



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:
Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 6.30 pm (Fochriw Community Centre)**

Present

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr D Roberts
Cllr D Nicholas
Cllr R Chapman

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

102 Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

103 Declaration of interest

There were none.

104 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd Jan 24.

The minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Cllr E Blanche noted a missing entry as follows:

We generate wind turbine funding that is allocated as grants to the local community, however, each year we are finding not all the available funds are being utilised. Last summer we had low numbers on the children's summer scheme and would like to upgrade the offering this year to include laser tag. The Clerk was asked to contact 'One Voice Wales' to find out if we are allowed to allocate £1000 of the wind turbine funding to the community council summer scheme. The Clerk actioned this and received the following reply:

The position in relation to what are known as gifts of money is as follows:

Local Government Act 1972 S139 Acceptance of gifts of property.

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section a local authority may accept, hold and administer:

- (a) for the purpose of discharging any of their functions, gifts of property (money), whether real or personal, made for that purpose; or
- (b) for the benefit of the inhabitants of their area or of some part of it, gifts made for that purpose; and may execute any work (including works of maintenance or improvement) incidental to or consequential on the exercise of the powers conferred by this section.

(2) Where any such work is executed in connection with a gift made for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of a local authority or of some part of that area, the cost of executing the work shall be added to any expenditure under section 137 above in computing the limit imposed on that expenditure by subsection (4) of that section.



Assuming that the windfarm company do not specifically state what the money may be used for; the Council could allocate £1000 towards the cost of running the council summer scheme. The Council is empowered to fund a SUMMER scheme under S145 of the Local Government Act 1972 as follows:

145 Provision of entertainments.

(1) A local authority may do, or arrange for the doing of, or contribute
(2) towards the expenses of the doing of, anything (whether inside or outside their area) necessary or expedient for any of the following purposes, that is to say:

- (a) **the provision of an entertainment of any nature** or of facilities for dancing;
- (b) the provision of a theatre, concert hall, dance hall or other premises suitable for the giving of entertainments or the holding of dances;
- (c) the maintenance of a band or orchestra;
- (d) **the development and improvement of the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts and the crafts which serve the arts;**
- (e) **any purpose incidental to the matters aforesaid, including the provision of refreshments or programmes and the advertising of any entertainment given or dance or exhibition of arts or crafts held by them.**

(I have assumed that the scheme will include entertainment and an element of arts and crafts).

105 Matters arising from the meeting of Council on 3rd Jan 24

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.

UPDATE FROM THE FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING:

Keep on matters arising until resolved.

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.

UPDATE FROM THE FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING:

The Clerk confirmed that Sixty-Six Coaches have toilets on-board. The location of the trips were agreed and the Clerk to go ahead and arrange / pay deposits. Council also voted to increase the budget to **£1,500**.

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 game's bus.

UPDATE FROM THE FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING:

The Clerk contacted InHouse Entertainment who were extremely helpful and provided various options and prices. The Councillors' spent a considerable amount of time looking at the options and prices. They decided to go with the following:

Ultimate Assault Course 75ft - Supervised

Mobile Laser Tag - Supervised

Children's Playzone - Unisex Colours – supervised

Cost below was approved by Council, as the yearly budget for the summer scheme is 5k, and 'One Voice Wales' confirmed 1k from the wind turbine scheme can be used. Darran Valley Community Council can also claim the VAT back.

Subtotal	5,780.00
VAT 20%	1,156.00
Total GBP including VAT	£6,936.00

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.

UPDATE FROM THE FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING:

This will be moved to the March 2024 meeting as Cllr M Gibbings needs time to look at options and prices. Cllr Gibbings is interested in obtaining prices for the Newbridge memorial bench depicting the fallen soldier. This would also help address the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.



RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr M Gibbings was advised to speak to Cllr R Chapman as we have previously had issues asking permission from Caerphilly CBC for new benches.

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.

UPDATE FROM THE FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING:

Cllr D Johnson informed Council that his wife wishes to apply for the Fochriw vacancy. Cllr D Johnson will ask his wife to attend the March 2024 meeting to formally apply.

106 Planning Applications

The follows planning applications in relation to Darran Valley were discussed, and there were no comments or objections to report.

