



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:
Thursday 5th September 2024 at 6.30 pm (Deri Library)**

Present

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr E Blanche

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

41 Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

42 Declarations of interest

There were none.

43 To approve and confirm the July 2024 minutes of the meeting.

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

44 Matters arising from the June 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

UPDATE FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING:

The Council voted to use the services of Elsbury Platforms again for the 2024

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Christmas lighting. The Clerk was also asked to contact Elsbury as follows:

- Instruct them to switch the Christmas lights on at the end of November (Friday 29th November 2024) please.
- Council would like to purchase some new, longer LED lights for the tree in Deri.
- Council is also planning to put a Christmas tree up in Groesfaen and would like to request a site visit with Elsbury and Cllr Mark Gibbings, to plan where the tree will go. The lights in Deri *the ones being replaced by LED can be used on the new tree in Groesfaen.

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.

UPDATE FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING:

Council decided not to go ahead with this proposal as the flagpoles and flags purchased for the 80th anniversary of Day were more expensive than originally anticipated. This issue is now closed.

45 Planning Applications

The two applications below were discussed, and there were no objections raised.



1. Case Ref. 24/0607/HH Site Area: 170m² Location: 59 Bailey Street Deri Bargoed CF81 9HU (UPRN 000043002051) Proposal: Erect first floor extension and attached balcony Case Officer: Joshua Burrows (01443 864427 : burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Darran Valley Map Ref: 312488 (E) 202421 (N) Community Council: Darran Valley Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated.
2. Construct two holiday cabins, pedestrian and vehicle access, car parking, associated services, cycle storage and refuse storage Troedyrhiw Jestyn Farm Bargoed Terrace Deri Bargoed.

46 **Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update**

The Police were unable to attend in person, however they did submit a written update – see below:

- There were 10 crimes during July 2024.
- There was one dog on dog attack on Bailey Street, Deri.
- CO430 Sadzik was part of a fundraising event at Parc Cwm Darran on 13th July with the South Wales Mountain Rescue Search Dogs. Dog owners were encouraged to pop along for a chat and a doggy cupcake.
- CO510 Wilkins attended the Darran Valley Community Council summer event in Fochriw on 24th July with the games van. The children enjoyed, and the Officers enjoyed interacting with the local community.
- The Police and Caerphilly CBC have been focusing on engaging with dog owners on the rules around owning a dog. Two people have been issued with community resolutions where they will attend a course in respect of this.
- The LEAD (Local Environment Awareness on Dogs) initiative launched across Caerphilly County Borough. It is in partnership with the Blue Cross and works similarly to the ASB strike process whereby if a dog is brought to the Police' attention by persistent dog fouling, getting out of the premises, persistent barking, low level livestock attack, they will deliver an information pack to promote and educate responsible dog ownership. They will also receive a strike letter and details / information regarding the dog will be obtained.

47 **To receive Community Council Correspondence**

47.1 - Free resources to help tackle fly-tipping in your communities

'Fly-tipping Action Wales writes to let you know of free printable posters, leaflets and signs available for all organisations affected by fly-tipping. We appreciate that your work as a Community Council involves improving the quality of life for residents, and fly-tipping can have serious adverse effects on people and the environment. We hope you will be able to make use of these resources and let your partners know they are available.'

As part of the effort to tackle fly-tipping, Fly-tipping Action Wales runs the It's Your Duty to Care | Eich Dyletswydd Chi yw Gofalu campaign. Created in partnership with Welsh Government, the campaign urges householders in Wales to always check for a waste carrier license on the Natural Resources Wales website before employing any person or company to remove excess waste from their property.

Over 70% of fly-tipped waste in Wales contains unwanted household items and



waste, most often, this is the result of a householder unknowingly putting their excess household waste into the hands of a fly-tipper.'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to print and bring to the next meeting.

47.2 – ‘Subject: Withdrawal of funding by Caerphilly County Borough Council for Llancaich Fawr, Blackwood Miners Institute and Meals on Wheels Dear Councillors, We are sure you are already aware of Caerphilly County Borough Council’s proposals to remove funding for some key sites and services. We write to urge you to make your views known during the consultation period that ends next month. We have written to the leader of the council to express our concern about the planned withdrawal of funding for Blackwood Miners Institute, Llancaich Fawr and Meals on Wheels. The consultation details are available here: [Consultation on the Future of the Meals Direct Service | The Caerphilly Conversation](#) Consultation on the proposal to withdraw the subsidy and mothball Blackwood Miners’ Institute and to Mothball Llancaich Fawr Manor from end of December 2024 | [The Caerphilly Conversation](#) We appreciate the difficult financial climate for local authorities that have been caused by Tory austerity. This is, regrettably, a situation unlikely to improve anytime soon because of the current UK Government’s unwillingness to restore sufficient investment into public services. However, the proposed cuts to two landmark buildings in our county, as well as cuts to a vital service on which so many vulnerable people depend have caused us great concern. It seems many residents of the county borough share our feelings. Delyth Jewell & Peredur Owen Griffiths Aelodau o’r Senedd dros Dwyrain De Cymru — Members of the Senedd for South Wales East Senedd Cymru Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN Delyth.Jewell@senedd.cymru [senedd.cymru/DelythJewell](https://www.senedd.cymru/DelythJewell) Peredur.OwenGriffiths@senedd.cymru [senedd.cymru/PeredurOwenGriffiths](https://www.senedd.cymru/PeredurOwenGriffiths) — Welsh Parliament Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN Delyth.Jewell@senedd.wales [senedd.wales/DelythJewell](https://www.senedd.wales/DelythJewell) Peredur.OwenGriffiths@senedd.wales [senedd.wales/PeredurOwenGriffiths](https://www.senedd.wales/PeredurOwenGriffiths) 0300 200 6565 If you would like a copy of the letter we sent to the leader of the council, where we go into more detail about why we are urging them to reconsider these plans, please get in touch with our offices. Yours faithfully, Delyth Jewell AS/MS’

