



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6.30 pm (Fochriw Community Centre)**

**Present**

Cllr. D. Nicholas (Chair)  
Cllr. D Johnson  
Cllr. M. Gibbings  
Cllr. R. Chapman

**Absent and Apologies**

Cllr. D. Hardacre  
Cllr. B. Edwards  
Cllr. E. Blanche  
Cllr. J Gibbings  
Representatives from Gwent Police

**In Attendance**

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)  
Ms. E Janes (Caerphilly Observer)

**001 Members of the public**

Ms E Janes from the Caerphilly Observer.

**002 Declaration of interest**

There were none.

**003 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

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

**004 Matters Arising from the meeting of Council on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 not already included on this agenda.  
Summer Scheme 2023**

Councillors voted to allocate £5000 for the summer scheme 2023-24. Cllr J Gibbings and D Johnson confirmed the community centres are available as follows:

All day Monday and Thursday at Fochriw Community Centre.

All day Tuesday and Thursday at Deri Community Centre.

The Clerk will confirm with the Sports Development Officer at Caerphilly CBC.

**Update at the April 2023 meeting** – Caerphilly CBC informed the Clerk that it would be better for the coaches and their rotas if they can run it over



a 4-day period (Monday to Thursday preferably). The Clerk will go back to Councillors to find out if there is availability in the community centres or elsewhere.

#### 005 **Crime Update**

Gwent Police were unable to attend in person, but a written crime update was e-mailed to the Clerk. The following will be carried forward to the next meeting when Gwent Police are in attendance. *‘There was a wider discussion regarding the setting up of a pilot in Rhymney to start a youth hub for ages 13-17. This will target young people who are not interested in attending youth clubs and include drinks, a pool table etc. The Police are building up a good relationship with the young people in Rhymney and asked if we could think of a way of setting this up in the Darran Valley. **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** Discuss further at the April meeting to think of how this could work in this area and the best ways of engaging with young people in the Darran Valley Area. Direct engagement with the youth clubs and feedback on what worked and didn’t in Rhymney will also be fed back via the CSO’s.’*

E-mailed crime update (April 2023 meeting).

- 1 x male from the Fochriw area sentenced to 3 & ½ years in prison for his involvement in the supply of class-A drugs.
- 1 x male from the Fochriw area arrested for conspiracy to commit theft & for being concerned with the supply of Class A & Class B drugs.

Gwent Police also visited Heddlu Bach at Deri Primary School as part of their local engagement and education.

#### 006 **Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications.

#### 007 **To receive Community Council Correspondence**

**007.01** – The Chair (Cllr D Nicholas) received a letter from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) regarding the potential closing of Meddygfa Cwm Rhymni surgery at Riverside Walk in Deri. Cllr Nicholas was deeply concerned about this. The local community has praised the great care they receive from the surgery and a number of patients are elderly and would struggle to access the care they need if they have to find transport.

The transport links in the area are unreliable and this is likely to put some residents off travelling to get the care they need, likely having a catastrophic effect on any underlying illness if not diagnosed.

There are also concerns about the consultation questionnaire, as it’s been designed in a way that is loaded with questions that will not evidence the cause and effect of the closure.



**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** The Clerk will write to ABUHB raising concerns about the potential closure, and Emily Janes will write an article in the Caerphilly Observer.

**008 Approval of Community Council Payments**

The following payments were approved.

On-line BACS	£375.00	Clerks Salary April 2023
On-line BACS	£454.46	Zurich Annual Community Council Insurance
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0,829.46</b>	

**009 Councillor attendance at meetings**

The Chair (Cllr D Nicholas) is concerned about so many meetings being missed by Cllrs B Edwards and D Hardacre. Although there is an understanding that meetings sometimes must be missed due to ill health, family and work commitments, there is a concern when several meetings are not attended. Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that when a Councillor does not attend any council meeting for six consecutive months, (s)he ceases to be a member of the council. It was also noted that attendance at council meetings is an official summons.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** The Clerk to contact Cllrs B Edwards and D Hardacre to express the concerns raised by the Chair and to find out if they are still able to commit to representing the local community as Councillors.

**010 Date and time of the next meeting:**

Annual General Meeting to be held at Fochriw Community Centre – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 6.30 pm.