



stdonatscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID MEETING

**Held at The Meeting Room, Atlantic College, St Donats
on 3rd September 2025 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Chairperson: Councillor Gareth Halliwell.
Councillors: Byron Cole, Jasper Copeland Roberts, Tony Evans, Mary Jeffreys,
Tom Partridge and Jayne Thomas.

In Attendance: Jackie Griffin, Clerk.
Vale Councillor Carys Stallard.
PC Jamie Williamson.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence.
Councillor Dave Johnston.
Vale Councillor Jo Protheroe.

Item 2: To receive declarations of interest and the nature of such interests under the Council's Code of Conduct.
None declared.

Item 3: Police Report.
3.1 PC Williamson gave details on recent incidents recorded since the last meeting of the Community Council:

- St Donats – three crimes including a dangerous dog and hare coursing.
- Marcross – three crimes including hare coursing; public order offence/a stalking incident and complaints of noisy dogs.
- Monknash – two crimes including indecent exposure and the theft of a mobile phone from a motor vehicle.

3.2 To discuss incidents of 'poaching' in the area.
It was confirmed that those carrying out poaching activities are travelling into the area. South Wales Police have budgeted for extra patrols to attempt to apprehend the culprits. PC Williamson encouraged those witnessing such activity to report to the Police via 999 at the time and urged people not to approach those carrying out poaching activities or other suspicious incidents.

Item 4: To approve the minutes of the Meeting held 2nd July 2025.
Proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Copeland Roberts
and **resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held 2nd July 2025 be approved.
Councillor Halliwell signed the minutes.

Chairperson's Initials.....

Item 5: Matters arising from the minutes, which are not included in this agenda.

No matters arising.

Item 6: Report from the Vale of Glamorgan Councillor/s.

Councillor Stallard reported that some funding has been allocated to the Wick Food Hub which will enable the initiative to run until January.

Item 7: Clerk's Report to include the Financial Report.

7.1 Finance Report.

Bank Account Balance - £4,104.77.

Payments made since the last meeting:

Clerk's Salary (July and August £224.24 x 2) - £448.48;

HMRC (Tax for July and August £56 x 2) - £112.00.

Lloyds Bank (monthly fee service charge x 2 for Community accounts) - £10.00.

Payments due to be made:

Clerk's Salary (September) - £224.24;

HMRC (Tax for September) - £56.00;

J Griffin (Reimbursement for purchase of Electrode Pads for defibrillator) - £72.19.

Proposed by Councillor Halliwell, seconded by Councillor Evans and **resolved** that all payments due be made.

Receipts:

Second Precept Payment for 2025/2026 received via Vale of Glamorgan Council - £1,728.00.

7.2 Administrative Items.

- (i) For 2024/2025 the Community Council is subject to a full audit which means all finance documents must be submitted to Audit Wales for inspection. The file was required by 7th August and was delivered to Audit Wales in Cardiff on 29th July.
- (ii) The Clerk has contacted United World College to request internet access during meetings of the Community Council and is awaiting a response.
- (iii) It was reported that there will be an attendance by a Representative of the Standards Committee sometime during the year, quite possibly via Zoom. Due to currently unknown situation with regard to internet access at the College site it might be wise to hold the meeting over 'Zoom' for all participants.
- (iv) The Clerk advised that she would be away from home from 12th to 19th September but would have access to the Community Council's e-mails so contact can be made.
- (v) An e-mail invitation had been sent out to Community Councils in the Western Vale, to advise of a meeting to be held at the Town Hall, Cowbridge, hosted by Cowbridge Town Council. The invitation was for the Clerk and one Councillor to attend on Friday 12th September at 11am. The Clerk had already advised that she would be unable to attend but asked if any Councillor would like to represent the Council at the meeting. Councillor Halliwell agreed to the request and the Clerk confirmed that she would acknowledge the invitation and advise that Councillor Halliwell would be attending.

Item 8: To receive and approve the draft Annual Report for 2024/2025.

The Clerk circulated a copy of the draft Annual Report to all the Members and thanked Councillor Halliwell for proof reading the documents and suggesting a number of improvements to the content.

Proposed by Councillor Halliwell, seconded by Councillor Evans and **resolved** that the report be approved and loaded onto the website.

Item 9: To report any update on Channel View, Marcross – Sewer.

A meeting was held on 2nd September with some residents of Channel View and three Officers of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Vale Councillor Stallard was in attendance and was thanked for organising the meeting. Options were discussed including a communal treatment plant which would be very expensive but the Officers were more in favour of individual plants for each property. The Vale Council would pay for the properties owned by the Council with the private homes paying for their own treatment plants.

It was evident that many people are not happy with the length of time being taken to solve the problem. The Vale Council Officer will write to individual residents following the meeting with their preferred proposal and deal with their respective financial implications on an individual and private basis. They will also discuss options with the Planning Authority regarding suitability of suggested drain routes.

Item 10: Planning Matters.

No items.

Item 11: To report on 27th July's 'Litter Pick'.

The Clerk reported that a very successful litter pick was held on 27th July. Over two hours, seven people, which included some Councillors and family and friends covered Splott Lane up to the notice board in St Donats had collected 10 bags of litter.

Elin Burgess of 'Keep Wales Tidy' was on hand to assist and gave a health and safety briefing before the event and provided all necessary equipment. Following the litter pick, tea, coffee and cake were enjoyed back at Splott Farm.

