

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:

Thursday 13th January 2022 at 6.00 pm using Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr. R Chapman (stood in as Chair)
Cllr. E Blanche
Cllr. G Matthews
Cllr. H Hollifield

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. P. Roberts
Cllr. A Vincent
Cllr. D. Nicholas
Cllr. D Hardacre
Cllr. D Johnson
PC Jaswant Singh

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

095 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

096 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

097 Minutes and Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th December 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.

098 Matters Arising from the meeting on 9th December 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: Councillor H Hollifield will review these actions before the next meeting.

Item 065. Road closure at Groesfaen Terrace.

It was noted that all issues are resolved as the road has now re-opened.

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

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

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 to Caerphilly CBC and was informed the current turnout is 33.11%. However, Councillor E Blanche wanted the figures on how many people are registered to vote compared to those eligible.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will ask for the voter numbers - how many people are registered to vote compared to those eligible. It was noted that this grant has now closed but Council was still interested in these numbers. Councillor H Hollified is also interested in how many 16-year-olds have registered.

Item 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.

January 2022 meeting update - The Clerk will chase Caerphilly CBC for a response.

Item 092 - 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

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

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 funds have to be paid to a community organisation business bank account which Deri Youth club doesn't have one.

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.

January 2022 – Councillor R Chapman will obtain the bank details for Fochriw Community Centre to pay £482 to Fochriw Youth Centre. Council voted to pay this and also £800 to Deri over 55's club for an event which will include non-members and members.

Item 107 - 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.

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

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.

January 2022 meeting – Council voted to keep the same contractor in 2022 and obtain prices for 2 replacement figurines. The Clerk will report back at the February 2022 meeting. The possibility of organising ‘Santa on a fire engine’ was discussed – the Clerk contacted the Clerk for Rhymney Town Council to find out the details and costs involved. Council will discuss this and if a budget is to be allocated at the AGM.

099 Planning Applications

Reference	21/1039/FULL
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Fri 01 Oct 2021
Application Validated	Thu 21 Oct 2021
Address	Plot 2 Land Adjacent to Mount Pleasant Row Pentwyn Bargoed CF81 9NJ
Proposal	Erect a detached 3-bedroom 2 storey house
Status	Decided
Decision	Refused
Decision Issued Date	Wed 15 Dec 2021
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available

There were no comments from Council.

100 Correspondence

100.01 – ‘Dear Clerk,

Please find attached an initial briefing note about the elections in May for your information. I also attach a sheet showing the make-up of the wards and a draft timetable showing key dates.

The legislation for this years’ elections has been later than I would have liked and the Electoral Commission have yet to publish guidance for nominations. I will provide further information, including nomination packs as soon as I can.

Please note that the Council is working with Welsh Government to determine if Advance voting in person on the weekend prior to the 5th May is possible.

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

There are a number of issues including IT capability, legislation etc that need to be ironed out before this is agreed. A decision will be taken early February whether advance voting goes ahead or not.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Beecham

Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Etholiadol | Electoral Services Manager

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

100.02 – ‘The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – National Lottery Awards for All
Do you want to apply for National Lottery funding to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022? The Queen's Platinum Jubilee National Lottery Awards for All is accepting applications for projects costing less than £10,000 for communities developing projects to join in with the celebrations. Projects should meet the standard aims and eligibility criteria set of the grant programme. Whilst not essential, the strongest projects will also meet three focus areas: promote relationships across generations; develop the skills and experience of communities; encourage the care of/action in the natural world as part of the celebrations. We will accept applications for one off events on the day of the Jubilee which meet these criteria. The strongest applications will demonstrate a lasting impact beyond the event itself. It is likely that the Lottery will receive more applications than it is able to fund.

Visit [National Lottery Awards for All Wales | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://nationalcommunityfund.org.uk) for information.

It would be good if you could let us know if your Council is organising and event/events to mark the Jubilee. Thanks very much.

Yours faithfully

Catrin

Dr Catrin Jones

Policy Officer / Swyddog Polisi

One Voice Wales / Un Llais Cymru

101 Approval of Community Council Payments

The list of payments below were approved by Council:

On-line BACS	£296.00	Clerk's salary January 2022
On-line BACS	£800.00	Deri over 55's club
On-line BACS	£482.00	Fochriw Youth Centre
Total	£1,578.00	

102 Gwent Police crime update

From PC Jaswant Singh

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

'The crime updates for December 2022 are 14 incidents are reported in Fochriw and 7 incidents are reported in Deri.

Out of 14 incidents reported 1 incident is an ASB and other one was off road bikes.

We are trying to hold a police surgery in Darran Valley for residents, who wish to come and discuss any local issues.'

Council is still concerned about the lack of attendance from Gwent Police.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Councillor R Chapman is escalating this and will report back at the next meeting, but also said there were going to be some monthly crime surgeries and will update at the next meeting.

Councillor E Blanche raised concerns about vandalism on cars in Cae Glas Newydd car park and wanted to find out if a CCTV camera could be installed. Councillor R Chapman commented that he has already investigated this – the lamppost isn't suitable for a camera and there are no funds to install a new one. Also, only been 2 incidents have been logged by the public. In order to encourage the installation of a new lamppost and CCTV all incidents in the car park should be reported to 101.

103 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.

The Clerk noted that there were no historical records of a Darran Valley logo found.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Council voted to have a logo competition and open it out to primary school children. The Clerk will write to Deri and Fochriw Primary School Headteachers to check they are happy to support first. The idea is that each school choose 10 of the best designs and pass to a local Councillor. Council will then vote as whole and choose 2 from Fochriw Primary and 2 from Deri Primary School. They will then decide on a final winner. There will be 3 runners up prizes of a £20 amazon voucher and one overall winner who will receive a £50 amazon voucher. If the headteachers are supportive, the Clerk will design a launch poster in time for St Davids Day. Councillor H Hollified will also get details of a designer

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR GYMUNED CWM DARRAN

104 Darran Valley Community Council conclusion of audit 2020-21

The Clerk reported that the audit 2020-21 has concluded. Audit Wales reported no issues causing concern, but said a contract of employment was not issued to the Clerk. The relevant notices have been posted on council's website and in the local community.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will ask 'One Voice Wales' for advice regarding the employment contract.

105 The Queens Platinum Jubilee

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Following discussion Council asked the Clerk to contact other local Councils to find out what they are organising and bring back to the next meeting.

106 Date and time of the next meeting:

Thursday 3rd February 2022 6 until 7.30 pm.