



Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on
Thursday, 5th February 2026, at 6.30 pm
Meeting held online due to road closure

Attendance

Present

Cllr E Blanche
Cllr R Chapman
Cllr J Gibbings (Chaired meeting)
Cllr M Gibbings
Cllr D Nicholas
Cllr D Roberts
Cllr J Roberts

Absent - none

Apologies

Cllr D Johnson (Chair)
Cllr T Johnson

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

99 - Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

100 - Declarations of interest

There were none.

101 - To approve and confirm the January 2026 minutes of the meeting

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

102 – Matters arising from the January 2026 meeting

52 – Library Closures

At the last meeting there was some uncertainty around the legal challenge of the Deri library closure. Cllr R Chapman clarified an appeal is in progress; and the library remains open. However, there are staffing shortages caused by staff moving to other roles.

December 2025 meeting – no update to report.

January 2026 meeting - no update yet on the library legal challenge

February 2026 meeting – no update.

90.1. Invitation to Nominate a Councillor for the King's Garden Party (2026)

Clerk reported receiving an email from the County Council inviting Darran Valley Community Council to nominate one councillor (plus a guest) to attend the King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Available Dates

Councillors could be nominated for any of the following:

- Wednesday 6 May
- Friday 8 May
- Tuesday 12 May

The Council must submit a nomination by 13 February 2026.

February 2026 meeting - Clerk submitted nomination for Cllr Blanche (+ spouse).

The ballot expected end of following week; would be notified if selected.

90.2 Cleansing Visit (Caerphilly CBC)

- Council teams completed some work in Parc Cwm Darran.
- More work planned in identified areas: Bailey Street back lane, others flagged via social media.
- This is now closed.

90.3. One Voice Wales – Annual General Meeting (AGM) Representative Needed

Correspondence Received

- One Voice Wales (the national body for community councils) invited Darran Valley Community Council to send one representative to their Online AGM (Cllr Duncan Johnson).
- Meeting details:
 - Wednesday 21 January
 - 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 - Held via Zoom

February 2025 meeting - Cllr Johnson to update at next meeting.

93 – Review of 2026 Christmas events

Christmas Activities 2026 – Early Booking

- Pantomime (“Sleeping Beauty”) booked for:
Sunday 20 December 2026, 2 PM, Community Centre (set-up from 12 PM).
- Fochriw date to be confirmed at next meeting.

94 – Precept Decision 2026-27

Increase from £17,000 → £20,000 confirmed and submitted before deadline.

Justification includes rising NI costs and summer scheme expenses.

96 – CCTV in Deri

Mobile CCTV unit will be installed on the lamppost linked to Christmas lights.

This is a temporary, moveable camera but expected to help with recent vehicle crime.

97 - Storage of Darran Valley Community Council files at Parc Cwm Darran

Council must vacate storage at Parc Cwm Darran.

County council unable to provide archive space.

New storage agreed: Flying Start office, Fochriw.

Volume: 4 full filing cabinets (plus older material).

Plan:

- Councillors to meet Saturday 14 February 2026 at 10:30 AM to sort files.
- Shred confidential.
- Clerk to order sturdy archive boxes (approx. 20).
- Cabinets to be moved at a separate date.

103 -To receive Community Council Correspondence

No significant correspondence this month requiring discussion.

104- Planning Applications

Only application:

- Cwmbargoed Disposal Point; additional facilities linked to the Ffos-y-Fran reclamation scheme.
- Already discussed in previous meetings; no action required.

105 - Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update

Crime Figures

- **December:** 3 crimes
- **January:** 14 crimes
- **Increase:** +11 crimes
- Surge mainly due to **vehicle break-ins and door-checking incidents.**

Other Notes:

- Anti-social behaviour: none recorded.
- Police engaged with Fochriw Tots Playgroup on crime prevention.
- Further vehicle incidents in Darran likely to appear in next month's report as some residents did not formally report all damage.

106 - Darran Valley Community Council Payments

Approved Payments

1. £48 – Library meeting room rent
2. £52 – Pantomime hall-hire (Deri Community Centre).
3. £271.44 – Elsbury Platform
 - Included:
 - Replacement figurine hire
 - Installation/deinstallation
 - Callouts for multiple Christmas light failures in various locations
 - Concerns raised about Groesfaen light still not working; Amanda to query but invoice still approved.
4. Purchase of 20 archive boxes (~£72 total).
5. Annual insurance to be deferred until April (new financial year).

107 – Planning for Summer Events 2026

Children's Summer Scheme

- **Decision:** Reduce from 4 days to **2 days total**).
- **1 day in each village:**
 - Deri
 - Fochriw
- Continue using the same events company ("in-house entertainment").

Summer Trip

- **Destination:** Tenby or other (successful in previous year).
- **Date:** Saturday 1 August 2026
- **Bus company:** Henley's preferred.
- **Pick-ups:**
 - Deri: Bailey Arms

- Fochriw: Community Centre
- **Timing:**
 - Leave Deri: 9:00 AM
 - Leave Tenby: 4:00 PM
 - Expected return: approx. 6:30 PM
- Open to all residents; final details to follow.

108 - Date of the next meeting

- The next meeting will be on Thursday, 5th March 2026, at 6.30 pm (Deri Library).