Following the litter pick, seven people were signed up as 'Litter Champions' on 7th August.

On 26th August, the Clerk with a friend, did a small litter pick from the notice board in St Donats along the road towards Marcross and up to the 'School House'. Two bags of litter were collected in just over an hour.

Further litter picks are to be arranged soon.

Item 12: To discuss 'Japanese Knotweed' in the Community Council's area.

Councillor Copeland Roberts had requested that this item be listed on the agenda. Concerns were raised at the amount of Japanese Knotweed in the Community Council's area. It was confirmed that the eradication of this plant is the responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Members discussed areas where it is thriving and agreed to draw up lists to bring to October's meeting for the Clerk to pass onto the Vale Council.

Item 13: To discuss the required maintenance of the hedgerow on the roadside footpath from St Donats to Marcross.

Councillor Evans had requested that this item be listed on the agenda. Bramble growth is overhanging the pavement resulting in people walking in the road instead. It was stated that the cutting back is the responsibility of the landowner, but Councillor Stallard agreed to ask the Vale Council to act in order to get the bramble growth cut back.

Item 14: To receive an update from Atlantic College.

Councillor Partridge reported on recent activity at the College:

- Students had returned on the Bank Holiday weekend.
- The Summer activities laid on at the College had been very successful with approximately 2,000 participating.
- A Concert was held at the end of the activities which was well received.
- Safety briefings had taken place.
- Councillor Partridge advised he would arrange Wi-Fi connectivity for the Clerk's use at the meetings which would enable anyone wishing to attend virtually would be able to do so.

Item 15: Reports of Representatives.

15.1 A meeting of the 'Friends of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast' had been held on 26th July but Councillor Thomas had given apologies being unable to attend. A 50th Anniversary Event is to be held sometime during the year.

15.2 Councillor Halliwell advised that he had attended a meeting of One Voice Wales Local Committee on 21st July at which the following items were discussed:

- Councillor Stallard had given a presentation on the 'Friends of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Committee'.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Community Liaison Committee's meetings where the meeting platform is extremely temperamental resulting in very disruptive meetings. Furthermore, it was reported that the 'culture' of the meetings needs to change with more time given to Community Councils to raise items.
- A discussion took place on the recent boundary reviews.

The draft minutes had already been circulated by the Clerk and are noted in the additional correspondence item at item 19.2.

Item 16: To further discuss the siting of a defibrillator in Monkash.

Members discussed the siting of a defibrillator in Monkash and agreed that the best location is close to the 'Plough and Harrow', possibly on the wall where the Council's noticeboard is sited. A discussion is needed between the owner of the property and Councillors Halliwell and Jeffreys; Councillor Jeffreys to organise a mutually convenient time. Electricity to the cabinet will be required although a solar option for heating the cabinet might be a good alternative, Clerk to investigate costs.

Item 17: To discuss a request for a 'dog poo' bin adjacent to the Playing Field in St Donats.

Councillor Thomas had requested that this item be listed on the agenda and had provided photographic evidence of the 'mess' over the Bank Holiday weekend where the bin was overflowing and 'dog mess bags' were left around the bin. It was

confirmed that the Vale Council do not provide dog mess bins, but clearly a solution is required with such a busy area as the bin is in the playing field and adjacent to the Coastal Footpath. As a consequence, the bin needs to be emptied more regularly. Councillor Stallard agreed to report to the Vale Council.

Item 18: To further discuss concerns regarding the Horseshoes, Marcross.

There has been no further activity at the Horseshoes and it is unclear what is likely to happen. Concern was expressed at the possible loss of the facility and a campaign may be required to progress matters. It was agreed to canvass residents for their opinions on the future of the Horseshoes. Councillor Stallard agreed to approach an Officer at the Vale Council for advice on what could be done to support attempts to save the public house and the best and most effective way of undertaking such a canvass of the local residents e.g. signed petition, checklist, questionnaire etc.

Item 19: Correspondence and Publications which do not necessarily require discussion i.e. for noting only.

- 19.1 VGC (Vale of Glamorgan Council) – Business Support Newsletters 8th and 22nd August 2025.
- 19.2 OVW (One Voice Wales) – Draft Minutes for One Voice Wales Bridgend, Cardiff and the Vale Area Committee meeting - 21st July 2025.
- 19.3 Planning Aid Wales Newsletter, August 2025.
- 19.4 GVS (Glamorgan Voluntary Services) – Health, Social Care and Wellbeing ebulletin 15.8.2025 and also GVS News: Latest Third Sector Updates and Opportunities – 22.8.2025.
- 19.5 Via OVW – Welsh Government Consultation on extending the duty on local authorities to broadcast meetings.
- 19.6 OVW – Training courses and dates – September to December 2025.

All items noted.

Councillor Partridge advised Members that he would be resigning from the Community Council following this meeting as he is leaving the area. The Chairman formally acknowledged and thanked Tom for his Council contribution and for creating a very effective and useful communication link with the College staff and students during his tenure at the College. Members were saddened at the resignation but thanked Councillor Partridge for his very significant contribution to the work of the Community Council and for being a very supportive link with Atlantic College. Councillor Partridge will be missed by all the Councillors and the Clerk.

Item 20: Date of the next Meeting – Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 7.00pm.

..... Chairperson.
Date : 1st October 2025.