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: This is a County Council issue and any matters concerning Darran Valley in relation to this will be raised by Cllr R Chapman.

47.3 - Top marks for Caerphilly CBC school service

‘Caerphilly county borough council’s education service has received a glowing report following a major inspection.

Estyn, the Welsh education watchdog, carried out an in-depth inspection of the council’s education service back in June. The inspection team spent a week at the council’s HQ, interviewing a range of key stakeholders and reviewing huge amounts of data and performance information.

The subsequent inspection report, published today (Monday 2 September), includes many positive findings about all aspects of the council’s education service.

Cllr Carol Andrews, CCBC’s Cabinet Member for Education said, “We very much welcome the findings of this major inspection, and I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard to contribute to this positive outcome.



It's clear that there is an ethos of continuous improvement which has been adopted by the LEA, our schools, and our partners across the whole county borough."

The report praised the leadership of the education service and the positive relationships that have been developed, as well as the support provided to schools across the area. Safeguarding and support for pupils with additional learning needs were also identified as key strengths in the report.

"The feedback received from the Estyn team is a positive endorsement of our ambitious education strategy entitled 'pursuing excellence together' and we will now build on our successes, while addressing any areas that need strengthening."

"I would like to assure the whole community that we will continue to work collectively as Team Caerphilly to deliver the best outcomes for all our learners," added Cllr Andrews.

Caerphilly has 27,576 pupils across 86 schools, including 73 primary schools, one all-age school, 11 secondary schools, and one special school. Of these schools, 12 are Welsh-medium providers.

The full Estyn report can be found

here <https://estyn.gov.wales/app/uploads/2024/08/Inspection-report-Caerphilly-County-Borough-Council-2024.pdf>

You can watch the Estyn Report video

here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-lo_k2gO6E

48. Approval of Community Council Payments

BACS	£150	Grant for Fruity Fridays Club
BACS	£132	Deri library hire
BACS	£454	One Voice Wales annual membership fee
BACS	£15	Deri Regeneration – room hire
TOTAL	£751	

49. Bank reconciliation and budget update

Expenditure Heading	Budget	Actual
Clerks Salary & on costs Minimum wage so increased to 4,759.04	4,500	2,376
Chairpersons allowance	300	300
Out of office	250	250
Telephone & broadband	200	151.50
Room hire	200	147.00
Insurance & subscriptions	600	484.85
One Voice Wales membership	190	454
Stationery & postage	100	100
Website hosting & maintenance	840	199.62
Section 19 - 137 grants	2,000	901.50
Wind Turbine Grants	4,777	1053.49
Section 137 – OAP trip	1,400	675



Christmas lighting / panto / Santa on a fire engine	6,000	0
Audit	600	288
Cllr expenses / allowance	1,350	1050
Town & Community Councils Meeting	100	0
Summer scheme	4,500	3540.65
D Day Flags	0	2910.60
ICO Data protection	35	35
Remembrance Sunday	150	0

50. Feedback from the 2024 summer scheme

The Darran Valley Community Council children’s summer events were a huge success. The feedback received has been amazing, and the professional service, standard of play equipment and support provided exemplary. This was a wonderful opportunity for local children and their families to come together and enjoy some fun over the summer holidays, without the pressure of having to spend lots of money. The numbers of local children who attended was very high.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to write to ‘In House Entertainments’ and ‘Deri Community Centre’ thanking them for an excellent service.

Learning: The Council to book the event again form 2025. The venue should be booked 2 hours before the event begins to allow enough time for set-up.

51. Feedback from the 2024 OAP Summer bus trip to Tenby

Next year do not ask to stop in Carmarthenshire for a shopping trip as no-one wanted to get off the bus.

Cllr Jan Gibbings also received complaints about the state of the bus. The trip attendees felt really unsafe as there was a noise that sounded like something was faulty and it was extremely slow. One attendee noted there was a fault light on the dashboard.

Furthermore, the toilet on board was out of action, and there were issues with The pick-up points and times with the incorrect route being taken.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to write to the bus company citing the complaints above and the response to be discussed at the next meeting.

52. Clerk Salary

Cllr Eddy Blanche noticed the Clerk was not on the new minimum wage. This was resolved outside the meeting, and the Clerk has received a small uplift to be legally compliant. It was also back paid from April 2024, and Council will ensure they comply with any uplifts and monitor every year. The Clerk does not wish to pursue a pay rise or an annual increment and would rather the money was put into the local community.

53. Date and time of the next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 6.30 pm (Deri Library).