



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:
Thursday 13th July 2023 at 6.30 pm (Fochriw Community Centre)**

Present

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. R. Chapman

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)
Representatives from Gwent Police

39 Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

40 Declaration of interest

There were none.

41 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 23.

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

**42 Matters Arising from the meeting of Council on 14th June 2023,
Item 009 - Councillor attendance at meetings**

Update from the May 2023 meeting – The Clerk informed Councillors that Cllr D Hardacre decided to retire as a Councillor.

Update from the June 2023 meeting – The Clerk to send a letter to Cllr D Hardacre thanking him for his hard work and many years of dedicated service.

Item 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.

Update from the May 2023 meeting – The Clerk wrote to ABUHB raising the concerns outlined above and received the following reply:

'Hi Amanda

Thank you for informing ABUHB and the surgery of the concerns raised at the April 2023 Councillors meeting. Your concerns will be included in the report that will be presented to the Branch closure panel due to be held in June.

Kind Regards

Joanna Norman

Service Development Manager'

Update from the June 2023 meeting – The clerk has received no update regarding the closure yet.

Update from the July 2023 meeting – The clerk was informed that the closure panel was held on 7th June 2023, and the outcome would be presented to the board on 19th July 2023. The full decision will be discussed at the September 2023 meeting.

Item 026 - Councillor Vacancies

Council voted to advertise by co-option.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Applicants will be discussed and voted by Councillors at the September 2023 meeting.

.

Item 024 - Community Council Budget and Financial Reconciliation 2023-24

Update from the June 2023 – deferred budget entry (Section 137 OAP trip).

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Both villages (Deri and Fochriw) were authorised a budget of £700 per bus. The clerk was authorised to pay as long as £700 or under.

Update from the July 2023 meeting – Councillor D Nicholas thanked Councillor J Gibbings for organising the Deri trip.

Item 032 Crime Update

- Cllr M Gibbings noted there was a callout to Ambulance Services or an injured bike scrambler.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The barrier was cut by the perpetrator so the police will investigate this as a potential aggravated trespass.

Update from the July 2023 meeting – PCO Leon Jenkins was looking into this, but was not able to attend the July 2023 meeting.

- Cllr D Nicholas noted there was a fire on the mountain in which a helicopter was deployed to distribute water. The police are working with the fire service to establish whether or not it was arson.

Update from the July 2023 meeting – PCO Leon Jenkins was looking into this, but was not able to attend the July 2023 meeting.

- There have been problems with parking near the zig zag lines outside Fochriw Primary School. There was an idea regarding asking the Heddlu Bach to issue parking tickets as this is a health and safety hazard and



potential danger to the children. Cllr D Nicholas added that Deri Primary School no longer has issues with this as the school was on board in tackling it.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr D Johnson confirmed they already have the uniform and will co-ordinate this with Mrs Pascoe.

Update from the July 2023 meeting – Councillor D Johnson will update at the September 2023 meeting (not sure if the school has organised / made contact to arrange).

- Lighting for the youth to gather in the MUGA
Update from the July 2023 meeting – Councillor J Gibbings said there could be funding available through Sports Wales and offered to look into it.

43 **Planning Applications**

There was one as follows:

Status: delegated

Erect a single storey side a rear extension at 48 Cornonation Crescent Fochriw.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: No objections or comments were noted.

44 **Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update**

Members of Gwent Police attended the meeting and provided the following update:

Crime figures

141 Crimes recorded across all Rhymney Wards for the month of June.

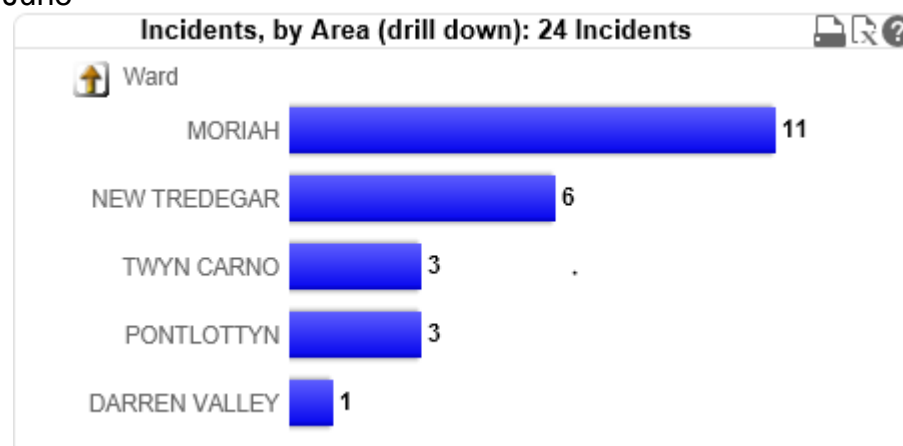
- 17 of which occurred within the Darran Valley Ward.

Types of Crimes consisted of:

- Vehicle crime
- Criminal damage and arson
- Violence
- Drug offences
- Public order

ASB Figures

There were 24 incidents of ASB across all Rhymney Wards for the month of June



Other Information

- 3 x males arrested following execution of 3 drug warrants.



- 3 x people arrested for the theft of a motor vehicle.
- 1 x male arrest in relation to off road bike offences.
- CSO attended Fochriw Primary school summer fair.
- ASB op on for Rhymney High Street.

45 To receive Community Council Correspondence

- The Clerk received an e-mail from Caerphilly CBC regarding declarations of interest. The standards committee has the power to grant dispensations in certain circumstances to allow a councillor to remain in a meeting when they have a personal and prejudicial interest. The full list of reasons is available via the clerk.
- The Clerk received an e-mail from Welsh Government to remind everyone about the new 20mph coming into force from 17th September 2023.

46 Approval of Community Council Payments

The following payments were approved.

BACS	£375.00	Clerks Salary July 2023
BACS	£550.00	Sixty-Six Coaches – Fochriw OAP trip
DD	£035.00	Data Protection Annual Fee
BACS	£252.00	Harris Bassett – audit fee
BACS	£2,200.00	GAVO Wind Turbine Grant
Total	£3,412.00	

During the payment discussion (wind turbine) Councillor E Blanche mentioned the following project is seeking planning permission for this project.

[Why this project? - Convatec \(convatecgroup.com\)](http://convatecgroup.com)

47 Moving the meeting back to a Thursday

The Clerk raised the issue of moving the meeting back to Parc Cwm Darran as per the standing orders.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will contact Caerphilly CBC to see if we are able to use the meeting room again. In the meantime, councillors' voted to go back to Thursday meetings at Fochriw Community Centre until Parc Cwm Darran is available.

Update from the July 2023 meeting – The Clerk was asked to write a formal complaint to the head of Caerphilly CBC, as the meeting room at Parc Cwm Darran is still not available for evening meetings.

48 Date and time of the next meeting:

The next meeting is to be held at Fochriw Community Centre – Thursday 7th September 2023 at 6.30 pm.