Case Ref. 24/0028/COU Site Area: 278m² Location: The Old Club 93 Bailey Street Deri Bargoed CF81 9HX (UPRN 000043001991) Proposal: Change the use to 1 No. 2-bedroom house and 1 No. 4-bedroom house works to include repairs to roof and new tiles, solar panels, insulated render to all walls, new openings to rear and side elevations and internal rearrangements to suit new use.

Case Ref. 23/0362/RET Site Area: 528m² Location: Mission Hall Guest Street Fochriw Bargoed CF81 9NB (UPRN 000043175803) Proposal: Retain and complete works at side of chapel, erect fence to site and raise ground level to make area level

107 Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update

CSO's Coel Wilkins and Emily Jenkins attended the meeting and provided the following report:

Darren Valley Council Police Report

Crime and ASB overview for January

Please see attached record of Crimes and Nuisance ASB calls received during the month of January for Darren Valley Ward.

Crime

Crime	Dec 24	Jan 24
Darran Valley	11	14
Total		14



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

ASB (Nuisance)	Dec 23	Jan 24
Darren Valley	Nil	1
Total		1

We only had one call for Nuisance in Darren Valley in January which included four males fighting outside of a pub. We received an increase of calls for cold callers and rouge traders throughout the wards. Therefore, if you are aware of any issues of victims within the community, we can give out information sheets which can raise awareness. These can be dispatched depending on the demand from residents.

Overall, there has been a very slight reduction in Crime & reduction in ASB across the Wards since the 1st of January to 7th February.

Crime

We have had a small number of calls to Darren Valley during the month of January, 14 of which were crime related and one call for Anti-social behaviour. There have been no Crime trends or patterns to note and nothing of significance over this time period.

We consistently patrol the area and conduct patrols at various times of the day, and we urge the members of the community to report any concerns that they feel we can help with. We would like to thank you for your continued support.

We are happy to contribute, help/ organise and attend any community engagements that are planned for 2024.

108 To receive Community Council Correspondence

108.1 'The Surveillance Camera Commissioner has put a responsibility on Local Authorities to justify any deployment of surveillance cameras via a Data Protection Impact Assessment (Previously Privacy Impact Assessment - P.I.A). Such assessments are now required before deploying any new cameras and for assessing the continuing need for existing cameras. PIA's consider whether there is a justified need for the deployment of cameras, for example serious, frequent antisocial behaviour. It also considers the impact on those subjected to the surveillance, whether such actions are proportionate to the problem they aim to address and if other less intrusive measures have been considered e.g., improved lighting, gating, warden patrols, increased police patrols etc.

The system at Deri is due for its annual review and I am contacting all relevant / interested parties for their views on CCTV to enable us to make an assessment on the continued use of CCTV.

Under General Data Protection Regulations 2016 and Data Protection Act 2018 we need to make you aware with how we will deal with your data. Your comments will be published as the DPIA is a published document on the CCBC website under the CCTV section. Email addresses and phone numbers will be removed.

CCTV operators carried out 1027 targeted CCTV patrols over the past 12 months. No incidents reported or requests from Police for CCTV.



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Please could you respond by 31/01/24 Police.uk website
For period 01/12/22 to 30/11/23 there were 48 recorded incidents in the Deri area and 16 recorded incidents in or near the area of the cameras. I would appreciate if you could confirm by return email your views on the requirement for CCTV and giving reasons why you believe it should or should not continue.

Thanks

Carl Nesling

Rheolwr Ystafell Reoli | Control Room Manager

Cynghor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Community Councillor R Chapman is dealing With this query and highlighting the importance of keeping the camera's, due due to previous incidents.

108.2 'Good Afternoon

Please could I remind you of the importance of the 6th of June 2024? This is the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. The importance of the D-Day Landing was it became the largest seaborne invasion in history. Along with the associated airborne operations, it marked the beginning of the liberation of France and Western Europe.

