

**DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN**

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

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 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. R Chapman

**Absent and Apologies**

Cllr. G Matthews  
Cllr. H Hollifield  
Cllr. A Vincent  
Cllr. D Hardacre

**In Attendance**

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

**081 Members of the public**

No requests to attend from members of the public.

**082 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**083 Minutes and Apologies**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 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.

**084 Matters Arising from the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 not already included on the agenda.**

**Items 037.01, 044, 045 and 046 from previous meetings**

Due to the absence of some Councillors the above minute items are still to be reviewed.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Review these actions at the next meeting.**

**Item 055 traffic issues on Bailey Street**

The Clerk was made aware of an inspection taking place and the Councillors requested the date and time. **The Clerk wrote to highways and received the following reply *'We don't share the dates/times of our enforcement operations/patrols with members of the public nor Community Councils (in advance of them being carried out) as this can reduce the impact of the operations and cause safety concerns for our staff. However, I can assure you that our officers will visit the location over the coming weeks***

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*and take the appropriate action. Our officer attended the site on 10/12/2021 and 6 penalty charge notices were issued on Baily Street, 10 issued in the village in total.'*

#### **Item 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, 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.

**Update from the December 2021 meeting – the Clerk reported the problems with the bus diversion to Caerphilly CBC – they are unable to ask the connecting bus to wait if the shuttle bus is late, as it would have a knock-on effect on all bus routes for the rest of the day.**

**Road restriction for vehicles over 3.5 tonne – Caerphilly CBC advised the Clerk there is already a traffic restriction order for vehicles over 3.5 tonne. The problem is due to traffic not following the designated diversion route.**

**Following further discussion, it was decided to close the matter as the road is due to re-open in two weeks and is currently on schedule.**

#### **Item 075 - '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>

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.

**The Clerk wrote the relevant department at Caerphilly CBC and is still waiting for a reply.**

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#### 085 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

#### 086 Correspondence

**086.01** – *‘Hello all. Have any of you been involved with the decision to use the common road to transport the children to Heolddu School. Understandably parents have expressed concern about this risky route especially when there is an alternative. I’ve sent an email to David but have had no reply. If you have or intend challenging the council over this position, please let me know as it will avoid duplicating efforts. Amanda was the cc consulted over this decision. Thanks, Keiron’.*

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** This was discussed at the meeting, and the Clerk was advised this is a County Council issue due to the road closure and will be resolved as soon as the road re-opens at the end of December. The Clerk will write back explaining this.

#### 087 Approval of Community Council Payments

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£296.00	Clerk’s salary December 2021
Total	£0,296.00	

#### 088 Gwent Police crime update

The Clerk did not receive a crime update from PC Singh.

**Concern about lack of attendance from Gwent Police at Darran Valley Community Council Meetings and inability to contact an officer to discuss a crime concern** – Councillor R Chapman wanted to discuss a crime concern and found it extremely difficult to get in contact with an Officer covering this area. After several attempts Councillor Chapman spoke to the stand-in representative who was helpful and proactive. However, concern was raised at the meeting about the lack of attendance by Gwent Police at these meetings.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** Councillor R Chapman will speak to the officer he has contact with to raise concern and request regular attendance at these meetings.

#### 089 Proposal for a Darran Valley Community Council logo

Many Community Councils have their own logo, and the possibility of running a competition for local children to design one was suggested. All agreed but recommended checking with the Darran Valley History Group and Councillor D Hardacre first in case there was designed in the past.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** The Clerk will check to see if there was a logo designed in the past and bring results back to the next meeting.

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**090 Wind Turbine Grants – should they be kept open?**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** Council voted to keep the funding open to help local organisations as there is funding left.

**091 Memorial in Deri, opposite the Darren pub not having a poppy transferred onto the road surface**

Caerphilly CBC received a telephone call from a resident who lives in Deri. The resident wanted to know why the memorial in Deri, opposite the Darren pub didn't have a poppy transferred onto the road surface, like all the other towns. There was a detailed discussion at the meeting, where it was noted that the County Council only organise this for memorials set-up and funded by them. There was seen as a disappointment by Councillors, and therefore Councillor P Roberts offered to liaise with all the organisations who look after the memorials in Deri and Fochriw and discuss lobbying Caerphilly CBC to fund the poppy transfers onto the road surfaces.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** Councillor P Roberts will discuss this with the organisations who look after the memorials in Fochriw and Deri to see if they are interested in lobbying Caerphilly CBC to fund the poppy transfers onto the road surfaces. Councillor R Roberts will also discuss the matter with Councillor D Hardacre as he has the paperwork about ownership of the memorials and land. This will also be discussed at the next meeting to investigate the potential budget for maintenance in the future. Councillor E Blanche will also write to Caerphilly CBC expressing disappointment at their decision not to fund the poppies, and the Clerk will write to Caerphilly CBC.

**92. An update on budgets for the over 55's and youths in the Darran Valley**

During the AGM Council allocated £800 each to Deri and Fochriw to provide a social event for the OAPs to help them recover from the psychological effects of the pandemic. The over 55's Club in Fochriw have already put two coach trips on costing a total £640 - they have a surplus amount of £160 which as per guidance from One Voice Wales can be paid into their treasurer's account. Deri have not received their allocation yet, but it has been agreed that £400 will go to the over 55's club and £400 to the community centre to put on an event for those over 55. This was decided as not all the OAPs in Deri are a member of the over 55's club. There has been an offer of organising an event for over 55's by the Over 55's Club in Deri as to include members and non-members and Council were happy with this suggestion.

At the AGM £4000 was ringfenced for a school summer scheme, and for the youths. Caerphilly CBC paid for the summer scheme this year as they had extra funding from Welsh Government - we purchased summer play packs for children costing a total of £2,855. This means there is £946 left of this budget for an event for the youths in Deri and Fochriw (£482 per village). Deri Regeneration Group will hold the money on behalf of Deri Youth Club as the

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funds have to be paid to a community organisation business bank account which Deri Youth club does not have.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Councillor R Chapman will discuss the youth budget allocation for Fochriw and report back at the next meeting. The Clerk will also inform Deri over 55's Club that Council are happy for them to organise an event as long as members and non-members are invited as the Community Council is funding it.**

**093 Issues with some of the figurines and the purchase of replacement Christmas lighting figurines to replace those not working.**

The Bracket was faulty on one of the figurines by the war memorial and was tripping out the switch on the lights. Councillor R Chapman and the Clerk proactively chased this on several occasions and was disappointed with how long it took Caerphilly CBC's external contractor to repair it. This was eventually rectified but took over 2 weeks to be dealt with.

Councillor E blanche said residents in Fochriw were very pleased with the tree lights.

Groesfaen lights – the contractor did not put up the two figurines in Groesfaen due to the road closure before Christmas, however Councillor R Chapman contacted them as he felt the one on the Deri end should be put up at least. They followed this instruction but discovered both figurines weren't working. Council was disappointed this had not been discovered in advance when they should have been tested. In the meantime, the contractor sent a list of prices and availability of replacement refurbished figurines but noted all the best ones would be out of stock before Christmas. Council decided to bring this back to the meeting in January for further discussion and decision.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The purchase of replacement figurines will be discussed further at the January 2022 meeting. The contractor for next year will also be discussed.**

**094 Date and time of the next meeting:**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 6 until 7.30 pm.