

No.

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 30th January, 2025.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor R.M. Birch (Chair); Councillor M.R. Wilson (Vice-Chair); Councillors A. Asbrey, C.A. Cave, W. Gilligan, S. Haines, S.M. Hanks, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson, S.D. Perkes and R.R. Thomas.

Representing Town and Community Councils: S. Hodges (Barry Town Council), M. Wilson (Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council) (Substitute), M. Cuddy (Penarth Town Council), C. Hadley (Colwinston Community Council), M. Phillips (Dinas Powys Community Council) (Substitute), J. Pegg (Ewenny Community Council) (Substitute), Dr. M. Misra (Llandough Community Council) (Substitute), J. Shaw (Llandow Community Council), L. Green (Llanmaes Community Council) (Substitute), P. Summers (Penllyn Community Council) (Substitute), S.M. Toker (St Athan Community Council), I. Perry (St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council), N. Parry (Sully and Lavernock Community Council), C. Hawkins (Wick Community Council).

Also present: Councillors W.A. Hennessy and Dr. I.J. Johnson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors S. Campbell and H.M. Payne and Councillors J. Andrew (Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council), G. Thomas and W. Norman (Llantwit Major Town Council), K. Hatton (Dinas Powys Community Council), J. Radcliffe (Ewenny Community Council), S. Jefferies (Llandough Community Council), M. Narusberg (Llanmaes Community Council), S. Howells (Penllyn Community Council), A. Parry (St. Brides Community Council), A. Cory (St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council) and N. Bosworth (Welsh St. Donats Community Council).

MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October, 2024 be approved as a correct record, subject to apologies also being noted from Councillor S. Bonnar, Llanfair Community Council.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

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SOUTH WALES POLICE SERVICE – VERBAL UPDATE –

Inspector Childs apprised the Committee on the following community initiatives and policing matters for the Vale of Glamorgan area since their last update provided to the Committee in October 2024 as follows:

- The Service was monitoring incidents of community tension in both the St. Athan and Llantwit Major areas. The East Camp area of St. Athans was proposed to house displaced Afghanistan Nationals and the Eagleswell site in Llantwit Major was housing some Ukrainian Nationals at the site. There had been limited incidents concerning the residents at the sites, and no incidents of disorder, but there had been some low-level protests and drone activity from protesters in the areas that the Service was monitoring closely both on foot and via social media to avoid escalation. A community meeting in relation to the extension of the St. Athan site was scheduled for 6th February, at the Gathering Place community space, that the Inspector would be attending.
- Following a serious assault against a 12 year old girl, by two minors aged 13 and 15, the Service was working with Headteachers of the schools that the individuals attended to support teaching staff with appropriate preventative work. The two offenders were quickly brought into custody, charged, and later bailed with the investigation ongoing.
- A Section 18 GBH incident involving a weapon had taken place in the Barry area in December 2024, as a result of a drug feud, and was caught on CCTV. The offender had been caught, charged, and remained in custody pending further investigation.
- Officers had recently arrested an individual from London who was stealing cooking oil from a pub in the St. Brides Major area for sale on the open market, demonstrating good proactive police work through identifying the vehicles involved.
- Following a raid in January 2025, an individual had been arrested in the Penarth area for possession of, and trying to conceal, a large amount of cocaine, with sentencing due imminently.
- There had been a recent spike in auto related crime, especially in the Barry area, but two individuals were now in custody and the Service was expecting the related crime figures to decrease as a result.
- Officers had been supporting farmers during the autumn months to combat instances of lamping and trespassing involving persons from the traveling fraternity. Operation Waxbry looked to reduce incidents of damage to land and livestock as well as threatening violence towards farmers. Officers had been successful in seizing a number of vehicles involved which had reduced the number of problems significantly.

Following the Inspector's verbal update, the Vice-Chair echoed comments also raised by the Chair in relation to members of the public appreciating being able to see Police officers on the ground and undertaking work within their community and thanked the Inspector for an interesting update. The Vice-Chair was also grateful to be in receipt of information via their role as a Penarth Town Councillor and suggested that the update provided by the Inspector also be forwarded to all Town

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and Community Councillors, especially in the Western Vale areas, who would find the information very helpful.

