



**Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:
Thursday 23rd June 2022 at 6.30 pm using Microsoft Teams**

Present

Cllr. D. Nicholas (Chair)
Cllr. B. Edwards
Cllr. R Chapman
Cllr. E Blanche
Cllr. D Johnson
Cllr. D Hardacre

Absent and Apologies

PC Jaswant Singh

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

029 Welcome / thankyou.

Cllr. D Nicholas started the meeting with the following announcements:
Following recent elections he congratulated Cllr R. Chapman on his successful campaign as County Councillor.
Thanked Cllr. D Hardacre for all his hard work following his retirement as previous County Councillor.
Thanked Cllrs. H Hollifield, G Matthews, A Vincent and P Roberts for all their hard work (they have now stood down as Councillors).
Welcomed new Councillor for Deri and Groesfaen (B Edwards).

030 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

031 Declaration of interest

There were none.

032 To approve and confirm the minutes of the AGM held on 19th May 2022

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



033 Matters Arising from the AGM meeting on 19th May 2022 meeting of Council not already included on this agenda

There were none. There was one item from a previous meeting.

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

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. This will also be included in the budget 2022-23.

034 Planning Applications

There were no comments/rejections raised by Council regarding the applications below. Cllr. R Chapman also informed Council that he now sits on the planning committee and will also be able to provide updates at future meetings (important to note no conflict of interest as Cllr. R. Chapman not a decision maker on planning matters).

Reference	22/0455/FULL
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Thu 12 May 2022
Application Validated	Mon 23 May 2022
Address	Plot 1 Land Adjacent to Mount Pleasant Inn Mount Pleasant Row Pentwyn Bargoed CF81 9NJ
Proposal	Erect 3-bedroom detached dwelling
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available



Reference	22/0488/FULL
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Fri 27 May 2022
Application Validated	Mon 30 May 2022
Address	End-Y-Deri Bungalow Bargoed Terrace Deri Bargoed CF81 9JA
Proposal	Raise roof to provide additional living space including front and rear dormers
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available

035 Darran Valley Community Council crime update

PC Jaswant was unable to attend the meeting, but sent the following written update

'The following are the crime updates for Darren Valley Community Council for May 2022.

- *In Fochriw, there are 9 incidents were reported to us and only 1 call was related to anti-social behaviour.*
- *In Deri 1 incident was reported.*

We are holding a police surgery at the Deri community centre for Deri residents, who wish to come and discuss any local issues.

I am going to speak to the person who is in charge of the Fochriw community centre to ask them if we can able to hold a police surgery for Fochriw residents.

Any more information of off-road bikes, can you ask them to report to us on 101 or social media for Gwent Police.

We will continue patrolling around the area of Fochriw and Deri.'



Are you able to pass on the following dates for holding police surgery at Deri community centre to the rest of the team in the meeting and, post it up on the social media, please' (PDF list sent and will be posted on Darran Valley Community Council website).

Comments regarding above from Community Councillors

Councillors raised some concerns around the crime updates. Cllr. D Nicholas has been made aware of possible armed raids and anti-social behaviour in School Street, Deri but there is nothing mentioned about it in the above crime update. Cllr. D Nicholas also has concerns about mountain bikes riding dangerously in the Forestry and wondered if the police were aware of it. Cllr. E Blanche checked an on-line crime report for the Darran Valley during the meeting, and there were other crimes including sexual offences not included in the crime update above. Councillors are also disappointed that no-one from Gwent Police has attended the meetings for several months and are feeling let down.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Cllr. R Chapman will raise the above with Inspector Lysha Thompson, and MP Gerald Jones and the Clerk will write back to PC Singh raising Councillor concerns.

**036 To receive Community Council Correspondence
035.01**

'Dear Clerks/Councillors

Firstly, congratulations to all our councillors who are either new or have been re-elected in the recent elections. Our next Area Committee meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 7pm on a remote basis using Star Leaf remote conferencing software. The agenda and backing papers for the meeting will be sent to you shortly by email and then an invitation for you to join the meeting will be sent to you separately in a further email.

Please let me know if there are any changes to your council's representatives who wish to attend the meeting on the 20th by sending their name and email address, so that we can send them an invitation.

If your council representative is not able to attend, we would be most grateful if you would arrange for another councillor to represent your council at the meeting as the Annual meeting can only proceed if it is quorate.



A nomination form for Chair/Vice Chair is attached and we would appreciate it if it could be returned by 15th July.

Clerks are very welcome to attend the Area Committee meetings, but they are unable to vote on behalf of their council.

Regards

Maria Mulcahy, Development Officer/Swyddog Datblygu

One Voice Wales / Un Llais Cymru'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: None of the Councillors are available to represent at this meeting but will inform the Clerk if the situation changes.

037 Approval of Community Council Payments

On-line BACS	£888	Clerks Salary August, September and October 2022
		GAVO wind turbine grant received from Deri Regeneration Group
On-line BACS	£1000	
On-line BACS	£40	ICO Data Protection Annual Fee
Total	£1928	

038 Discussion around the platinum jubilee – requests for funding – Cllr. D Nicholas.

Cllr. D Nicholas was concerned with the allocation of funds for the platinum jubilee celebrations, more specifically around the lack of planning, attendance, value for money, checks and processes involved. The Clerk had asked how Council wished to fund the celebrations since the new year but was informed there were no plans for parties in the villages. The funding issue was raised again at the May AGM where the following last-minute funding was agreed by all Councillors present:

£1000 maximum would be allocated for parties on a first come first served basis. Was also agreed that Deri Regeneration would be given £300 for 3



separate events. The rest of the money would be allocated at £100 per application for a street party until the £1000 is used up.

