



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6.30 pm (Fochriw Community Centre)**

**Present**

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

**Absent and Apologies**

Cllr. R Chapman  
Cllr. P Challenger  
Cllr. R Freemantle

**In Attendance**

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)  
Representatives from Gwent Police

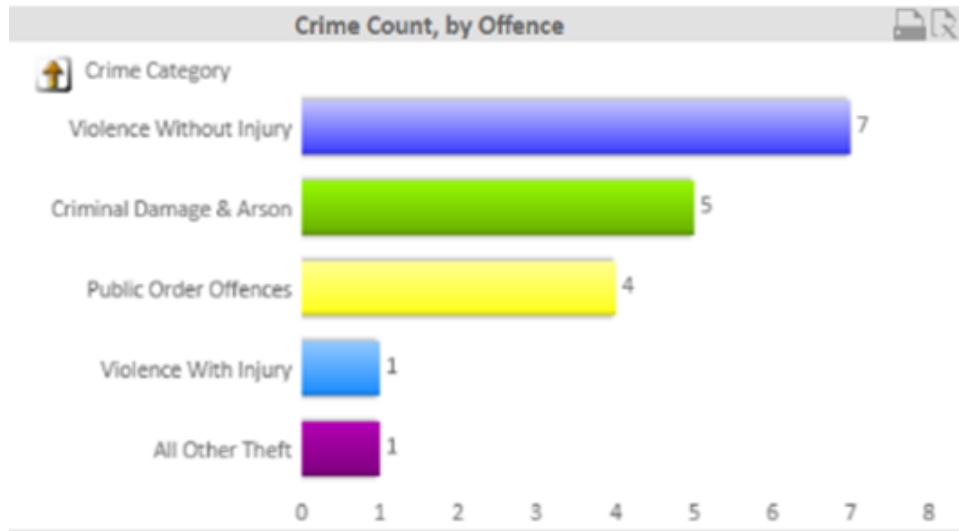
- 60 Members of the public**  
No members of the public attended.
- 61 Declaration of interest**  
There were none.
- 62 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 23.**  
The minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.
- 63 Matters arising from the meeting of Council on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 23**  
There were none.
- 64 Planning Applications**  
There were no planning applications.



## 65 Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update

PCO Telly George attended on behalf of Gwent police and gave the following update:

Darran Valley incidents include –



### Crimes that involve the community

- Damage to Deri Community Centre – Unable to identify youth involved.
- Damage to house window on Glan-Y-Nant, Fochriw – person arrested.
- X2 sets of neighbour issues in Fochriw – under investigation.
- Arson in Jenkins Row, Deri – 1 person arrested.
- Theft of bell in Glyn Derw, Deri – under investigation.

### Darran Valley ASB incidents include

- 4<sup>th</sup> September – Verbal argument between neighbours.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September – vehicle obstruction in Fochriw.

### ASB trend

Down 1 from 3 incidents in the same period in 2022.

### Ongoing initiatives

- Op Harley – targeting illegal and ASB use of off-road vehicles. This continues to be in focus with proactive and reactive work continuing.
- ASB patrols – continue in and around Darran Valley ward and surrounding areas.

### From previous meetings

- Re: the mountain fire – it was established by SWFRS that it was not caused deliberately.
- Re: the aggravated trespass whereby damage was caused whilst assisting an injured person. PC Jenkins has been unable to locate incident on Gwent police systems,
- Following a request at the previous meeting, PCO Telly George provided a leaflet outlining the laws in relation to electric scooters. The Clerk will add to the website. The following leaflets were also shared:



1. Stop Rogue Traders.
2. Crimestoppers – we need your help.
3. How to deal with unwanted callers.

The leaflets will be available from Fochriw and Deri community centre's.

### **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.

**Update from the October 2023 meeting –** PCO Telly George looked into this and noted could not find police log in relation to the incident.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr M Gibbings will check the log number and advise at the next meeting.**

## **66 To receive Community Council Correspondence**

66.01 - The Clerk received an e-mail from Aneurin Bevan UHB regarding the provision of minor injury unit services. The Clerk will post the information on the Darran Valley CC website.

66.02– Cllr J Gibbings forwarded an article to the Clerk regarding participatory budgeting. The Clerk will find out more information and bring to the November 2023 meeting.

