

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:

Thursday 14th October 2021 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr. D Nicholas (stood in as Chair)

Cllr. D Johnson

Cllr. R Chapman

Cllr. E Blanche

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. P Roberts (Chair)

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

Cllr. A Vincent

Cllr. H Hollifield

Cllr. G Matthews

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

057 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

058 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

059 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th September 2021 previously circulated to members were accepted as an accurate record. They were not signed as the meeting was remote.

060 Matters Arising from the meeting on 9th September 2021 not already included on the agenda.

All matters and actions were carried out.

Specific updates

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>

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. Councillor Helen Hollifield was unable to attend the October 2021, so this is moved to the next meeting.

Item 046 – Clerk to investigate the possibility of face-to-face

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

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. The Clerk reported at the October 2021 that a risk assessment had not been carried out yet so this should be monitored at every meeting in light of Covid-19 cases rising through the winter period.

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. There was no further update on this at the October 2021, but Councillor Eddy Blanche will endeavour to obtain an update for the November 2021 meeting.

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. Move to November 2021 meeting as Councillor Helen Hollified unable to attend the meeting.

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.

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Following a discussion Council voted to switch the lights on 27th November 2021. The Clerk has informed Elsbury Platforms.

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 issues. He also advised logging all 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 houses 1 – 6 on Bailey Street, Deri. The Clerk to feedback comments to PC Jaswant Singh.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The issue was raised again at this meeting where it was reported by various councillors that the situation is getting worse. There are reports of obstructions to the road and people parking on double yellow lines. The Clerk will write to highways and the police raising these issues again.

061 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

062 Correspondence

062.01 'Annwyl Pawb / Dear All

The audit work in currently underway in respect of those annual returns that have been submitted to Audit Wales – you may have already been contacted by members of the audit team with queries arising from our audit work. A number of unforeseen circumstances has resulted in some delays to our audit work. This email sets out the steps you need to take in the event that you do not receive an Audit Certificate from us before the end of September.

If you do not receive an Audit Certificate from us before the 30th September, you should publish the below notice (in a prominent place in the community and on your website). You may then publish your annual return on your website as detailed in the notice.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Community Councils team if you have any queries.

Diolch / Thanks

Deryck & the community council audit team'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

The Clerk has ensured the notice has been published as per e-mail above.

062.02 'Hi all

Some will remember in the last Bargoed Dementia Friendly meeting we proposed taking forward production of posters for on and offline use to promote a timetable of events and activities that support people with dementia and their families/carers etc. in the Bargoed/upper Rhymney valley area.

To do that, could you send a list of your regular related activities (and any special events) scheduled for the next three months if possible so we can do that please? We will also include as best as possible in our new Wellbeing Weekly which will be launched next week – more details will follow on that by the end of the week

All the best - Pob Hwyl

Dr David Llewellyn

Arweinydd Datblygu Gwasanaeth | Service Development Lead'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Councillors to inform the Clerk of any related activities they are aware of in relation to the above.

062.03 'Dear Clerk/Chair

This is a reminder that you have until Friday, 29 October 2021 to complete this [online survey](#) that is being undertaken as part of Welsh Government research into the role and remuneration of councillors in Wales.

We have already heard back from many councillors, but would value input from those councillors that have not yet responded to the survey. Your responses will be valuable in ...

Specifically, the survey aims to find out more about the role of councillors, both at principal and community and town council levels, including the type of work they undertake, the time spent working as a councillors in supporting communities, the remuneration they receive and the training provided to support the role. This survey will also help the Welsh Government to identify ways to provide broader support to both existing and potential councillors and improve the opportunities available for a diverse range of individuals and groups to participate in local democracy.

The survey can be accessed at: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Councillor-Remuneration-2021/> and completed on computers, tablets and smartphones.

If you cannot complete the survey online, we can provide you with a list of questions that you can print out and send back to the following address:

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

*Nerys Owens
Social Research and Information Division
Welsh Government'*

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Councillors to complete the survey above if they wish to take part.

063. Approval of Community Council Payments

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£320.00	Gibbons Coaches – trip
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On-line BACS	£296.83	Clerk's salary October 2021
On-line BACS	£050.37	SSE Electricity – Christmas light December 2020

Total £987.20

064. Councillor R. Chapman – local community CCTV initiative.

Councillor Rob Chapman received a request from a member of the community regarding the possibility of this Council setting up and running a network of local CCTV to gather intelligence for police etc. This was discussed at the meeting and it was clear that this is not possible due to data protection and privacy laws.

065. Councillor H. Hollifield - Road closure at Groesfaen Terrace.

The main road will be closed at Groesfaen Terrace (between Bargoed and Deri) to allow for drainage works. The first closure will take place from 8am on Saturday 9 October until 4pm on Sunday 10 October 2021. The second closure will take place from early morning on Monday 18 October and every day for up-to 8 weeks. As a result, buses on route 1 will not be able to serve the Darran Valley but will instead operate direct via the A469 between Pontlottyn (Square) and Bargoed (Factory Road). A free shuttle bus (route 1A) will operate between Groesfaen, Deri, Pentwyn, Fochriw, Brynhyfryd and Pontlottyn to connect with most buses on route 1 at Pontlottyn Square. Councillor Helen Hollifield asked this to be added to the agenda due to concerns and impacts on local residents. Councillor Hollifield was unable to attend the meeting, but other Councillors were also concerned with the lack of signs on the road itself and unclear guidance on the exact dates of the road closure. There was also concern that the proposed new bus route was not working effectively with the bus from Pontlottyn not waiting for the Merthyr Tydfil bus to arrive, and therefore residents missing the connecting bus. Some local businesses are also concerned about the loss of passing trade, and the increase in traffic on Mill road. There was particular concern that large

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

vehicles over 3.5 tonne could cause a blockage and obstruction (Councillor Eddy Blanche recommended putting a temporary 8-week restriction order to stop vehicles over 3.5 tonne using the road).

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to contact Caerphilly CBC raising concerns about the lack of signage on the road itself regarding the road closures, and the bus diversions. The Clerk will also post the new bus route on the Darran Valley Community Council website. The Clerk will also ask Caerphilly CBC to put a temporary traffic restriction order in to stop vehicles over 3.5 tonne using Mill road. Councillor David Nicholas is also meeting with the AM and PM to address the issues raised and all Councillors are proactively raising these issues on behalf of the local community.

066. Launch of section 137 grants.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the wind turbine grant was extended indefinitely, and therefore the section 137 grant launch initiative was delayed. Following a discussion Council voted to launch the section 137 grant in time to receive applications for consideration at the November 2021 meeting.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to launch the section 137 grant scheme in time for application reviews at the November 2021 meeting of council.

067. Remembrance Sunday arrangements.

Darran Valley Community Council have ordered the wreaths for Remembrance Sunday and arrangements are in place to co-ordinate the services in Deri and Fochriw.

068. Date and time of the next meeting:

Thursday 11th November 2021 (18:00 until 19.30).