



**Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on Thursday,
25th June 2026, at 6.30 pm
Deri Library**

Attendance

Present

Chair:

Cllr J Gibbings

Cllr M Gibbings

Cllr D Roberts

Cllr D Nicholas

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

Apologies

Cllr E Blanche - ***Councillor Blanche will be absent from Council business for an extended period due to ongoing health matters.***

Cllr D Johnson

Cllr T Johnson

Cllr R Chapman

28 - Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

29 - Declarations of interest

There were none.

30 - To approve and confirm the May (AGM) 2026 minutes of the meeting

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

31 – Matters arising from the May (AGM) 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.

March 2026 meeting – no update.

April 2026 meeting – no update

May 2026 meeting – no update

June 2026 meeting – no update

32 - To receive Community Council Correspondence

32.1 The Clerk reported correspondence received from a member of the public regarding ongoing fly tipping along Cefn Y Brithdir Road, including a recent incident near the northern barrier. Concerns were also raised regarding the damaged barriers at either end of the road, which remain open.

Resolved to recommend:

The member of the public will be advised to report the fly tipping directly to the relevant officer at Caerphilly County Borough Council, who is responsible for environmental enforcement matters.

32.2 – Councillor M Gibbings informed everyone there is a new Countryside Manager.

32.3 – A concern was raised regarding the proposed use of the former sheltered housing complex as House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) accommodation. Councillors expressed concern and wanted further clarification.

Resolved to recommend:

Discuss further at the July 2026 meeting.

33 - Planning Applications

There were none.

34 - Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update

Crime Levels

- Recorded crime in **Darran Valley** fell slightly from **11 offences in May to 10 offences in June** (-1).
- Darran Valley had the **lowest recorded crime level** of all the Rhymney ward areas during June.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- Reported ASB incidents increased from **2 in May to 3 in June** (+1).
- Despite the increase, overall ASB levels in Darran Valley remain relatively low compared with other wards.

Crime Trends and Local Concerns

- Following an increase in vehicle crime across the wider Rhymney area in May, police targeted two suspects linked to a number of offences. Both individuals have now been arrested and are on police bail, with a reduction in vehicle crime reported since their arrests.
- There continue to be concerns across nearby communities, including **Philipstown and Bryn Carno**, regarding the use of off-road bikes. Neighbourhood officers have carried out street

surgeries, door-to-door engagement and additional patrols.

- A Community Support Officer specifically assigned to **Darran Valley** is **PCSO 242 Rachel Pearce**.

Police Activity

- Police executed two drug warrants in Rhymney, resulting in:
 - Seizure of Class B drugs and cash.
 - Arrest of a local male on suspicion of possession with intent to supply drugs.
- Investigations remain ongoing into a serious incident in the Tan-y-Bryn estate, with a wanted suspect still being sought.

Overall Position for Darran Valley

- **Crime decreased slightly** during June.
- **ASB increased by one incident** but remains low overall.
- There are no major crime hotspots or significant emerging issues specifically highlighted for Darran Valley in this report.
- Police activity remains focused on reducing vehicle crime, tackling drug-related offending, addressing off-road bike nuisance, and maintaining community engagement.

Key figures for Darran Valley (June 2026):

- Recorded Crime: **10** (down from 11)
- Recorded ASB: **3** (up from 2)
- Change in Crime: **-1 offence**
- Change in ASB: **+1 incident**

35 - Darran Valley Community Council Payments

There were none.

36 – Advertising Fochriw Ward Councillor vacancy

Councillors discussed the current vacancy for the Fochriw Ward and agreed that the position should be filled by **co-option**. The Clerk was asked to advertise the vacancy and to make it clear that applicants must submit a CV, together with a statement outlining their reasons for wishing to become a Community Councillor.

37 - Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 30th July 2026, at 6.30 pm (Deri Library)