



**Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:
Thursday 17th March 2022 at 6.30 pm using Microsoft Teams**

Present

Cllr. D. Nicholas (Chaired the meeting as Cllr. P Roberts was absent and Cllr. A Vincent had technical sound issues).
Cllr. A Vincent (Vice Chair) – left meeting early due to sound issues.
Cllr. R Chapman
Cllr. E Blanche
Cllr. D Johnson

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. P. Roberts
Cllr. D Hardacre
Cllr. H Hollifield
Cllr. G Matthews
PC Jaswant Singh

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

119 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

120 Declaration of interest

There were none.

121 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2022

The minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

122 Matters Arising from the meeting on 3rd February 2022 meeting of Council not already included on this agenda

Item 091 - Memorial in Deri, opposite the Darren pub not having a poppy transferred onto the road surface - Councillor R Chapman has spoken to highways – the contractor organised as a one off for all Caerphilly CBC owned



cenotaphs but due to its overwhelming popularity decided to keep it going for all Caerphilly CBC owned memorials. This does not cover Community Council owned memorials, however Councillor Chapman said they maybe considering doing this in the future and he would keep Council updated.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Councillor A Vincent would like this kept on the matters arising section to act as a reminder when planning the memorial service. Councillor R Chapman will also keep Council informed of any updates regarding this.

Item 107 – Purchase of replacement Christmas lighting figurines to replace those not working.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

The Clerk shared the list of available re-furbished figurines. Council voted to purchase B600-32 £196.50. Also, B028-13 £407.00 but to check if this is suitable for our lampposts first. If it isn't, council will purchase B600-31 £264.00 instead. Council would also like to discuss renewing 2 figurines each year, so the community see more variety.

The Clerk was also tasked with finding out how the figurines and lights are PAT tested, and the extra call out charges Christmas 2021.

The Pat testing is done just before the lights are ready to be installed and during the process of Pat testing the lights switch on and either Pass or Fail. All the ones installed passed the Pat test and were fully lit when tested.

Unfortunately, most of the call outs were:

- 1 - because of rain that gets into the sockets, so they must dry the sockets and try to seal them and reset the lights or
- 2 - because of faulty lampposts (which was the case with ours).

Item 102 – crime update – the on-going issue of Quad bikes was raised and there was dissatisfaction that the Police are unable to deal with it. It was noted that the Police are unable to chase the quad bikes in case they fall off. Councillor R Chapman commented that Rhymney has a similar problem, but they seem to deal with it better. Councillor E Blanche proposed writing a letter of complaint to the Police Commissioner regarding this and Council voted yes to this proposal.



RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will write to the Police Commissioner to complain about the ineffectiveness of dealing with quad bike issue. Councillor R Chapman will update Council about similar issues Rhymney is having.

The Clerk received a reply from the Commissioner explaining if Council wish to make a complaint about the lack of action with regards to off road bikes, It's the responsibility of the Professional Standards Department (PSD) of Gwent Police to deal with all complaints against police officers, police staff and the organisation. Our e-mail complaint was passed onto the PSD who contacted the Clerk directly, which resulted in Inspector Lysha Thompson (Caerphilly North Neighbourhood Team) co-ordinating an off-road bike operation with the Corporate Communications Team. They will be filming some of the problematic locations to brief the teams ahead of a Multi-Agency Off Road Bike operation in Rhymney and New Tredegar. Inspector Thompson asked Council for specific areas so they can feed this into the operation. Councillor R chapman advised the main areas of concern include:

- Railway line behind Ael-y-Bryn.
- Coming down from the mountain where the chapel and allotment to railway terrace and going down the main road towards Pontlottyn and cutting up the grass areas by the community centre and football field.
- On the main road outside the community centre doing wheelies and traveling on the pavements outside Pontlottyn road.
- Rear of Glan-y-nant where the new fence has been damaged to get onto the mountain.

Inspector Thompson has also informed the Clerk that they have seized an off-road bike that was being driven illegally, and a vehicle that was being driven erratically was seized, along with 2 arrests made. The Clerk was informed the Police presence will continue.