To ensure there was an audit trail the Clerk designed a template for each applicant to complete agreeing that the grant would be spent on a jubilee street party to benefit the community. No grant was paid until the form was completed and returned to the Clerk. The following received grants, and Councillors confirmed they were well attended and appreciated. The Clerk also checked this will legitimate spending with 'One Voice Wales', and they confirmed it was.

Deri

Deri Regeneration would be given £300 for 3 separate events to benefit all ages in the Village.

- 1- Teenage disco with free burgers/hot dogs, and soft canned drinks for those attending Comprehensive schools- Fri June 3rd
- 2- Puppet Pantomime with balloon wizardry with free entry and free buffet for pre-school and Primary School aged children-Sat June 4th
- 3- Mobile bar and live band on stage at 8-11pm - free entry and buffet on Sat June 4th.



Fochriw – first come, first served basis.

Glyn Terrace – on the green.

Heol Iago – on the grass by the park.

Rhodfa Ganol.

Station Terrace – grass area.

Coronation Street.

Ael-y-bryn.

Brynteg Terrace.

Lessons learned

Better forward planning and a strict cut-off-date.

Checks if road closure permissions had been obtained and granted prior to funding being allocated.

More information on attendance numbers, and photographic evidence to be submitted following the event.

Applications via e-mail and not telephoning Clerk (some residents were upset when the funding ran out and Clerk was in a difficult situation).

039 Community Council Audit 2021-22

The Clerk reported all the paperwork was completed by the deadline date given by the Wales Audit Office - it has now been sent to the external auditor.

040 Community Council Budget Sign Off 2022-23

Council deferred the budget sign off discussions until the June meeting, as some Councillors were unable to attend the AGM in May.

Council noted a saving in Parc Cwm Darran meeting costs (meetings have been remote during the pandemic). This instigated a conversation and concerns around the lack of funding, investment, and staffing issues at Parc Cwm Darran Country Park.

Council wish to re-start face-to-face meetings and the possibility of hybrid meetings (combination of face-to-face and remote) as this is being encouraged by Welsh Government. Due to the lack of staff at Parc Cwm Darran there is no-one to open after 5 pm so Council has been unable to resume meetings in person. They are also unable to re-open the caravan park which was a popular attraction to locals and tourists. Councillors noted



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there has been significant investment outside the Darran Valley, but nothing in the northern side of the valley. Council asked the Clerk write to the head of parks and the chief executive outlining these shortcomings. Councillor D Hardacre submitted objections to the lack of investment in Parc Cwm Darran, and so has the new County Councillor R. Chapman. Cllr R. Chapman has also been informed Caerphilly CBC have a widespread problem with un-filled vacancies.

Cllr. B Edwards suggested upskilling the café staff to be able to deal with caravan bookings and the meeting room, and Cllr. R Chapman noted there has been no advertising of the park vacancies in the local community.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to write letter as instructed above.



The following budget was also agreed:

Darran Valley Community Council - Draft Income & Expenditure Budget 2022-23			
Income		Expenditure	
C/F 31/03/2021	£16,432.00	Clerk's Salary & On Costs	£04,500.00
Precept	£12,980.00	Chairperson's Allowance	£00,300.00
Anticipated VAT reclaim 2021/22	£514.60	Out of Office	£00,250.00
Wind Turbine	£04,912.42	Telephone & Broadband	£00,200.00
		Room Hire	£00,200.00
		Insurance & Subscription	£00,600.00
		One Voice Wales membership	£00,190.00
		Stationery & Postage	£00,100.00
		Website hosting and maintenance	£00,840.00
		Section 137 Grants	£02,000.00
		Wind Turbine Grants	£04,777.46
		Section 137 OAP Trip	£01,000.00
		Christmas Lighting (Ops)	£04,500.00



		Audit	£00,600.00
		Summer Scheme / half term / Youth Club	£04,000.00
		Councillor Expense / Allowance	£01,350.00
		ICO Data protection	£00,035.00
		Queens Platinum Jubilee Parties	£01,000.00
		Remembrance Sunday – plus estimated costs to transfer poppies onto road (2 x cenotaphs)	£00,400.00
Total	£34,839.02	Total	£23,127.46

041 Co-option of Community Council Vacancies

Council voted to advertise the vacancies via co-option:

2 x Councillor Vacancies for the Deri and Groesfaen ward.

1 x Councillor vacancy for the Fochriw and Pentwyn ward.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to prepare an advertisement.

042 Launch of Grant Aid 2022

Council voted to launch grant aid 2022.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to launch grant aid 2022/

043 Multi-generational bus trip in August – Cllr. E Blanche

Council was in favour of this proposal but were concerned about the rising fuel costs and its impact on coach prices. Before a decision is made the Clerk will obtain quotes for trips to Folly Farm in Tenby and the National Botanic Gardens in West Wales.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to obtain quotes as outlined above.



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044 Date and time of the next meeting:
Thursday 21st July at 6.30 pm - Fochriw Community Centre.