



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on:
Thursday 7th November 2024 at 6.30 pm (Deri Library)**

Present

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

Absent and Apologies

Cllr R Chapman
Cllr D Nicholas
Cllr T Johnson
Cllr D Roberts

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

65 Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

66 Declarations of interest

There were none.

67 To approve and confirm the October 2024 minutes of the meeting.

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

68 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 Aberbargoed 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.

UPDATE FROM THE NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING:

- The Clerk is waiting for confirmation from Aberbargoed Fire Station in regards to visits to the community centres in Deri and Fochriw on 3rd December (Santa on a sleigh). Once there is confirmation posters and other activities will be organised.
- There won't be time to arrange lights for another Christmas tree in Groesfaen. This will be discussed again at January 2025 meeting. The Clerk will obtain the costs for discussion and agreement thereafter.

60. Bus Trips

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.

UPDATE FROM THE NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING:

- The Clerk actioned this.



- Councillor J Gibbings proposed offering the Christmas trip spare seats to those living outside Darran Valley. The charge would be £10 which will go back into the Darran Valley CC account. This was approved.

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.

UPDATE FROM THE NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING: Actioned by Clerk and matter closed.

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

UPDATE FROM THE NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING: Actioned and closed.

69 Planning Applications

There were two planning applications. No issues or concerns were expressed.

Former Deri Surgery 5 Riverside Walk Deri Bargoed

Change the use of building from D1 (Medical Surgery) to C3(b) (Dwelling house) to support up to 3 adults with learning disabilities and complex needs.

Case Ref. 24/0700/HH Site Area: 1405m² Location: Ty Carreg Bailey Street Deri Bargoed CF81 9HT (UPRN 000043168910) Proposal: Construct new porch to front elevation.

70 Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update

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

Crime

September 2024 October 2024

Attempt theft Vehicle - Parc Darran Theft of Parcel – Bailey St, Deri

Theft of Parcel – Bailey St, Deri

Targeted Activity Between Monday 28th October – Thursday 31st October and Friday 1st November – Tuesday 5th November Officers were involved in proactive patrols, visiting stores that sell eggs, fireworks, and alcohol that also display our Halloween posters. Re-enforcing good practice for staff and owners around the appropriate sale and supply of these products.

Community Events in October

CSO's Pearce and Wilkins attended their Heddlu Bach session at Fochriw Primary School and helped Officers deliver #OpBang posters to their local shops to raise awareness around respectfulness and safe behaviour this Halloween/Bonfire Night.



71 To receive Community Council Correspondence

71.1

E-mail from member of the public raising the following concerns:

Customer only parking sign at Deri library.

Closure of Deri library.

Request to get footpath labelled as right of way (Deri where children and adults going to and from the school and local area walk).

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Clerk to send to Community Councillor (R Chapman). All these are County Council issues.

71.2

E-mail from Caerphilly CBC control room regarding the proposal to remove the Following cameras:

Deri

Remove 1 4G camera due to low level of incidents - 1 specific CCBC incident in 23/24.

Fochriw

Remove 1 4G camera, 1 specific CCBC incident only 23/24, part of area covered by PSBA camera.

Councillors are concerned they are considering withdrawing the two CCTV cameras in our area. The lack of incident level is proof the deterrent effect is worthwhile. The area covered by the camera in Fochriw used to be a known area where drug dealing has taken place. The camera has moved the offenders from the area. This area was also used as a compound for works being carried out in the village that suffered break-ins before the camera was installed.

In Deri there were incidents involving the memorial gardens being vandalised, and there has not been one incident since the CCTV has been installed - further evidence that they are acting as a deterrent.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Clerk to write expressing concern and requesting the cameras remain.

72.3

E-mail outlining £1.5 million Welsh Government funding for safe and warm hubs across Wales.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Clerk to forward to Councillors so they can discuss with community groups.

72.4

E-mail from 'One Voice Wales' regarding VE Day.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Move to January 2025 meeting where budget will be discussed. Ideas include sponsoring 1940's themed disco's in the community centres.

72.5

'Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 - Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2025-26

This is to notify you that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 37(4)(a) of the

Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for the financial year 2025-26 is £11.10

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to incur expenditure for purposes for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its



inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2025-26 will be £11.10 per elector. For the financial year 2025-26, the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) is calculated by applying the formula set out in Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act. The Retail Prices Index increased by 2.68% between September 2023 and September 2024. This means that, by application of the formula, the appropriate sum for the financial year 2025-26 increases from £10.81 to £11.10 per elector. For clarity, the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 includes provision which enables 'eligible community councils' to exercise the General Power of Competence. The power for Community and Town Councils to exercise the General Power of Competence came into force on 5 May 2022.

Clerks of Community and Town Councils,
Directors of Finance,
County and County Borough Councils
4 November 2024

Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru
Cathays Park / Parc Cathays,
Cardiff / Caerdydd. CF10 3NQ

The relevant statutory guidance for community and town councils explains the interaction between the two powers (i.e. the general power of competence and the power under s.137 of the 1972 Act). Community and town councils exercising the General Power of Competence are not subject to an expenditure limit, but other conditions apply. For all other community and town councils, the limit set out in this letter will apply.
Yours sincerely

Martin Bull

Local Government Finance Policy & Sustainability Division'

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

Discuss at the January 2025 meeting when budget is discussed.

73. Approval of Community Council Payments

| | | |
|-------|-----------|--|
| BACS | £508.80 | Newton Newton Flag and Banner Makers Ltd - 2 x Welsh Flags and 2 x Union Jack Fla for the poles. |
| BACS | £115.71 | SSE Energy Solutions – Christmas lights |
| BACS | £982.81 | GAVO – Wind Turbine Grant for Fochriw Old Age Association |
| TOTAL | £1,607.32 | |



73. Update on Darran Valley Community Council Grant Payments Allocated 2025-26

Wind Turbine

Darran Valley History Group £957.72 -

Fochriw Old Age Association £982.81

Total: £1,940.53

Section 137

Deri Dementia Care and Support Group £150

Deri Allotment Association £150

Fochriw Tots £150

Fochriw over 55's club £150

Fruity Fridays Club £150

Total: £750

74. Closure of Deri Library

Councillors are extremely concerned about the potential closure. The County Councillor (R Chapman) is in close discussions with Caerphilly CBC regarding this, and will provide an update as soon as there is news. In the meantime the other Councillors asked the Clerk to send a response from all Darran Valley Community Councillors expressing concern and their objection to the proposal.

75. Date and time of the next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th December 2024 at 6.30 pm (Deri Library).