Council noted there is still concern that this situation is still a huge problem, especially the advice to phone 101 as it takes so long to get a response and the bikes have then left the area.



Item 105 – The Queens Platinum Jubilee –

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND. Following a discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- The Clerk to ask Park Cwm Darran if they are organising an event.
- Councillor R Chapman to find out if any local organisation in Fochiw is planning anything / would like to.
- Councillor A Vincent to ask Mr. J Vincent the same for Deri.

Update at the March 2022 meeting –

Councillor R Chapman spoke to the events organisers in Fochriw, and they are planning an all-day event – more information to be shared once confirmed.

Councillor A Vincent said the Community Centre in Deri would be organising something and will contact the Clerk directly. No contact has been made yet.

The Clerk received a reply from Parc Cwm Darran with regards to events in the park and they confirmed they are investigating what to do; however the park is still without a Ranger for the site so have to be realistic what can be achieved. They have been given the green light to get a new staff member in place, but this will take two to three months.

123 Planning Applications

There were none.

124 Darran Valley Community Council crime update

PC Jaswant Singh was unable to attend the meeting, but provided the following written update:

‘Speeding: Following further, complaints of Speeding in Deri, CSOs Singh & Munian are in the process of completing a speed survey in the area. They conducted their first set of speed checks on Wednesday 23rd February on New



Road. Once complete the results will be collated and sent to the 'Go Safe' team for review.

Off-Road Bikes - Last Month we received several reports regarding Off-Road bikes/quads being ridden around the Fochriw area.

The team seized an off-road bike in January in the Memorial Park, and we will continue with efforts to seize further ones that are identified as causing an ASB issue for our communities.

We received a report on Tuesday 22nd February regarding a Red Quad the rider of which wears a green helmet, that is regularly being ridden around the village.

Officers are also conducting CCTV enquiries following a report of an off-road bike being ridden along the footpath in the Rhodfa Ganol area of the village on the evening of Sunday 27th February.

Enquiries are on-going and officers will be increasing patrols in the area, in attempts to identify the riders.'

125 To receive Community Council Correspondence

125.1

'Hi - hoping you may be able to help? I live on Glyn Derw and for the past few weeks have been driven crazy by incessantly barking dogs from, I think, No 7! I am not the only neighbour to be fed up with it and to feel stressed by the constant barking at all hours of the day and evening. While I appreciate that dogs will make a noise sometimes - there are many dog owners in this area whose dogs do not bark constantly! - this really is every day and quite mindless!

Is there anything that can be done to improve the situation?

Thanks :)

Jayne Scott'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: This was discussed, and the Clerk will write back advising to contact Environmental Health at Caerphilly CBC.

Link here:

[Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)



125.2

Hello Amanda

Please could you give me an update on what action was taken following my initial E Mail in this thread regarding the trees in the woodland by Groesfaen.

Over the weekend another tree fell blocking off the road.

Thank You

Keiron

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: This was discussed, and the Clerk will write back advising to contact Tree Management at Caerphilly CBC. Link here:

[Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)

125.3

'Good afternoon, Amanda,

I hope that this finds you well. You may recall that I contacted you last year and gave you information about the free carers in the community awareness sessions that I am able to deliver to council members. You kindly offered to distribute some flyers to council members for unpaid carers support in Gwent. I am just following up to see if you have had any interest to date from council members about attending an unpaid carers awareness session or if you would like any further information. If this is of interest to you kindly let me know.

Best wishes,

Lisa Yokwe | Carer Friendly Officer Gwent (She/Her)

Carers Trust South East Wales'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to write back asking for more information and dates.

