



**Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:
Thursday 31st August 2022 at 6.30 pm using Microsoft Teams**

Present

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. B. Edwards

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)
PCO Rachel Pearce
PCO Anna Sadzik

059 Our condolences for the recent tragedies

The Chair (Cllr. D Nicholas) requested a one-minute silence for the local Mother and Grandmother who recently passed away in a tragic accident on Fochriw Road. Council is also saddened to hear about incident involving a teenage girl over the weekend.

Our thoughts, love and prayers are with all those affected, especially family and friends.

046 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

047 Declaration of interest

There were none.

048 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2022

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



049 Matters Arising from the meeting of Council on 23rd June 2022 not already included on this agenda

040 Community Council Budget Sign Off 2022-23

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 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.

Update at the August 2022 meeting – the Clerk received a reply from the Chief Executive of Caerphilly CBC.

'Dear Amanda,

Thank you for your email.

The Visitor Centre at Parc Cwm Darran closes at 5pm. It can be used for meetings whilst it is open including at weekends. If the Community Council wants to hold meetings in the evenings, then I'm aware that there are other venues in the Darran Valley such as community centres that you could consider for this purpose.

We have been unable to re-open the campsite at Parc Cwm Darran because we have not been able to recruit into the posts that support its operation; despite having been advertised twice. We are encountering difficulties in recruiting into a number of teams, but we are not alone in this, and many



organisations are facing the same difficulties. In response we have taken steps to adapt and improve our approach to advertising and recruitment.

We will not be in a position to open the campsite this summer but are reviewing our options to enable us to do so next year. One option could be to link it with café operation, but the campsite requires significant involvement in day to day running and management of the campsite to ensure that everything runs smoothly and safely for occupants throughout their stay.

We do commit a lot of resources to Parc Cwm Darran which is a Green Flag winner again this year and the only one of our country parks with a visitor centre.

Regards,

Christina

Christina Harrhy

Prif Weithredwr | Chief Executive'

050 Planning Applications

There were no comments/rejections raised by Council regarding the application below.

Reference	22/0561/FULL
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Thu 23 Jun 2022
Application Validated	Thu 23 Jun 2022
Address	Tegwyn House, Glyn Terrace, Fochriw, Bargoed, CF81 9JP
Proposal	Erect detached garage and garden store.
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available



051 Darran Valley Community Council crime update

PC Rachel Pearce and Anna Sadzik attended the meeting but were unable to comment on the recent tragic road traffic accidents as they are current and live investigations. They also addressed some of the complaints raised at the last meeting. PC Jaswant Singh is no longer covering this ward, but PC R Peace and A Sadzik will endeavour to attend wherever possible - this is dependent on shifts and crime calls (they will also let us know who will take over as ward PCO). Cllr R Chapman is also trying to arrange bi-monthly meetings with the Inspector to raise concerns.

Going forward, the crime newsletters will be provided as the crime report, and they explained that the crime figures provided for each ward are not broken down into specific crimes as the data is captured and put into categories, for example violence and sexual offences. They noted this does not mean a specific sexual crime has occurred as violence and sexual offences are combined. The PCO's reassured Council that if there were any serious and significant crimes affecting the community the community and council would be made aware. The issue with off-road bikes is being dealt with under OP-Harley. Cllr R Chapman is trying to arrange a meeting to discuss the problem of mountain bikes using the footpaths.

Finally, Cllr D Johnson raised concerns about the drug dealing on coronation crescent, and the break-in on the industrial site in Fochriw – the PCO's will look into this.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: PCO's to report back about drug dealing on coronation crescent, and the break-in on the industrial site in Fochriw – the PCO's will investigate this.

052 To receive Community Council Correspondence

The only correspondence relevant was the offer of more code of conduct training by Caerphilly CBC. This will be run in September and open to Clerks and Councillors.



053 Approval of Community Council Payments

Cllr. D Johnson raised a motion for the Clerk to be paid mileage expenses now face-to-face have resumed – especially in-light of the rise of fuel costs. All Councillors voted in favour.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will contact ‘One Voice Wales’ to find out the current standard mileage expenses. This will be discussed and approved at the next meeting and included in the Clerk job contract.

On-line BACS	£296	Clerks Salary November 2022
On-line BACS	£296	HMRC PAYE Tax
Total	£592	

054 Issues with the Summer Scheme 2022.

The Clerk informed Council that due to lack of staff they are unable to provide a summer scheme this year. Cllr. R Chapman recommended earlier discussions and agreement needed to avoid this happening in future. The money saved will be discussed at the September meeting, where ideas for extra Christmas activities for the children will be investigated.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Discuss extra Christmas activities at the next meeting (September 2022).

056 Councillor representatives at groups 2022

The list of groups and Council representatives was checked and updated at the meeting. The Clerk will update and post on website at earliest convenience.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to update and post on website.

057 New legislation – Council Training Plan

The Clerk informed Council about new legislation. All Community Councils in Wales must prepare a training plan for the Clerk and Councillors. This legislation is a statutory duty under section 67 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act. The plan should set out what it proposes to address the training needs of its Councillors and Staff. The Clerk shared a draft



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training plan with Councillors, but this needs further discussion. The first training plan must be ready and published by 5 November 2022.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to ensure the training plan is approved at the October meeting to meet the deadline date mentioned above.

058 Date and time of the next meeting:

Since we are unable to secure a meeting room on a Thursday, we are temporarily changing our meetings to a Wednesday. The next meeting will be held at Fochriw Community Centre on Wednesday 31st August at 6.30 pm.