



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6.30 pm (Deri Community Centre)**

**Present**

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

**Absent and Apologies**

None.

**In Attendance**

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)  
CSO's from Gwent Police

**112 Members of the public**

No members of the public attended.

**113 Declaration of interest**

There were none.

**114 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 24.**

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

**115 Matters arising from the meeting of Council on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024**

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.

**UPDATE FROM THE MARCH 2024 MEETING:**

This was discussed again. The upgrade of street lampposts maybe the only route to adding additional lighting, but it's highly unlikely Caerphilly CBC will have the budget to undertake this work at this point in time. Cllr M Gibbings suggested potting a Christmas tree in Groesfaen, and offered to look into where it could go. Cllr E Blanche suggested upgrading to LED lighting.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** The Clerk will investigate the upgrade to LED lights in Deri. Cllr M Gibbings to look into the possibility of potting a Christmas Tree in Groesfaen.

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**.

**UPDATE FROM THE MARCH 2024 MEETING:** Cllr J Gibbings informed Council that some of the over 55's raised issues with the dates and venues of the trips. Council discussed and agreed that the dates and locations were agreed at a previous meeting, following the results of the questionnaires. The deposits have already been paid, and therefore the dates / locations cannot be changed.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

The Clerk will design a poster and bring to the April 2024 meeting for approval.

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

**UPDATE FROM THE MARCH 2024 MEETING:** The following dates and venues were agreed:

Deri Community Centre: 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024 times 12 until 4 pm.  
Drinks and snacks will be available to purchase.

Fochriw Football pitch: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023 times 12 until 4 pm.  
Drinks and snacks will be available to purchase.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** The Clerk to secure dates with the Football pitch and design the posters. The Clerk will also book the police games van.

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 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings.

**UPDATE FROM THE MARCH 2024 MEETING:** Cllr R Chapman advised that Howe Engineering can build a bench at a lower price.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** Cllr M Gibbings and R Chapman to discuss and investigate before the next meeting.

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.

**UPDATE FROM THE MARCH 2024 MEETING:**

Mrs. Tracey Johnson attended the meeting and was co-opted as Councillor with a unanimous vote. All welcomed Cllr T Johnson to the Council.



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.

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

Cyngor 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.

**UPDATE FROM THE MARCH 2024 MEETING:**

Following an audit, it has been agreed this camera is beneficial to the community and will remain. This action is now closed.

## 116 Planning Applications

The following was discussed and there were no objections raised. There is a precedence as parking was available there previously.

Case Ref. 24/0075/FULL Site Area: 444m<sup>2</sup> Location: Land Adjoining 70 Bailey Street Deri Bargoed CF81 9HW (UPRN 000043002060).

Proposal: Erect three-bedroom dormer bungalow with parking and new access off Bailey street Case Officer: Joshua Burrows ( 01443 864427): burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Darran Valley Map Ref: 312519

(E) 202447 (N) Community Council: Darran Valley Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated.



**117 Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update**

CSO's from Gwent Police attended and the following was discussed:

There continues to be issues with off-road bikes, and members of the public are encouraged to report the details and registration numbers of offenders. Cllr D Johnson submitted a report with a partial registration number and dashcam footage.

Cllr E Blanche reported concerns with speeding through Fochriw. Cllr R Chapman has written to the Inspector requesting the speed van visit the area to act as a deterrent. The CSO's added that some speeding offenders are attending speeding awareness courses at Fire Services premises.

**118 To receive Community Council Correspondence**

**118.1 – Free Framed Photograph of HRH King Charles.**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** The Clerk will order and arrange delivery to home address until meetings are resumed at Parc Cwm Darran.

**118.2 – Resuming meetings at Parc Cwm Darran.** Contract negotiations are finalising and will hopefully be signed soon.

**119 Approval of Community Council Payments**

BACS	£75	Sixty-Six Coaches – deposit for over 55's Summer trip to Tenby
BACS	£75	Sixty-Six Coaches – deposit for over 55's Christmas trip to Bristol Christmas Market.
BACS	£150	Grant for Darran Valley History Group
TOTAL	£300	

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

The next meeting is to be held at Fochriw Community Centre on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6.30 pm.