126 Approval of Community Council Payments

On-line BACS	£296.00	Clerks Salary March 2022
On-line BACS	£321.00	Deri Regeneration Group for the Toddler Group.
On-line BACS	£100.00	Fruity Fridays Club
Total	£717.00	



127 Councillor R. Chapman – funding for Deri Toddler Group

Deri Toddler Group approached Councillor R Chapman about funding for the toddler group as money had been allocated for other age groups in the annual budget 2021-22. Following discussion there was a surplus amount of £321.00 as the Government funded the summer scheme, and therefore Council re-allocated this to the toddler group.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will pay £321 into the Deri Regeneration Group account to pass onto the toddler group.

128 A grant application received

A late section 137 grant was received from the Fruity Fridays Club. They are looking for help towards a laptop, wool and cards etc. Council was able to award them £100 and advised them to apply for the Wind Turbine Grant for further funding towards the laptop. Councillor D Johnson will contact the group to guide them through the process.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

The Clerk will pay £100 into the account of Fruity Fridays, and Councillor D Johnson will contact them regarding the wind turbine grant for further funding.



129 Budget Quarter 3 2021-22 and precept 2022-23

DARRAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET REPORT March 2022				
Expenditure Heading	Budget	Up to Qtr 4 Expenditure	% of budget	variance with budget (explanation)
Clerks Salary & on costs	£4,500.00	£4,125.00	91	On profile
Chairpersons allowance	£300.00	£300.00	100	On profile
Out of office	£250.00	£250.00	100	On profile
Telephone & broadband	£200.00	£200.00	100	On profile
Room hire	£200.00	£0.00	0	Underspend of £200 as room not being used during Covid
Insurance & subscriptions	£600.00	£446.51	74	On profile – underspend no subscriptions
One Voice Wales membership	£190.00	£190.00	100	On profile
Stationery & postage	£100.00	£0	0	Underspend posting less as on-line banking now set up
Website hosting & maintenance	£840.00	£240.00	28	Underspend – awaiting another invoice
Section 19 - 137 grants	£2,000.00	£500.00	25	Underspend fewer grants application
Wind Turbine Grants	£4,777.46	£2,907.69	60	Underspend fewer grant applications
Section 137 – OAP trip	£1,000.00	£0	0	Underspend no trip under this budget
Christmas lighting	£4,500.00	£2,034.24	45	Underspend but will spend more on replacement figurines broken
Audit	£600.00	£240.00	40	Underspend waiting for Audit Wales invoice
Cllr expenses / allowance	£1,350.00	£300	22	Underspend only 2 x Councillors took expense
Summer scheme / Youth Club – Toddler Group	£4,500.00	£4,500.00	92	On profile.
ICO Data protection	£35.00	£35.00	100	On profile
Post lockdown wellbeing events for over 55's	£1,600.00	£1,600	100	On profile
Remembrance Sunday	£150.00	£36.00	24	Underspend did not purchase extra poppies after
TOTALS	£27,692.46	£17,683.44		

Add Town & Community Councils Committee not budgeted - £100

Account balances as of 17th March 2022

Treasurers account 1 = £14,952

Treasurers account 2 = £381.15

Business Account - £1,890.31

Total = £17,223.46



RESOLVED TO RECOMMENDED: The deadline was missed to increase or decrease the precept, but Council voted and would have voted to freeze it due to the increased costs of living and fuel price rises. The budget above is also healthy with expected or surplus balances noted.

130 Darran Valley CC Logo Competition

Council met to review all entries and vote for 2 runners up, and an overall winner. Council was extremely impressed with the quality and effort of all the entries and would like to thank all the children and the schools for supporting this and putting such a huge effort in. There are some very talented artists in both schools, and it was a joy to see them all. As the quality was so high Council voted to award all the entries sent in a £10 Amazon voucher. There was also two runner up prizes of £20 Amazon vouchers.

THE WINNER WHO WILL RECEIVE A £50 AMAZON VOUCHER IS:

Shayli May Strangward from Fochriw Primary. The picture will now be used permanently as the Darran Valley CC logo once created digitally by a designer. Councillors will present the prizes at a school assembly. Congratulations to all the children on their wonderful effort.

131 Date and time of the next meeting:

Thursday 21st April at 6.30 pm via Teams