



**Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council on:
Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 6.30 pm using Microsoft Teams**

Present

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. D Hardacre
Representatives from Gwent Police

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

072 Members of the public

No requests to attend from members of the public.

073 Declaration of interest

There were none.

074 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2022

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

075 Matters Arising from the meeting of Council on 31st August 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 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.

Update provided at this meeting – Cllr D Nicholas carried out this action and determined the bingo was not a success, and the employee was concerned about opening for our meetings due to already long hours - the employee was also unsure if the County Council would agree to it. Cllr D Nicholas added



that they are applying for a grant in the hope of employing an extra member of staff (to be followed up at a future meeting).

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.

Update provided at this meeting - Cllr E Blanche contacted Caerphilly CBC regarding the improvements needed to the drains and was informed this has been passed on for urgent attention but no update has been given yet. Cllr R Chapman added that the issue is with the culvert and regular checks are being carried out, but there are no agreed actions to deal with it yet. Both Councillors are actively chasing it.

081 - extra Christmas Activities as there was no summer scheme.

Following a discussion council approved the following:

- 2 x pantomimes in Fochriw and Deri (approx.£600 per pantomime)
Update provided at this meeting – the Clerk has booked pantomimes as follows:
Wednesday 28th December 13.30 (Sleeping Beauty) at Deri Community Centre.
Friday 30th December 13.30 (Robin Hood) at Fochriw Community Centre.
Councillors have also booked the dates with the community centres.
Ticketing – there was a discussion around the best approach to ticketing. **Resolved to recommend: Councillors will find out the sitting down numbers allowed in each community centre (the figures should be compliant with fire regulations). Once this is established the Clerk will organise the design and print of tickets The Councillors will sell on a first come, first served basis allocated per family - children must be accompanied by an adult. The tickets will be sold by Councillors prior to the event at the community centres (likely a Saturday), so that numbers are allocation and carefully managed.**
- 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.
Update provided at this meeting – the following itinerary was agreed at the meeting:
Stop at Fochriw Community Centre to hand out presents then travel up to Pentwyn and finally to Deri Community Centre for the second and final stop to hand out gifts. It will not be possible to drive through



Groesfaen as there is no turning point. **Resolved to recommend: The Clerk to advise the Fire Service and police of the stops and find out the times so the event can be advertised.**

082 Remembrance Sunday – transfer of poppies onto the road and extra poppies. Update provided at this meeting – Cllr D Johnson will be collecting the wreaths and extra poppies ordered by the Clerk. Cllr N Nicholas will present the wreath for Deri; Cllr D Johnson will present the wreath for Fochriw, and Cllr R Chapman will also be presenting a wreath on behalf of the County Council.

076 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

077 Darran Valley Community Council crime update

Due to shifts no Gwent Police Officers were able to attend the meeting, and the Clerk had not received the crime update newsletter in time. The issues raised at the last meeting will be chased and brought forward to the November 2022 meeting.

A concerned member of the community sent a description and video evidence of teenagers playing and using foul language at the Culvert on Mill Road, Deri. The Clerk passed this onto the County Councillor Cllr R Chapman who raised this and reported there are now extra checks being conducted in the area to deter this from happening.

078 To receive Community Council Correspondence

078.01

'As the Government's cost-of-living crisis deepens, people across Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney are feeling the impact.

As an organisation at the forefront of supporting people, I wanted to make you aware that grants of up to £10,000 are available from National Grid's Community Matters Fund.

In addition to providing grants, a bank of energy saving advice and resources will be available for groups to adapt and use within their communities, offering an extra layer of support.



You can [find more information here](#), but be sure to apply before midnight on Monday, 31 October 2022.'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Following a discussion Council asked the Clerk to apply before the deadline date.

079 Approval of Community Council Payments

The following payments were approved.

On-line BACS	£750.00	Clerks Salary December 2022 and January 2023
On-line BACS	£600.00	Roman Roadmarking for painting the poppies onto the road surfaces in Deri and Fochriw.
On-line BACS	£398.00	One Voice Wales annual membership fee.
On-line BACS	£100.00	Parish of St Marys Grant
On-line BACS	£100.00	Fochriw over 55's Grant
On-line BACS	£100.00	Deri Regeneration Group Grant
On-line BACS	£100.00	Fochriw OAP Holiday Club Grant
On-line BACS	£100.00	Darran Valley History Group Grant
On-line BACS	£100.00	Friends of Deri Primary School Grant
On-line BACS	£100.00	Fochriw Social Club
On-line BACS	£100.00	Fochriw Allotments
Total	£2,548.00	

080 Applications received for the two Deri ward vacancies.

Following a discussion and vote Council was delighted to appoint two new Deri Councillors (Janet and Mark Gibbings).

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to write to Janet and Mark informing of the outcome and inviting them to the next meeting.

081 Vandalism to the cenotaph in Deri

Gwent Police have spoken with the secretary Mrs Francis-Williams to establish details of the incident in September.

The incident was logged and recorded as criminal damage at the time, however due to there being no witnesses or CCTV, there were no lines of enquiry to identify an offender. Gwent Police have updated Mrs Francis-Williams of this and with the crime reference number today.



Other officers have attended the site and have been conducting patrols in the village and speaking with local youths, as it was suggested that youths gathering in the area could be involved. They have also attended the youth club to speak with staff and youths there. The location will remain on the police patrol plan in the hope that this will deter any further incidents and should any persons/youths be found at the location they will be advised and/or dealt with appropriately.

082 Issues with the key not working to get access to the common

Cllr D Nicholas raised concerns that the key to the gate accessing part of the common has been changed several times, and Council no longer have a working key for emergency services. The gate was erected to prevent fly tippers so it's unlikely Caerphilly CBC will remove it.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr R Chapman will raise with Caerphilly CBC to ensure a key is available for emergency services.

083 Grant Aid 2022 applications received for approval

Three more grant applications were submitted before the deadline date and approved by Council:

- Friends of Deri Primary were allocated £100 for resources and activities for the children.
- Darran Valley History Group were allocated £100 towards the costs of maintaining the group.
- Fochriw Social Club were allocated £100 towards trips and hire of the community centre.

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

084 New legislation – community council training plan

The Clerk made Council aware of new legislation regarding the publication of a training plan for the Clerk and Councillors.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will finalise the training plan and publish on the website.

085 Temporary closure of Deri post office

Council have been aware of the temporary closure of Deri post office. Council discussed this and felt at this stage it is likely to be re-opened once a postmaster is recruited. Council will keep a close eye on the situation to ensure it does not adversely affect the community.

086 Date and time of the next meeting:



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Fochriw Community Centre on Wednesday 2nd November at 6.30 pm.