Councillor N. Hodges then queried whether any further information was available in relation to the egging of buildings on Holton Road in Barry which had caused quite a bit of concern. In response, the Inspector advised that he did not have any particular information to share at the meeting, however, in relation to anti-social behaviour in the Holton Road area, this was an area that was patrolled regularly and some of the young persons who would regularly cause a nuisance were known to local officers.

Councillor S. Hanks then referred to the noise pollution issue of cars racing up and down the northern access road and asked the Inspector whether it was also an issue in other parts of the Vale. The Councillor added that the loud noise could be quite intimidating for elderly people living on their own and was also pretty dangerous for other drivers who may get caught up in speeding vehicles. In reply, the Inspector advised that the service did respond to incidents of speeding on occasions at various times across the wider roads of the Vale of Glamorgan, however in comparison to other areas of South Wales, instances in the Vale of Glamorgan were considered minor, but it was something that the Service was monitoring. For context, the Inspector also advised that road traffic collisions were under the authority of the Road Traffic Policing teams, however, they themselves were informed of any accidents that included fatalities. The Road Traffic teams undertake speed awareness operations and would target particular areas which had reoccurring issues or problematic traffic congestion.

The representative for Dinas Powys Community Council then queried what had happened to the PCSOs who were supposed to be allocated to the Dinas Powys area as the Community Council had received comments from its constituents that they had not seen PCSOs in the area. In response, the Inspector advised that there were PCSOs stationed to the area which covered all of the Dinas Powys area as well as Penarth and the Lavernock wider area and they would check in with the relevant PCSOs following the meeting to ensure that they were visiting the area more regularly. In addition, the Inspector requested that the Community Council bring to his attention any issues that the Community Council felt needed investigating. As a supplementary question, the Dinas Powys representative then requested a further update in relation to the recent vehicle arson attacks in the Dinas Powys area. In reply, the Inspector declined to reply on the topic at the time of the meeting due to the instances relating to a live/ongoing investigation and therefore it would be inappropriate for him to discuss in the public forum.

The representative for Penllyn Community Council then thanked the Inspector for bringing to the attention of the Committee the issues being experienced by the farming communities in the Western Vale and thanked officers for the efforts that were being made to tackle instances of lamping. Councillor Summers also echoed the Vice-Chair's comments in relation to the importance of PCSOs being visible within the community as well as at Council meetings and thanked the Inspector for his regular reports as part of the Committee agenda. The Inspector thanked Councillor Summers for his remarks and advised that recruitment of PCSOs were underway at the time of the meeting and would make sure that PCSOs were proactive in attending Council meetings.

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In response to a point of clarification from Councillor Haines, the Inspector advised that his reference to drones being used in the St. Athan area were not related to drones flying over military sites in the area but rather operated by protesters at specific domestic sites. However, officers had dealt with the matter very quickly and there had been no further escalation that the Inspector was aware of.

The representative for St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council then expressed his concerns over residents causing obstruction on the footpaths by parking two wheels of their vehicles on the footway which then made accessibility of the footway very difficult for certain individuals. After seeking clarification from Councillor Perry as to where the instances were taking place, the Inspector acknowledged that an increase in vehicles and pathway parking at school drop off and collection times was a regular occurrence across all schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. Officers would not be in a position to patrol every school at each drop off and collection time, however they would provide information to the Headteacher at the school in encouraging road safety around the school vicinity, and it would also be possible to place PCSOs in a particular vicinity to try and stop people from parking where it was deemed to be causing an obstruction or creating a hazard for other. The key was increasing awareness for parents and asking them to park and behave more responsibly and possibly a further distance away from the school to ease congestion. The Inspector was not aware of any highways matters for schools specific to the St. Nicholas and Bonvilston area, but this was under the authority of the Road Traffic Policing team.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Inspector Childs be thanked for their time and verbal update.

SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – VERBAL UPDATE –

The Committee were introduced to the recently appointed Group Manager for the Service, Mr. Martin O’Keefe, who was taking over the position of the Fire Service Representative on the Committee from Mr. John Treherne. As a result, the Chair extended a warm welcome to Mr. O’Keefe and took the opportunity to thank Mr. Treherne for all his contributions to the Committee to date.

