



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:
Wednesday 6th December 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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. P Challenger
Cllr. R Freemantle
Cllr. R Chapman
Cllr. D Roberts

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

85 Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

86 Declaration of interest

There were none.

87 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th Nov 23.

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

88 Matters arising from the meeting of Council on 8th Nov 23

79.02 - Participatory Budgeting (GAVO). Some of the Councillors' attended a meeting to find out more information. Aneurin Bevan University Health Board has made available a fund to be spent on improving the health and lives of the people living in the Rhymney Valley. They are seeking views from the community on three important issues that need to be addressed to improve the health and quality of life of the people in the area. More details are available via Geraint.jones@gavo.org.uk or 07483128090.

79.03 - The Post Office e-mailed regarding the temporary closure of Deri Post Office consultation hub.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: There was a further conversation at the December whereby the Clerk was asked to investigate a regular visit from the mobile post office van to benefit the community.

81.00 – Planning for Christmas events.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- Cllr J Gibbings would like 4 large posters for both events next year.
- Councillors' would like the Clerk and Cllr R Chapman to look into the possibility of adding more lights in Deri for 2024. The council have investigated adding further lights previously, but the lampposts have been deemed unsuitable. It



was noted that other community councils with similar lampposts have added extra lighting.

- At the December 2023 meeting there was also a discussion around ensuring the posters have been signed off before advertising to the general public.

82.00 – Questionnaires for the OAP trip. Deri and Fochriw are both happy to attend a joint event. This means there could potentially be a Summer and Christmas trip, and ideas shared included a Christmas market, seaside trip or a shopping trip to Cwmbran. It was also noted that disabled access from the bus must be taken into consideration.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

This will be discussed again and a decision made at the January 2024 meeting.

84 – Summer Scheme – Cllr. E Blanche shared details of [Mobile Activity Hire — The Outdoor Education Company](#). All councillors were interested and asked the Clerk to investigate prices.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

The Clerk to investigate and report back at the January 2024 meeting.

89 Planning Applications

The following application was discussed and there were no comments or objections.

Not Available
Wed 08 Nov 2023
Tue 14 Nov 2023
68 Heol-y-bryn Fochriw Bargoed CF81 9LP
Obtain a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed 1.8m high x 4.2m length composite fence in front garden bordering No.66 with no part of the proposal to cross the boundary, followed by 1m high x 2.6m adjacent to the highway
Awaiting decision

90 Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update

Due to shift patterns, there was no-one from Gwent Police available to attend in person; however, a copy of the November 2023 newsletter was e-mailed to the Clerk.

During the month of November there were similar levels of crime and anti-social behavior through all wards compared to October.

Gwent Police received one report of off-road bikes relating to Pontlloyn Road in Fochriw. The Police would like to remind everyone to report any incidents or provide any information, for example vehicle descriptions, rider/driver details, times and locations of where they are being ridden/driven/stored to Gwent Police. This can be done anonymously if preferred.

91 To receive Community Council Correspondence

- 91.1 Cllr E Blanche. “The government has surveyed the old coal tip and have highlighted the most at-risk ones. It turns out one of them is in Deri. I am unsure as to the risk involved but it has been classed as a category d which is the worst. I propose we contact the council to ask for assurance the tip remains stable and to confirm the inspections are being carried out and the results from



the last inspection.”

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to ask County Councillor R Chapman to raise and find out when the coal tip was last inspected. The Councillors’ are seeking re-assurance that the coal tip is safe.

91.2 **‘One Voice Wales National Awards Conference 2024’.**

“One Voice Wales will be holding its National Awards Conference on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, LD2 3SY. Please use this opportunity to mark this important date in your Council diaries. These awards are an opportunity for your Council to showcase the services it provides for its community and an opportunity for councillors, clerks and staff to receive the recognition they deserve. The entries will be used as an evidence base to inform Welsh Government, Unitary Authorities, the Third Sector and other key partners of the good work local councils are doing in their communities across Wales and how they can possibly support the work of the local council sector in the future”

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Following a discussion the Clerk will complete an application for Darran Valley Community Councillor to raise awareness of the good work around the grant funding, the summer scheme and the special Christmas events that benefit the local community.

91.3 The Principle Information Officer contacted the Clerk regarding the current LA Governor vacancies at Fochriw Primary School and Ysgol Ifor Bach.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllrs J Gibbings and E Blanche showed an interest but asked the Clerk to find out how much commitment is needed before deciding. For example, will they have to attend regular meetings, the frequency and time of day.

91.4 “As Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent I am responsible for setting the amount of money residents pay towards policing through their council tax. Almost 40 per cent of Gwent Police’s overall budget of £181million comes from local council tax payers. To make this decision I must consider the amount of money that the Chief Constable says Gwent Police needs to operate an efficient and effective service, the annual financial settlement from the UK Government, funding from the Welsh Government and Ministry of Justice, and the affordability for local people. To have your say on this, and on a number of other issues, please take some time to complete my survey before it closes on Sunday 7 January - <https://bit.ly/GwentPoliceBudget24>. I would appreciate it if you could share this link with your constituents to help us ensure that we reach as many community members as possible. A hard copy of the survey is also available on request by emailing commissioner@gwent.police.uk or calling 01633 642200.”

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will forward to all Councillors to complete the survey.

91.5 Cllr M Gibbings suggested the purchase of a mental bench depicting a fallen soldier at the cenotaph in Deri.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: This will be discussed at the January 2024 meeting under matters arising.



92 Approval of Community Council Payments

BACS	£1,991.04	Elsbury Access Platforms (Christmas lights)
BACS	£118.33	Print Evolution (printing posters and flyers for the Christmas events)
BACS	£602.49	Selection Boxes for Santa on a Fire Engine
Total	£2,711.86	

90 Councillor D Hardacre' Funeral

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Councillors' wish to donate £50 each to the charities 'Doctors without Borders' and 'Guide Dogs' as per the wishes of his family. Councillors' are keen to honour their wishes. The Clerk also posted a tribute to Cllr D Hardacre on the Darran Valley Community Council website.

[In loving memory of David Hardacre - Darran Valley Community Council Darran Valley Community Council](#)

91 Date and time of the next meeting:

The next meeting is to be held at Deri Community Centre on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 6.30 pm.