

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:

Thursday 11th November 2021 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr. P Roberts

Cllr. D Nicholas (Stood in as Chair as Cllr. P Roberts was remote via his car)

Cllr. D Johnson

Cllr. R Chapman

Cllr. E Blanche

Absent and Apologies

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)

069 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

070 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

071 Minutes and Apologies

Councillor P Roberts thanked Councillor D Nicholas for laying the wreaths – Councillor Nicholas also reported it went very well.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th October 2021 previously circulated to members were accepted as an accurate record. They were not signed as the meeting was remote.

072 Matters Arising from the meeting on 14th October 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

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Valley. **Councillor Helen Hollified was unable to attend the October or November 2021 meeting, so this is moved to the next meeting.**

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. 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.

The Clerk reported again at the November 2021 meeting.

Caerphilly CBC are still advising remote meetings, however Welsh Government are encouraging hybrid meetings as they have created increased accessibility to members of the public. Council will discuss this in the January 2022 meeting (there will be a cost associated with this).

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 E Blanche will endeavour to obtain an update for the November or December 2021 meeting. The Clerk also forwarded details regarding Grants from Welsh Government which Councillor E Blanche will pass on.**

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

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bins. **Move to November / December 2021 meeting as Councillor Helen Hollified unable to attend the meeting.**

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.

The issue was raised again at this meeting where it was reported by various councillors the situation is getting worse. There are reports of obstructions the road and people parking on double yellow lines.

The Clerk wrote to highways and the police raising these issues again.

The Clerk received a reply reporting that an inspection would take place within the next 10 working days – some of the Councillors wish to attend this inspection so the Clerk will reply back asking for the date and time.

065. Road closure at Groesfaen Terrace. The Clerk was asked 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 was also asked to post the new bus route on the Darran Valley Community Council website. The Clerk to 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. **The Clerk provided an update at the November 2021 meeting – all actions above have been carried out, but the Clerk was still waiting for a reply regarding the bus diversion issues and temporary traffic restriction request order. A further update will be given at the December 2021 meeting. Councillor D Johnson has also received various e-mails about continuing issues with the bus diversion. Councillor D Nicholas also reported that there was a traffic incident where a lorry ripped half a car off due to not following the allocated diversion route. Councillor D Nicholas also noted that the meeting with the AM and PM was cut short due to the tragic death of a MP David Ames.**

073 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

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074 Crime Update

PC Jaswant Singh was unable to attend the meeting but e-mailed reporting 8 incidents in Fochriw and 10 in Deri (no specific information regarding the incidents was provided). PC Singh will also be setting up a surgery for the Darran Valley but there is no date set yet.

075 Correspondence

075.01 'Third sector voter registration support grant.' Our Programme for Government includes a commitment to reduce the democratic deficit. It is our priority that registration numbers of newly enfranchised voters increases. This includes first time voters and voters from under-registered groups.

£100,000 is being made available to third sector organisations to support their work to improve voter registration. The funding is to benefit as many people in our target groups as possible. The scheme is now open for applications. The deadline for applications is 10th December. To find out more please visit: <https://gov.wales/third-sector-voter-registration-support-grant>

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Councillor E Blanche asked the Clerk to find out the percentage of voting registration numbers for the Darran Valley to find out if this grant is needed.

075.02 'In accordance with the 'Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996' I am undertaking a consultation process in accordance with the Regulations and seeking your views with regard to the proposed provision and removal of parking restrictions in the Darren Valley Ward of Caerphilly County Borough Council at the locations below and shown on the attached plans

- **Jenkins Row (Ysgwyddgwyn) , Deri** –Provision of double yellow lines (DYLs) along the access road to prevent obstruction. – This was a request related to vehicles parking near the junction and along the access road which causes an obstruction for large vehicles including refuse vehicles which need to access the houses. It is therefore considered that DYLs should be proposed on both sides of the access road as shown on the attached plan. This type of restriction will preventing any obstruction occurring which would enable vehicles to undertake appropriate manoeuvres into the street to including refuse vehicles.
- **Glynmarch Street, Deri** – Provision of DYLs at junction – This was a request indicating that vehicles were parking near the junction of the access road into the school on Glynmarch Street. This type of parking caused issues for vehicles accessing and exiting the access road to the school. It is therefore considered that DYLs should be proposed in Glynmarch Street within close proximity of the access road as shown on the attached plan. This restriction would allow vehicles to undertake appropriate manoeuvres to access and egress the school and also improve visibility at that location.
- **Bailey Street, Deri** – Provision of DYLs near bend – This was a request to extend the DYLs on Bailey Street. Vehicles are currently parking up to the current restriction which causes vehicles to negotiate the blind bend on the

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wrong side of the road. It is therefore considered that DYLS should be proposed from the existing restriction in Bailey Street to the public house as shown on the attached plan. This restriction would allow vehicles to undertake appropriate manoeuvres around the bend on the correct side of the road as well as improving visibility.

