



Minutes of the meeting of Darran Valley Community Council on Thursday, 30th July 2026, at 6.30 pm Deri Library

Attendance

Present

Chair:

Cllr J Gibbings

Cllr M Gibbings

Cllr D Roberts

Cllr D Nicholas

Cllr E Blanche

Cllr D Johnson

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)

Apologies

Cllr T Johnson

Cllr R Chapman

38 - Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

39- Declarations of interest

There were none.

40- To approve and confirm the June 2026 minutes of the meeting

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

41– Matters arising from the June 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

July 2026 meeting – no update

32.3-Former Sheltered Housing Complex

A concern was raised regarding the proposed use of the former sheltered housing complex as a **House in Multiple Occupation (HMO)**. Members expressed concerns about the proposal and requested further clarification on the intended use of the site, its management arrangements, and any potential impact on the local community.

Resolved: That consideration of the matter be deferred to the **September 2026 meeting**, when **Cllr R. Chapman** is in attendance and able to provide further information and an update to Members.

42- To receive Community Council Correspondence

42.1 Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) Launch Invitation. Members were advised of an invitation from Caerphilly County Borough Council to attend the launch of the **Caerphilly Local Nature Partnership Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP)** on **20 August 2026** at **Bedwas Workmen's Hall & Institute**. The event aimed to showcase local biodiversity and nature recovery initiatives across the county borough through presentations, information stalls and networking opportunities with a range of environmental organisations. The Council noted the opportunity to learn more about local nature recovery projects and explore opportunities for partnership working and community involvement.

Resolved: That **Cllr Duncan Johnson** be nominated to attend the event on behalf of **Darran Valley Community Council**.

42.2 Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee Meetings 2027

Members were advised of the proposed Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee meeting dates for 2027 as follows:

- **8 March 2027, 6.00pm**
- **19 July 2027, 6.00pm**
- **15 November 2027, 6.00pm**

It was noted that the March meeting has been scheduled earlier than usual due to the Local Government Elections taking place in May 2027. Members were further advised that the first Town and Community Council Liaison Committee meeting of the year would be arranged for early February 2027, in advance of the March joint meeting.

42.3 Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee Representation on the Standards Committee

Members considered correspondence from **Cllr Michael Parker, Chair of the Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee (TCCLC)**, regarding Caerphilly County Borough Council's arrangements for appointing a Town and Community Council representative to the **Standards Committee**.

The correspondence outlined concerns that the nomination process undertaken by the TCCLC in March 2025, which selected a representative through a secret ballot, had subsequently been described by CCBC's Head of Legal as "flawed". It was noted that the TCCLC considers its voting arrangements to be long established and believes that Town and Community Councils should retain the right to nominate their own representative to the Standards Committee.

Members further noted that the matter is scheduled for discussion at the next meeting of the TCCLC in October 2026.

Resolved: That consideration of the matter be deferred to the **September 2026 meeting of Darran Valley Community Council**, when **Cllr R. Chapman** is in attendance and able to provide further information and updates.

43- Darran Valley Community Council Crime Update

The Police attended the meeting and provided an update on policing activity within the Darran Valley area for July 2026. Information was received from the Caerphilly North Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Members noted that **recorded crime in Darran Valley increased from 10 incidents in June 2026 to 17 incidents in July 2026**, an increase of seven offences. However, **recorded anti-social behaviour decreased from three incidents to one incident** during the same period

The Police advised that there had been an increase in deliberate grass fires across the Caerphilly North area and that officers were working closely with the Fire Service to address the issue. Concerns relating to the use of off-road bikes in neighbouring communities continued to be monitored through patrols and community engagement activities.

Members were also informed of wider policing activity undertaken during July, including drug enforcement operations, vehicle checks, road safety initiatives, and community engagement work with local schools and youth groups. The Police highlighted ongoing efforts to build positive relationships with young people through sports activities, summer programmes and educational events.

The Police further promoted the **Neighbourhood Alerts** service, which enables residents to receive

updates on local policing activity, community events and appeals for information directly from local officers.

The Police also informed Members that the gaming van booked to attend the summer events was unfortunately no longer available due to being off the road. However, officers confirmed that they would still be attending the events to provide bicycle marking and community engagement activities.

44- Darran Valley Community Council Payments

Payee	Details	Amount (£)
Audit Wales	Audit Invoice	330.00
Friends of Deri Primary School	Grant Award	150.00
Darran Valley History Group	GAVO Wind Turbine Grant	300.30
Total		780.30

Resolved: The above payments, totalling **£780.30**, were presented for approval. Following consideration, Councillors unanimously voted to authorise the payments and instructed the **Clerk** to arrange payment accordingly.

45- Planning Applications

There were none.

46- Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 10th September 2026, at 6.30 pm (Deri Library)