



Minutes of the meeting of the above Community Council
on:
Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 6.30 pm
Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr. D. Nicholas (Chair)
Cllr. E. Blanche
Cllr. D Johnson
Cllr. J. Gibbings
Cllr. M. Gibbings
Cllr. R. Chapman

Absent and Apologies

Cllr. D. Hardacre
Cllr. B. Edwards

In Attendance

Ms. A Pallister (Clerk)
PCO H Widlake from Gwent Police

121 Members of the public

No members of the public attended.

122 Declaration of interest

There were none.

123 To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2023

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

124 Matters Arising from the meeting of Council on 11th January 2023 not already included on this agenda.

094.01 – Cllr E Blanche sent an e-mail to Caerphilly CBC requesting the possibility of parking enforcement to visit the area adjacent to Fochriw football field on Saturday mornings. During match times the users of the football field are constantly parking on the pavement forcing residents to walk on the road. The



road is fast moving with a bend and Cllr Blanche feels it is a matter of time before an incident occurs.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr R Chapman was in attendance and has already raised this with Caerphilly CBC but will raise it again. Cllr R Chapman to provide an update at the next meeting.

Update from January 2023 meeting – Cllr E Blanche raised the issues but hasn't heard back yet. Cllr D Nicholas reminded all that this is County Council issue to resolve.

Update from February 2023 meeting – Cllr R Chapman has spoken to road enforcement at Caerphilly CBC asking for signs to be erected asking people not to park in front of the fields and to only park in the allocated parking spaces. Cllr R Chapman added that the traffic management team will also visit the area as well.

125 **Crime Update**

PCO H Widlake from Gwent Police provided a verbal update:

- There were 19 incidents in the Darran Valley area - these mostly included criminal damage and public order offences. Some local males were arrested, and an investigation is on-going.
- There was theft of a high value off road bike in Groesfaen.
- Two antisocial behaviour orders including youths knocking on doors and running away (they have been spoken to by the Police). The other was an on-going neighbourhood dispute.
- A woman was involved in a road traffic collision, and two vehicles were seized for having no insurance.
- Police are undertaking extra patrols in the area in relation to the above incidents.
- Cllr D Nicholas raised the issue of damage to the war memorial in Deri. The issues seem to take place on the same evening as the youth club. PCO Widlake was aware of the reported incidents, and the Police have been liaising with the local wardens who take the lead on anti-social behaviour, and there have also been extra patrols in the area. Cllr E Blanche has a contact who has a network of CCTV to monitor fly tipping and offered to ask if they would consider installing one near the memorial in Deri. Cllr Blanche said it would be an estimated cost of £250 and the Deri Regeneration Group who maintain the memorial could fund it by applying for a grant. Cllr D Nicholas asked the PCO if they would be in agreement with the CCTV, and he said it was a good idea as the Police can't be everywhere and this would be a good deterrent.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllr Blanche will discuss the CCTV with his contact and report back at the next meeting.



126 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

127 To receive Community Council Correspondence

127.01 – The Clerk received an e-mail from One Voice Wales regarding the Kings Coronation. The King will give two Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace this year on Wednesday 3rd May and Tuesday 9th May to celebrate the Coronation and are asking for Councillor nominations. (The successful Councillor will be allocated one of these dates so they must be available for both).

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk will submit nominations on behalf of Darran Valley Community Council. All nominations will be placed in a draw and only the councils who have been successful will be notified.

127.02 - 'Dear Colleagues,

Following a meeting of Cabinet on Wednesday, we have launched our far-reaching consultation on the council's draft budget proposals for 2023/24. We are encouraging as many people as possible to have their say and help shape the way the council delivers its services in future.

The consultation will run until Wednesday 8th February and will involve a range of face-to-face and digital engagement opportunities.

A dedicated webpage with detailed information about the budget proposals and the online survey itself can be found here: www.caerphilly.gov.uk/caerphillyconversation and www.caerffili.gov.uk/trafodaethcaerffili. Hard copies will also be available from Caerphilly county borough libraries for those without access to a computer.

A series of face-to-face engagement sessions are also planned, where residents can call in for a chat with council staff, as well as a number of online sessions where people can do the same.'

127.03 – One Voice Wales sent the Clerk details of a not-for-profit energy broker that may help local residents.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Clerk to post on Council website.

127.04 – The Caerphilly Observer e-mailed asking Council for their opinions on the Dwr Cymru work that has now resumed in Deri and is due to be finished by summer 2023. Cllr D Nicholas replied explaining that road closures always cause issues for the community, and it is hoped they will utilise traffic lights instead to keep disruption to a minimum. Cllr D Nicholas also added that the work being carried out is essential.



128 Approval of Community Council Payments

The following payments were approved.

On-line BACS	£150.00	Councillor expenses: Cllr Jan Gibbings
On-line BACS	£150.00	Councillor expenses: Cllr Mark Gibbings
Total	£300	

129 Wind Turbine Funding financial allocation and control

Cllr E Blanche requested a discussion regarding the administration of the wind turbine grant funding. Cllr Blanche was concerned the time and difficulties of completing the form was preventing some organisations from applying. Cllr Blanche also wanted to check if any surplus grant funding could be utilised by this council if there is a shortfall for a particular use.

Cllr J Gibbings said there has recently been meetings where GAVO have been extremely helpful and have assisted organisations with completing the form. Councillors were keen to continue with GAVO administering all the funds, as it adds a layer of accountability, impartiality and safeguarding to the application process.

130 Communication outside meetings – protocol reminder

Cllr D Nicholas wanted to remind Councillors about communication protocol outside meetings and referenced the Welsh Government 'Good Councillor Guide'. The Chair (Cllr D Nicholas also asked the Clerk to obtain hard copies for all Councillors). The Chair requested other Councillors do not contact the Clerk outside meetings unless clarification is needed on a decision made at meetings. The Chair would also like any contact made outside the meetings with the Clerk to include the Chair and other Councillors. Cllr D Nicholas added that it's a pleasure be chair of this community council as all councillors conduct themselves in a respectful manner and act on the best interests of the local community.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: The Clerk to obtain hard copies of the 'Good Councillors Guide'.

131 Kings Coronation

Cllr E Blanche wants to ensure there is sufficient lead in time to organise any events for the Kings Coronation and to make sure there are robust procedures to avoid the issues we had with the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: This item will be moved to the March meeting where the Clerk will present an up-to-date financial forecast.



- 132 Allocation of Councillor expenses for newly appointed Councillors**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Cllrs J and M Gibbings to send bank details to the Clerk if they wish to take the £150 expense for the financial year 2022-23.
- 133 Issues with Post Offices in Deri and Fochriw**
Cllr D Johnson re-assured Council that Fochriw Post Office is staying open. Cllr D Nicholas was pleased as a lot of residents from Deri are now using the Fochriw Post Office and have reported an excellent service since the one in Deri closed.
- 134 Re-opening of smaller grant for benefit of the community**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Council discussed the re-opening of the grants for the rest of this financial year until the allocated budget is spent. Currently only £900 of the £2000 budgeted has been used. Councillors to make local organisations aware, and the Clerk will advertise on the website.
- 135 Meeting locations following an offer from Deri Community Centre**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: An offer has been made to hold some of the Council meetings at Deri Community Centre. Council have been very grateful to Fochriw Community Centre for allowing Council to hold their meetings there since the problems with Parc Cwm Darran. Council voted to continue at Fochriw Community Centre as they have a lower rental until the issues at Parc Cwm Darran are resolved.
- 136 Date and time of the next meeting:**
Microsoft Teams – 16th March 2023 at 6.30 pm.