- **Hillside Terrace, Deri** – Provision of DYLS along one side of the road – This was a request for restriction to be placed on one side of the road. On occasions, vehicles were parking opposite the existing rear parking areas for Ogilvie Terrace which causes issues for vehicles when trying to access and exit from those parking areas. It is therefore considered that DYLS should be proposed on the western side of Hillside Terrace as shown on the attached plan. This restriction will prevent any obstruction occurring to those parking areas to the rear of Ogilvie Terrace.
- **Station Terrace and Glyn Terrace junction, Fochriw** – Provision of DYLS on junction – This was a request indicated that vehicles were parking too close to the junction which caused visibility issues when exiting Glyn Terrace. It is therefore considered that DYLS should be proposed on the junction of Station Terrace and Glyn Terrace as shown on the attached plan. This restriction will improve visibility for vehicles exiting Glyn Terrace. I would be grateful for any comments you may have regarding these proposals by 24th November 2021. If you require any further information, please contact me.’ **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Councillors asked the Clerk to post this on our website for Councillors to share on social media.**

075.02 ‘Public Health Wales has published a series of infographics highlighting the importance of climate change impacts on the health and wellbeing of the population of Wales, and to support public bodies and businesses to take action to address any impacts. Launched to coincide with the Council of Parties 26 (COP26), the infographics focus on the relationships between the natural environment and health, the population groups affected and some of the key health and wellbeing impacts of climate change and those population groups who could be affected. Public Health Wales (PHW) has committed in its long-term plan to work with our partners to prepare for, and respond, to the expected and unexpected impact of climate change in Wales. As part of our contribution, the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) has been working with partner agencies including Natural Resources Wales, Renew Wales and Welsh Government, on a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Climate Change in Wales. The infographics are part of this work which is ongoing and aims to ensure that organisations and Public Bodies in Wales have the evidence and information they need to plan for and respond to the health and wellbeing impacts on people and communities that climate change will bring.’ **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will share the infographic on the website.**

075.03 ‘Further to the announcement from Buckingham Palace on 2nd June last year, regarding the Platinum Jubilee Weekend of 2nd - 5th June this year of which The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons is a major part, I have pleasure in confirming the current Guide To Taking Part in this event is

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available to view and download from - www.queensjubileebeacons.com and will continue to be updated on this site at the end of each month through to 30th May 2022, as more and more communities, organisations, charities, councils, local authorities, farms, country estates, historic houses, voluntary groups and individuals etc, agree to take part. Pages 14, 15, 16 and 17 show the various types of beacons being used for this historic tribute to Her Majesty The Queen on 2nd June 2022, that can either be lit in farmers' fields, on country estates, high hill tops, on beaches surrounding our shores, as well as our town and village greens, along with other public spaces etc, with gas-fuelled beacons lit on church towers and castle battlements. Permanent beacon braziers made by local craftsmen/women being lit in the towns and villages also provide a lasting reminder of this historic moment in The Queen's reign. Many of those receiving this communication will already have permanent beacons in place, so please light them for this occasion, remembering to register your involvement as soon as possible please. From page 21 onwards you will see the many hundreds to date that have already agreed to participate in this event throughout the UK and in the Capital Cities of the Commonwealth countries. These lists will be added to over the next few months as more communities etc, join the project. From the guide you will see that Town Criers will be undertaking the 'Proclamation' at 2pm announcing the lighting of the beacons that evening, Pipers playing 'Diu Regnare' at 9.35pm, with Buglers and Cornet players undertaking the Bugle Call - 'Majesty' at 9.40pm, before the beacons are lit at 9.45pm, and to coincide with their lighting, we are encouraging the involvement of choirs of all sizes etc, to sing the 'Song for the Commonwealth,' providing another colourful, community element of this Jubilee celebration, involving people of all ages and walks of life, so we invite you to source these choirs locally from schools, churches, and others, adding to your occasion that evening. If you are able to obtain one or more of these, please be kind enough to register their involvement in the ways outlined below as soon as possible or by no later than 30th May 2022.

continued overleaf Those taking part with the lighting of a Beacon, Pipers playing Diu Regnare, with Buglers or Cornet players undertaking "Majesty," should register their involvement by going to page 13, providing the information requested in Step 1 and emailing it to brunopeek@mac.com

Participating Choirs should register their participation DIRECT at www.commonwealthresounds.com please. May I also draw your attention to potential Lottery Funding: <https://www.tnicommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-releases/2021-11-17/over-22million-the-queens-platinum-jubilee>

The lighting of the Beacons on 2nd June, will be the first international, community event of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend of 2nd - 5th June 2022, providing us all with the unique opportunity of leading this special weekend of celebrations. This will also be the last chain of beacons being lit during The Queen's reign, so we all want to make it really special for our Queen Elizabeth, the only monarch in history to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, so we do hope you will help us all to achieve this by taking part on 2nd June this year.'

RESOLVED
TO RECOMMEND: Council wish to discuss this in the new year.

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076. Approval of Community Council Payments

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£1,080.94	GAVO – payment for a wind turbine grant application to the Darran Valley history group.
On-line BACS	£100.00	Town and Communities Liaison Committee
On-line BACS	£296.83	Clerk's salary November 2021
On-line BACS	£444.00	Clerk's Tax and NI to HMRC
Total	£1,921.77	

077. Councillor E. Blanche – possibility of setting up a Darran Valley Community Council Social Media page.

Councillor E Blanche discussed the possibility of setting up a social media page for the Council. Following a detailed discussion, it was felt that keeping the community updated via our website was the best solution.

078. Christmas switch on arrangements (tree lights etc).

Council will not arrange a formal switch-on of the lights this year - they will be switched on by 27th November as planned.

079. Launch of section 137 grants.

The closing date has now ended. Council discussed each applicant and approved for payment within the next few days. Details of all successful applicants can be found on our website.

080. Date and time of the next meeting:

Thursday 9th December 2021 (18:00 until 19.30).