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**Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:
Wednesday 31st August 2022 at 6.30 pm at Fochriw Community
Centre**

Present

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. B. Edwards
Cllr. D Hardacre

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)
PCO Rebecca Chilvers
PCO Anna Sadzik
PCO Chris Munian

059 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

060 Declaration of interest

There were none.

061 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2022

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

062 Matters Arising from the meeting of Council on 21st July 2022 not already included on this agenda

040

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



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resume meetings in person. Cllr D Nicholas noted that it had recently been open after 5 pm for bingo, and therefore could not understand why it wasn't possible for council meetings. Cllr R Chapman reassured council that he is escalating concerns with the relevant departments in Caerphilly CBC.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr D Nicholas will visit Parc Cwm Darran and find out if they can open after 5 pm to continue council meetings.

063 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

064 Darran Valley Community Council crime update

PCO's Rebecca Chilvers, Anna Sadzik and Chris Munian attended the meeting, and provided the following update:

- Following the sad death of a 17-year-old girl police have arrested a 21-year-old man on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and drink driving.
- A man has been arrested and released on bail following the death of grandmother and granddaughter who were killed in a car crash near Fochriw.
- At the July 2022 Cllr Duncan Johnson raised concerns about reports of drug dealing on coronation crescent and asked the PCO's to report back. They reported back at the meeting and there were no calls logged



relating to this incident – the public are being encouraged to log calls with the police for them to be fully recorded and investigated.

- 2 bikes were stolen from a garage in Fochriw.
- The police attended a domestic situation after reports of a male with a knife.
- 2 motorbikes were ceased in Cae Glas Newydd as they were seen riding with no insurance.

065 To receive Community Council Correspondence

065.01 An e-mail was received from the community engagement officer at business in focus regarding the delivery of the community renewal fund on behalf of the UK Government.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will write back asking for more information on how they can assist the community.

065.02 Cllr E Blanche contacted Caerphilly CBC to raise concerns regarding the improvements needed to the drainage at the bottom of the hill along the road known locally as ‘the trecatti road’. The road has suffered from constant flooding if there is prolonged heavy rain.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr E Blanche to chase and provide an update at the next meeting.

066 Approval of Community Council Payments

The following payments were approved.

On-line BACS	£444.00	Clerks Salary owed – note HMRC notified Clerk no tax should be paid and code has changed hence difference in salary being paid.
On-line BACS	£240.00	Harris Bassett Limited Accountancy – invoice for independent audit of council financial accounts.
On-line BACS	£157.26	Caerphilly CBC - administration of the community council election.
On-line BACS	£249.00	Audit Wales – audit fee period 2020-21.



On-line BACS	£220.00	Vicki McKenzie – Royal British Legion
Total	£1,310.26	

067 Clerk employment contract.

The clerk employment contract was signed off by Councillors without the Clerk present, apart from:

Council will only pay for mileage costs to meetings for a period of 6 months to help with the rising cost of living. The Clerk has decided not to claim these costs but will instead ensure the out of office payment and 75% broadband charges etc are claimed as clerk has not been claiming to save council money.

068 Extra Christmas Activities as there was no summer scheme.

Following a discussion council approved the following:

- 2 x pantomimes in Fochriw and Deri (£600 per pantomime)
- Santa on a Fire Engine on Saturday 10th December (at an estimated cost of £1000 including the purchase of a Santa costume, donation to South Wales Fire Service and gifts for children). Full details / stops etc to be discussed at the next meeting.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to contact relevant organisations to secure dates etc for above. Finer details for both events will be discussed at the next meeting.

069 Remembrance Sunday – transfer of poppies onto the road and extra poppies.

- Council approved the following quote from Roman Roadmarking: £600 to paint poppies on the road near cenotaphs in Fochriw and Deri.
- The purchase of extra poppies as well as 2 x wreaths.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to organise above following approval from council.

070 Grant Aid 2022

Applications received were discussed and approved.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk will pay grant applications and share information on website.



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- 071 Date and time of the next meeting:**
Fochriw Community Centre on Wednesday 5th October at 6.30 pm.