Unprecedented coordination between Allied nations, and the intensive planning of engineers, meteorologists, logisticians and countless more, led to a force from 13 countries approaching Normandy in a 5000-vessel armada. A ground force of over 130,000 troops went ashore on five beaches across a 50-mile stretch of Normandy coast, with the first waves often facing unbroken defences. By the end of D-Day, there had been 10,000 allied, wounded, or dead. Yet, this was only the beginning. The ensuing Battle of Normandy was to last into August and cost tens of thousands of lives as it defeated and repulsed the occupying German forces eastwards. It was a decisive success for the Allies and paved the way for the liberation of much of northwest Europe. I hope this isn't too impertinent to ask if you have anything in mind, an acknowledgement or recognition for all our fallen and those who are still with us.

Kind regards

Teresa

Cllr Teresa Heron Bsc (Hons), Fdsc, Caerphilly Borough Armed Forces Champion.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr M Gibbings is investigating the feasibility of a new bench (see matters arising above).

108.3 'Dear Town and Community Councillors',

I hope all is well. You will be aware that Caerphilly County Borough Council's Cabinet have recently agreed to commence a consultation on the draft budget proposals for 2024/25. Our residents now have the opportunity to take part in a large-scale consultation exercise to provide feedback.

Some of the key proposals include:

- A proposed 6.9% increase in council tax for 2024/25
- £19.5m of permanent savings
- £11.4m of temporary savings
- Use of £11.3m from council reserves towards savings



Following Cabinet last week Cllr Sean Morgan, Leader of the Council said, “Over the next 3 years Caerphilly is facing a budget shortfall of around £66million, so we need to make some significant changes in order to plug this huge budget gap. It is important that local people get the chance to have their say on our plans and I would encourage everyone to get involved.”.

Consequently, the consultation is now open and will run **until**

Tuesday 13th February. There are a number of ways for people to have their say.

A survey for completion:

English version –

<https://conversation.caerphilly.gov.uk/council-budget-setting-2024-2025>

Cymraeg version - <https://trafodaeth.caerphilly.gov.uk/pennu-cyllideb-y-cynghor-2024-2025>

Hard copy versions will also be available from libraries across the county borough, as well as potentially affected venues. A number of face-to-face drop-in sessions will also be held, where residents are welcome to call in for a chat with a member of the engagement team at the following locations:

Date:	Location:	Time:
Monday 29 th January	Nelson Library	10:00am-12:00pm
Tuesday 30 th January	Blackwood Library	10:00am-12:00pm
Tuesday 30 th January	Bargoed Library	4:30pm-6:30pm
Thursday 1 st February	Ystrad Mynach Library	10:00am-12:00pm
Monday 5 th February	Rhymney Library	10:00am-12:00pm
Wednesday 7 th February	Risca Library	3:00pm-5:00pm
Thursday 8 th February	Newbridge Library	10:00am-12:00pm
Friday 9 th February	Caerphilly Library	11:00am-1:00pm

In addition, two online drop-in sessions are scheduled on:

- Wednesday 31st January 11am-12 – online
- Thursday 8th February 2pm – 3pm – online

Residents wishing to attend one of the online sessions are asked to e-mail publicengagement@caerphilly.gov.uk with the preferred date, and a link to attend the online session will be provided.

People with any specific requirements such as access, hearing loop, require translation facilities or wish to use the Welsh language at any of the drop-in sessions are asked to contact the team at publicengagement@caerphilly.gov.uk or by calling 01443 864380.

I have also attached a version of the poster, which we'd be incredibly grateful for your support in sharing across your social media channels and with your constituents where possible.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,
Hayley

Hayley Lancaster

Rheolwr Trawsnewid – Ymgyslltu | Transformation Manager – Engagement



109 Approval of Community Council Payments

BACS	£30	Deri Community Centre – hire for Christmas activities.
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110 2024/25 Budget and Precept

Agreed budget and precept. The precept was agreed in the January 2024 meeting. Below are some updates re: agreed budget changes.

Expenditure Heading	Budget
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	3,777 – 1,000 earmarked towards summer scheme
Section 137 – OAP trip	1,500 – increased by 100
Christmas lighting / panto / Santa on a fire engine	6,000
Audit	600
Cllr expenses / allowance	1,350
Town & Community Councils Meeting	100
Summer scheme	6,000 – 1,000 increase funded from wind turbine
ICO Data protection	35
Remembrance Sunday	150

111 Date and time of the next meeting:

The next meeting is to be held at Deri Community Centre on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 6.30 pm.