66.03– Bus stop enhancement Aelybryn Street, Fochriw – the Clerk received an e-mail from the Passenger Transport Officer at Caerphilly CBC. As part of the mid valley bus stop enhancement scheme, the works to improve the bus stop is scheduled to be commenced week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

66.04 An e-mail from the Senior Engineer at Caerphilly CBC – ‘In accordance with the ‘Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996’ I am undertaking a consultation process in accordance with the Regulations and seeking your views with regard to the introduction of a 24-hour rural ‘Clearway’ traffic order on Fochriw Road near the Trecatti landfill site. The reason for this proposal is that lorries are parking on the public highway when waiting for the Trecatti landfill site to open which cause other vehicles to overtake on the opposite side of the road where there is a risk of collision with oncoming vehicles. The provision of this type of order will prevent this type of parking along the road and remove the need for vehicles to overtake which in turn will reduce the risk of collision with oncoming vehicles. The proposed order will improve road safety at this location. I would be grateful for any comments you may have regarding the proposal by 20th October 2023.’



## 67 Approval of Community Council Payments

The following payments were approved.

BACS	£2,800	Caerphilly CBC – Summer Sports Programme.
BACS	£595	Bradfor's Minibus & Coach Hire (over 55's trip)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,195</b>	

Cllr J Gibbings noted that Deri Regeneration had some surplus funds leftover from the Darran Valley Community Grant Scheme, and asked if it could be spent on Halloween and Christmas events. All Councillor's agreed.

## 68 Update on resuming meetings at Parc Cwm Darran and day of monthly meetings

Progress is being made and it's hoped we will have a date to return by the middle to end of November 2023.

## 69 Financial Reconciliation / budget update

Expenditure Heading	Budget	Up to Qtr 4 Expenditure	Variance with budget (explanation)
Clerks Salary & on costs	£4,500	£2,250.00	On profile
Chairpersons allowance	£300.00	£300.00	On profile
Out of office	£250.00	£250.00	On profile
Telephone & broadband	£200.00	£200.00	On profile
Room hire	£200.00	£	Awaiting invoice
Insurance & subscriptions	£600.00	£454.46	On profile – underspend no subscriptions
One Voice Wales membership	£190.00	£432.00	Increase due to increase in dwelling numbers
Stationery & postage	£100.00	£0.00	
Website hosting & maintenance	£840.00.	£200.00	
Section 19 - 137 grants	£2,000.00	£900.00	Underspend due to number of applications
Wind Turbine Grants	£4,777.46	£2,200.00	Underspend due to number of applications
Section 137 – OAP trip	£1,400.00	£1,145.00	
Christmas lighting / panto / Santa on a fire engine	£6,000.00	£0	Not invoiced yet
Audit	£600.00	£452.00	Underspend waiting for Audit Wales invoice
Cllr expenses / allowance	£1,350.00	£450.00	Underspend not all Councillors took Expenses plus vacancies
Town & Community Councils Meeting	£,100.00	£0	Not invoiced yet
<b>Summer scheme / Youth Club – Toddler Group</b>	£4,500.00	£2,800.00	
ICO Data protection	£35.00	£35.00	On profile
			.Not invoiced yet
Remembrance Sunday	£150.00	£0	
Kings Coronation	£500.00	£500.00	On profile
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£28,349.00</b>	<b>£19,916.00</b>	

Accounts up to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Treasurers account 1 = £18,337.47

Treasurers account 2 = £381.15

Business Account = £1,901.85

**Total = £20,620.47**



**70 Remembrance Sunday roles**

Cllr D Johnson will present a wreath on behalf of the Fochriw ward.  
Cllr D Nicholas will present a wreath on behalf of the Deri ward.  
Cllr E Blanche has organised an event on Remembrance Sunday.

**71 Christmas events / light switch on dates**

- The Clerk confirmed that the Christmas light switch-on date is 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- The Clerk to check if Rhymney Fire Station still has the Santa costume.
- The Clerk will design the posters and tickets for the santa on a fire engine event and the pantomimes.
- Councillor's decided to purchase the same number of selection boxes for Santa on a fire engine, as it was good to have spares to hand out to the children during the pantomimes.

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

The next meeting is to be held at Deri Community Centre on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6.30 pm.