



Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council
on:
Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 6.30 pm
Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr. D. Nicholas (Chair)
Cllr. E. Blanche
Cllr. D Johnson
Cllr. J. Gibbings
Cllr. M. Gibbings

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. D. Hardacre
Cllr. R. Chapman
Cllr. B. Edwards (difficulties logging into Teams)

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)
Inspector Lysha Thompson and other representatives from Gwent Police.

109 Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

110 Declaration of interest

There were none.

111 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2022

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

112 Matters Arising from the meeting of Council on 7th December 2022 not already included on this agenda.

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. Cllr. E Blanche added that work has now started, and he will actively keep an eye on it.

Update at January 2023 meeting – Cllr E Blanche said the work has now been completed which has resolved the issue. The issue was also covered as a story in the Caerphilly Observer. This action can now be closed.

94.01 – Cllr E Blanche sent an e-mail to Caerphilly CBC requesting the possibility of parking enforcement to visit the area adjacent to Fochriw football field on Saturday mornings. During match times the users of the football field are constantly parking on the pavement forcing residents to walk on the road. The road is fast moving with a bend and Cllr Blanche feels it is a matter of time before an incident occurs.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr R Chapman was in attendance and has already raised this with Caerphilly CBC but will raise it again. Cllr R Chapman to provide an update at the next meeting.

Update from January 2023 meeting – Cllr E Blanche raised the issues but hasn't heard back yet. Cllr D Nicholas reminded all that this is County Council issue to resolve.

94.02 – Cllr J Gibbings raised the issue of the sewage main leak into the feeder to the ponds at Parc Derwen.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr R Chapman explained this is a County Council issue and he would take it up with them the following day. Cllr R Chapman will provide an updated as it arises.

Update from January 2023 meeting – Cllr M Gibbings said Cllr R Chapman raised it with the Park Manager who is now looking into it.

113 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

114 Darran Valley Community Council crime update

Inspector Lysha Thompson attended the meeting and outlined the key highlights from the crime update newsletter.

Crime Figures December 2022

	Darren Valley
August	15
September	19
October	18
November	10
December	19



- Shed broken into at Pontlloyn Road – Nothing taken, since distributed Smart Water at the location.
- A vehicle was stolen by a family member and is being investigated.
- One sexual offence – person known to victim – sharing inappropriate images.
- Spike in crime in December to be expected.
- No alarming incidents or crime trends to be concerned about.
- Cllr D Nicholas asked for an update on damage in the Deri memorial garden (stones being removed and damage to a dog bin). One of the officers in attendance will contact the lady who maintains the garden to further investigate.
- Cllr D Nicholas asked about the issue with children gaining access to the drains in Deri. Police are aware of it and are monitoring – there have been no further reported incidents since the initial pre-Christmas complaint.
- The Clerk and Cllr M Gibbings asked for an update on the break in at the garage in Parc Cwm Darran. Gwent Police have been investigating but no suspect has been identified yet.

New Team Members

- There is a new Sergeant for the Darran Valley (T Brooks in picture below).



• PS 1555 Tom Brookes
*joined the team in the
Autumn*



• CSO 462 Matthew
Collier (Rhymney)
• CSO 481 Talia
Gregory (Rhymney)
• CSO 461 Caitlin
Collier (New Tredegar)
• *joined us in
December*

115 To receive Community Council Correspondence

115.01 – Free Training Places from One Voice Wales – Cllr J Gibbings was interested (Clerk to forward details).

115.02 - Carers Trust is delighted to launch a new funding programme which will support unpaid carers living in Wales to access a short break from their caring role. Funded via support from the Welsh Government, the new



programme called Amser is open to Third Sector organisations and is focussed on delivering a range of short break opportunities for unpaid carers from all communities across Wales during 2023/2024 and 2024/25. (Clerk will share details on website).

115.03 – One Voice Wales code of conduct training – (Clerk to send to Cllrs J Gibbings, M Gibbings and D Johnson).

116 Approval of Community Council Payments

The following payments were approved.

On-line BACS	£375.00	Clerks Salary January 2023
On-line BACS	£1,919.28	Elsbury Platforms Christmas decorations (includes a discount of £285 plus vat due to delays in dressing Fochriw Christmas due to cherry picker issues.
On-line BACS	£080.00	Fochriw Community Centre – hire for Christmas Pantomime.
Total	£2,374.28	

117 Review of Christmas activities and lessons learned.

The consensus was that all events went exceptionally well, and the local community thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated them. There were some ticket holders who did not turn up but this was due to illness and weather conditions. Following discussion, the following was agreed:

- Book pantomimes for 2023 (dates confirmed below). Cllr J Gibbings to book Deri Community in advance to start at 10:00 am for stage setup so invoice £80 - same as Fochriw. Cllrs R Chapman and D Johnson to book Fochriw Community Centre.

Venue	Day	Date	Production
Deri Community Centre	Thurs	28/12/2023	Jack & The Beanstalk @ 1.30 pm
Fochriw Community Centre	Fri	29/12/2023	Jack & The Beanstalk @ 1.30 pm

- Posters – order 4 x large A3, 150 smaller leaflets for Fochriw School and 100 for Deri School.
- Order 400 selection boxes instead of 500 as there was surplus. Send delivery to Fochriw School (Cllr D Johnson has a better and secure storage facility).
- Clerk will contact South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to pre-book Santa on a Fire Engine. Once date confirmed inform Councillors so community centres



can be booked well in advance to avoid clashes and allow good lead in time for grotto set up etc.

118 Budget 2023-24

The following budget was discussed and approved – except for the OAP trip (costs to be investigated by Cllr D Johnson / J Gibbings before the next meeting). Likely coach prices have increased.

Expenditure Heading	Budget
Clerks Salary	£4,500.00
Chairpersons allowance	£300.00
Out of office	£250.00
Town and committee liaison	£100.00
Telephone & broadband	£200.00
Room hire	£200.00
Insurance & subscriptions	£600.00
One Voice Wales membership	£398.00
Stationery & postage	£100.00
Website hosting & maintenance	£840.00.
Section 19 - 137 grants plus amount leftover from 2022-23	£2,000.00 plus underspend 2022-23
Wind Turbine Grants	£4,777.46
Section 137 – OAP trip	Deferred to June 2023 meeting
Christmas lighting / Pantos / Santa on a Fire Engine	£6,000.00
Audit	£600.00
Cllr expenses/allowance	£1,350.00
Summer scheme	£5,000.00
ICO Data protection	£35.00
Election costs	£1,000.00
Remembrance Sunday	£400.00

119 Precept 2023-24

Following discussion, and an evaluation of the budget there will be no change to the precept percentage.

120 Date and time of the next meeting:

Microsoft Teams – 1st February 2023 at 6.30 pm.