



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:
Thursday 27th June 2024 at 6.30 pm (Fochriw Community Centre)**

Present

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr D Nicholas

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)
CSO from Gwent Police

19 Members of the public

One member of the public attended.

20 Declaration of interest

There were none.

21 To approve and confirm the April 2024 minutes of the meeting.

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

22 Matters arising from the April 2024 meeting.

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. Cllr M Gibbings will send the Clerk the GPS location of the lamppost needing LED lights.

UPDATE FROM THE JUNE 2024 MEETING:

The Christmas 2024 Pantomimes have been booked as follows:

Saturday 28th December 2024 12:00 pm – Cinderella at Deri Community Centre.

Sunday 29th December 2024 1:00 pm – Rapunzel at Fochriw Community Centre

82 – 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.

UPDATE FROM THE APRIL 2024 MEETING

Cllr J Gibbings already has 17 names and deposits, therefore its unlikely a poster will be needed.

UPDATE FROM THE JUNE 2024 MEETING

Cllr J Gibbings confirmed the bus is now fully booked.

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: 7th August 2024 and 21st August 2024 times 12 until 4 pm. Drinks and snacks will be available to purchase.

Fochriw Football pitch: 24th July 2024 and 13th 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.

UPDATE FROM THE JUNE 2024 MEETING:

The Clerk designed the poster and it was signed off for distribution at the meeting. The Clerk to investigate insurance requirements and report back at the next meeting. The Council has also arranged first aid cover for all events.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to report back re: insurance for the summer scheme at the next meeting.

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.

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.

UPDATE FROM THE APRIL 2024 MEETING: This will be moved to the May 2024 meeting.



23 Planning Applications

The following applications were discussed. There were no objections raised.

Case Ref. 24/0413/COU Site Area: 8058m² Location: Cefn Bach Farm Cefn Road Upper Deri Bargoed CF81 9GW (UPRN 000043002378) Proposal: Change the use of 2.3 acre agricultural field to dog walking field and construct a shelter and seating area Case Officer: Joshua Burrows (01443 864427 : burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Darran Valley Map Ref: 313478 (E) 201997 (N) Community Council: Darran Valley Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

Case Ref. 24/0340/COU Site Area: 207m² Location: Ysgwydd Gwyn Presbyterian Church 102 Bailey Street Deri (UPRN 000043168674) Proposal: Change the use of existing chapel to a 4 bedroom dwelling with external alterations Case Officer: Joshua Burrows (01443 864427 : burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Darran Valley Map Ref: 312652 (E) 201937 (N) Community Council: Darran Valley Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

24 Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update

There was a long discussion about the continuation of off-road bikes and The lack of progression to reduce the incidents. The Councillors were vocal in expressing their dissatisfaction, and the PCSO's attending noted they do not have the same arrest rights as Police Officers.

25 To receive Community Council Correspondence

25.1 The Clerk shared a copy of the Caerphilly CBC Summer Events 2024, and will also share a link on the website.

25.2 One Voice Wales training options were discussed. Cllr J Gibbings is interested In some of the courses.

25.3 The following meeting guidelines was shared by 'One voice Wales'

- The statutory guidance is comprehensive. One Voice Wales has not sought to duplicate this advice. This note is an 'at-a-glance' guide to good practice, with helpful suggestions to supplement the statutory guidance.
- There are many software programmes and platforms available for Councils to use. One Voice Wales does not recommend one product over another. Just make sure that whichever system you use ensures that the Council complies with statutory guidelines and facilitates a successful meeting.
 - Whilst physical meetings in the same location are allowable under the 2021 Act, participants (i.e. council members, members of the public and press) must be allowed to join meetings from another location. Councils must publish these arrangements, for example, through standing orders
 - Many Councils have amended their agendas etc. to facilitate hybrid meetings. Here are examples from Carmarthen Town Council and Pontypool Community Council.
 - It may be helpful to consider a deadline by which people should notify the Council that they intend to participate remotely. However, this would not prevent people from attending from another location without advance notice.
 - Everyone has the right to attend a Council meeting from another location if they wish. Approval cannot be withheld. Pennard Community Council has



found that its online meetings have attracted more members of the public than the physical sit round the table meeting ever did!

- These arrangements throw up a new set of scenarios for Councils to contemplate. Occasionally IT problems can result in Members being unable to access the meeting via their IT equipment. Provided the link to the meeting was properly created and circulated, this is unlikely to impact on the validity of the meeting, as long as the meeting remains quorate.
- If a Member loses connection because of an issue with their connection, think of this as their car breaking down on the way to the meeting and the meeting will still be valid as long as its quorate. 12 Date Issued May 2024 Review Date May 2025
- If the main meeting room itself loses connection however, this may be a different issue and the meeting may need to be suspended or abandoned.
- At the meeting itself, speak through the Chair. Do not “shout across the room.” Wait to be called. Speak clearly. Make sure you can hear and be heard.
- Make it easy for people to identify you.
- Stay Focused: Avoid multitasking during the meeting. Avoid background noise or distractions. • Don't have the dog on your lap. • Act with dignity and etiquette.
- and finally, don't forget: This is a real meeting. It's not a video catch-up with friends or family. If it's a Council meeting, your Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations will still apply. Check what your Welsh Language Scheme says about allowing speakers to use the language of their choice. Make sure your Standing Orders address procedures at remote or hybrid meetings. Follow those rules. Follow appropriate protocols at all times.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Councillors will review this again, once a permanent meeting place is secured.

26. Approval of Community Council Payments

BACS	£150	Grant for Deri Allotment Association. Skip hire for the removal of rubbish from the allotment.
BACS	£15	Hire of Deri Community Centre for Council Meetings.
TOTAL	£165	

27. 80th Anniversary of D Day

Councillors thanked Cllr M Gibbings (current Chair) for all his hard work organising the flag poles to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings. The flags were raised in Deri and Fochriw and children from the local schools were invited to take part.

Cllr Mark Gibbings and his colleague prepped /cleaned both areas for the flag raising, cut back trees and cut grass. He did an amazing job.

They also gave framed certificates to the primary schools and a copy to the Darran Valley Community Council Clerk.



A 100-year old Veteran from Deri played a pivotal role, and also received a framed picture and a certificate from the community council. They also gave a certificate to all the Veterans who attended in Deri.

28. Closure of the A469 between Pontlottyn and Tirphil.

During recent routine highway inspections, further movement has been noted on the A469 Between Pontlottyn and Tirphil which has resulted in cracks over several areas both within the current live lane and the lane that is closed to traffic. Some of these cracks are associated with vertical displacements. CCBC will be undertaking reinstatement works in these areas.

The resurfacing and crack sealing that is required is in the lane that is Currently open to traffic and therefore will require a full road closure To remediate. It is currently planned that this will take place on Sunday 23rd June 2024.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to post on website.

29. Cllr Mark Gibbings – an update from the Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee

Cllr Gibbings reported the salient points:

- A reminder of the Audit Wales 30th June 2024 deadline for signing off Audit of 2023-24 Accounts.
- A Charter for Community and Town Councils.

30. Audit of Accounts 2023-24

The Clerk shared a copy of the audit and it was signed off by the Chair.

31. Date and time of the next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th July 2024 at 6.30 pm (Deri Community Centre).