Bailey Street, Deri.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to feedback comments to PC Jaswant Singh.

056. Date and time of the next meeting:

Thursday 14th October 2021 (18:00 until 19.30).