



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:
Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 6.30 pm (Deri Library)**

Present

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr R Chapman
Cllr D Roberts

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

54 Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

55 Declarations of interest

There were none.

56 To approve and confirm the September 2024 minutes of the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting. One error was noted:

Item 47.2 *Withdrawal of funding by Caerphilly County Borough Council for Llnacaich Fawr, Blackwood Miners Institute and Meals on Wheels.*

Correction to minutes: This is a County Council issue and the Community Council has no powers regarding this.

57 Matters arising from the September 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.

UPDATE FROM THE OCTOBER 2024 MEETING:

- The Clerk is still waiting for a reply from Elsbury regarding the LED lights for the Groesfaen Christmas tree. Cllr Mark Gibbings has been looking at options for the tree in Groesfaen.
- The Clerk informed Council that Rhymney Fire Station is unable to do 'Santa on a fire engine' this year due to staff shortages.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

The Clerk to contact Bargoed Fire Station to find out if they would consider visiting Fochriw and Deri with their Santa Sleigh instead. Cllr Mark Gibbings said if that's not a viable alternative, the Mountain Rescue Team may be able to organise something instead.

58 Planning Applications

There was one planning application. No issues or concerns were expressed. Construct a new porch to the front elevation of Ty Carreg, Bailey Street, Deri.

59 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 8 recorded crimes in Darran Valley.
Criminal damage to the wall at Deri Community Centre.
Deliberate car fire at Cwm Bargoed disposal site.



Vehicle criminal damage, Bailey Street, Deri.
Criminal damage, Brook Row, Fochriw.
Vehicle crime, Pontlottyn Road, Fochriw.
Drug offence, Brook Row, Fochriw.
A youth was causing issues at Park Cwm Darran.

60 To receive Community Council Correspondence

The Clerk contacted the bus company regarding the summer trip bus complaints. The response was discussed at the meeting, and the Clerk was actioned with responding 'we hope the same issues do not occur during the Christmas trip to Bristol'.

61. Approval of Community Council Payments

There were none.

62. Cllr Mark Gibbings – Union Jack and Welsh Flags for the Poles

Council agreed to purchase 2 x Welsh Flags and 2 x Union Jack Flags for the poles.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Clerk to order and have them delivered to Cllr M Gibbings.

63. Remembrance Sunday 2024

- The Clerk will order 2 x wreaths, and Cllr D Johnson has offered to collect.
- Cllr E Blanche will clean off the old poppies and Cllr D Johnson will put the new ones on in Fochriw. Cllr D Johnson has some spare poppies for Deri. Cllr M Gibbings will do both in Deri.
- Cllr M Gibbings has organised the ground prepping in Deri

64. Date and time of the next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7th November 2024 at 6.30 pm (Deri Library).