



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 6.30 pm (Deri Community Centre)**

**Present**

Cllr D Johnson (Chair)  
Cllr D Nicholas  
Cllr E Blanche  
Cllr D Roberts  
Cllr J Gibbings  
Cllr R Chapman

**Absent and Apologies**

Cllr. M Gibbings

**In Attendance**

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

**92 Members of the public**

No members of the public attended.

**93 Declaration of interest**

There were none.

**94 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 23.**

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

**95 Matters arising from the meeting of Council on 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 23**

79.02 - 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.

**UPDATE FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING:** This issue was raised with Gerald Jones MP who kindly wrote to the Post Office. The Post Office replied advising the mobile outreach service is unable to be deployed to Deri due to the challenging economic climate. The Post Office are prioritising areas due to limited funding, meaning some difficult decisions had to be made and one such decision is the suspension of any additional mobile outreach services at this time. They advised they are currently unable to provide a mobile post office outreach service in Deri.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** This issue will be closed for now but monitored should circumstances change. It was noted that Trelewis Post Office is open until 9pm.

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.

**UPDATE FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING:**

The Clerk has contacted the relevant agencies asking them to investigate the possibility of adding extra decorations in Deri for 2024. The Clerk will report back once there is news.

Councillor's reported the events were a big success yet again. The Santa on a Fire Engine event in Fochriw was not as well attended as last year, but this was due to a clash with another local event. The Deri events were extremely well attended and numbers were up from last year – the engagement and response were magnificent.

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.

**UPDATE FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING:**

Agreed there would be two joint trips instead of separate events for the villages including:

- A summer trip to Tenby and Carmarthenshire (two drop off points).
- A Christmas trip to the market in Bristol. Cllr D Johnson confirmed there is a drop off point next to the market for those with extra mobility needs.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

The Clerk to obtain quotes from Sixty Six Coaches and Bradfords Coaches and report back at the next meeting. The Clerk to check there are toilets onboard.

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.

**UPDATE FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING:**

The Clerk to report back at the February meeting as the company mentioned above may not be suitable as they cater for around 150 child per day. Cllr E Blanche recommended another company for the Clerk to investigate and obtain prices. There was also a good suggestion of asking the Police to turn up with the games bus.

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.

**UPDATE FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING:**

Cllr R Chapman investigated this and reported back the following:



Work was carried out 2.5 years ago and Cllr Chapman was reassured there is no danger and it is being inspected and monitored every 6 to 8 weeks.

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.

**UPDATE FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING:**

Cllr R Chapman noted there are no vacancies as they didn't have up to date information. This is now closed.

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.

**UPDATE FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING:**

Cllr M Gibbings was unable to attend due to being unwell. This will be picked up at the next meeting.

## 96 Planning Applications

There were none to report.

## 97 Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update

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

### Darran Valley Council Police Report

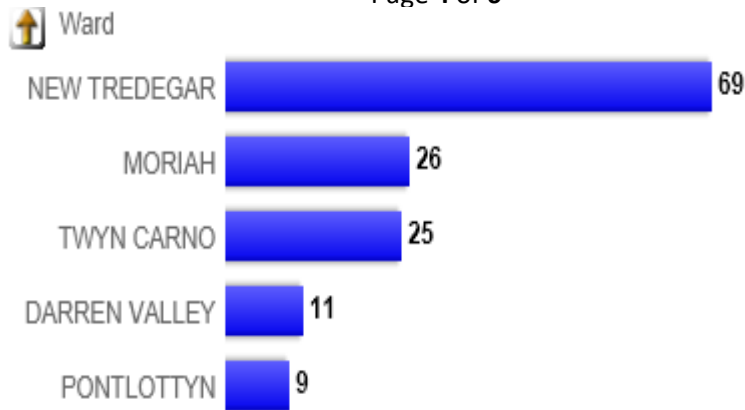
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

#### Crime and ASB overview for December

The following is a breakdown of Crimes recorded and Nuisance ASB calls received during the month of December for Darren valley Wards.

Crime	Nov 23	Dec 23
Darran Valley	12	11
Total		11

To put this into the wider context of Caerphilly North Crime demand for the month of December.



ASB (Nuisance)	Nov 23	Dec 23
Darran Valley	Nil	Nil
Total		Zero

**Overall, there has been a very slight reduction in Crime & reduction in ASB across the Wards since the 1<sup>st</sup> of December to current date.**

### Crime

We have had a small number of calls to Darran Valley during the month of December 11 of which were crime related and zero calls for Anti-social behaviour.

There have been no Crime trends or patterns to note and nothing of significance over Christmas or New year.

We continue to attend the area and carry out patrols at various times of the day and actively encourage members of the community to report any issues that they feel we can help resolve.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

**CO 384 Platt & Rhymney Neighbourhood Policing Team.**



**98 To receive Community Council Correspondence**

98.1 Resignation of Cllrs P Challenger and R Freemantle. The Councillor's wrote to the Clerk explaining that due to other commitments they are unable to continue as Councillor's for Darran Valley. The Clerk wrote back thanking them for their contribution.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** The Clerk to devise a poster and re-advertise the vacancies.

98.2 **Play Audit Survey from Caerphilly CBC**

Caerphilly Council Borough Council asked for a submission for their play audit survey. Councillors wish to raise concerns regarding the lack of investment at Parc Cwm Darran..

**99 Approval of Community Council Payments**

BACS	£100	Caerphilly Town and Liaison Committee
BACS	£50	Guide Dogs for the Blind in memory of Cllr D Hardacre.
BACS	£50	Doctors without borders in memory of Cllr D Hardacre.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£200</b>	

**100 2024/25 Budget and Precept**

The following budget was discussed and agreed:

<b>Expenditure Heading</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Clerks Salary & on costs	4,500
Chairpersons allowance	300
Out of office	250
Telephone & broadband	200
Room hire	200
Insurance & subscriptions	600
One Voice Wales membership	190
Stationery & postage	100
Website hosting & maintenance	840
Section 19 - 137 grants	2,000
Wind Turbine Grants	4,777
Section 137 – OAP trip	1,400
Christmas lighting / panto / Santa on a fire engine	6,000
Audit	600
Cllr expenses / allowance	1,350
Town & Community Councils Meeting	100
Summer scheme	4,500



ICO Data protection	35
Remembrance Sunday	150
Total estimated outgoings	28,092
Total estimated income	18,180
Contingency for unexpected expenditure	3,000
Precept - £12,980	
Wind Turbine - £4,700	
Tax refund = £500	

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

Council noted a shortfall, but there are surplus funds leftover in the bank from cancelled events etc. during the pandemic. Therefore, Council voted for the precept to remain the same, but it's likely to increase the next financial year as costs have increased.

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

The next meeting is to be held at Fochriw Community Centre on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 6.30 pm.