The Group Manager then apprised the Committee on the following matters in relation to the Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan areas since the last update that had been provided to the Committee in October 2024 as follows:

- During the current financial year, the Service had attended: 259 fire related incidents, 79 of which were in quarter three which was an 8% increase over the same period in the last financial year. There were 106 accidental non-domestic fires which largely consisted of accidental grass and refuge fires, which was a decrease of 17% from the previous financial year. Grass fires had decreased by 63% compared to the same period last year which was likely to be contributed to the wet summer. 36 accidental domestic fires were attended, which was a positive decrease of 14%. 59% of these were fires

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started within the kitchen area, with cooking the most common cause, which accounted for 35% of all accidental domestic dwelling fires.

- The Service had undertaken a large amount of community safety work trying to educate young people on sighting arson boards and working with partner agencies, Local Authorities, and Police forces to try and reduce arson related fires, which had seen some positive impacts.
- The Service had seen a decrease in the number of lithium-ion battery fires it had attended in the current financial year, from 15 to 9, which was really positive particularly as this was an emerging technology and continued to be an emerging risk.
- The Community Safety teams continued to undertake home fire safety checks and fit smoke alarms and give people general fire safety advice. Data indicated the importance of these measures with 45% of all accidental dwelling fires where an alarm system was present requiring no firefighting action from the Service.
- The Service had seen quite a significant increase in the number of deliberate fires across the area with 153 deliberate fires attended, which was a 37% increase. Intervention work had taken place in schools to try and reduce the significant increase in deliberate refuse fires. 88% of deliberate refuse fires consisted of loose refuse, whilst 20% aligned to fly tipping.
- The largest area of concern for the Service currently was vehicle arsons with links to anti-social behaviour, 133% increase compared to the same quarter in the last financial year.
- The service had attended 76 road traffic collisions within the Vale of Glamorgan area during the financial year, 26 of which occurred during quarter three, which was a 17% increase over the previous financial year.
- There had been 17% increase in the number of special service calls with water rescues increasing by 34%. A large number of these were related to persons in distress either threatening or attempting to enter the water or deliberately entering the water.
- Quarter 3 had been a particularly interesting and busy period for the Service since the appointment of the new Chief Fire Officer, Air Vice Marshall Finn Monahan, and recent inspection by His Majesty's Fire and Rescue Inspectorate.

Following the Group Manager's verbal update, the representative for Dinas Powys Community Council referred to a house fire incident in the Dinas Powys area on 7th January and advised that there were some concerning reports following the incident that the Fire and Rescue Teams in attendance had difficulty getting water from hydrants. . The representative also commended the prompt action of the Fire officers which meant that neighbouring properties were not adversely affected by the fire and the response time was incredibly quick. In response, the Group Manager advised that response vehicles carried 1,700 litres of water and the Service crews also had a number of other water source options available to them. If a hydrant was seen to be unusable then this would be reported straight away and the hydrant reinstated. The Group Manager was unaware of the exact incident however would be happy to discuss the matter further with the representative following the meeting.

The Vice-Chair then asked after any updates in relation to the development of Penarth Fire Station, to which, the Group Manager advised that the Service had now

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identified an alternative and temporary site for the Service crew to decant to whilst the original Station was undergoing building works, and it was believed that the start date for works was due imminently. The Group Manager also added that he was aware of some local concerns around the development of the Station and what infrastructure the Station would hold but confirmed that there were currently no plans to change the crew model at the Station or add additional appliances on site.

Councillor Wilson then referred to the serious fires that had been taking place in Los Angeles, America, and how one of the issues for the relevant Fire Safety crews was hydrants not working or being inaccessible. Therefore, queried how often the hydrants in the Vale of Glamorgan area were checked for physical defects as well as unit pressure. The Group Manager confirmed that the Service had hydrant inspectors who would physically attend and check hydrants to ensure that the correct pressure and flow of the hydrants was operational. Whilst hydrants were important for the Service in their response efforts, the Service also had other contingency measure which could be used if required. As a follow-up point, the Vice-Chair asked if the Group Manager could kindly share the temporary relocation details of Penarth Fire Station with the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer for sharing with all Committee Members, to which the Group Manager was happy to oblige.

In response to a request for the figures relating to the number of individuals who had engaged with Road Traffic Awareness courses offered by the Service, the Group Manager advised that they did not have the figures at the time of the meeting but would certainly share them with the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer after the fact for the Committee's information.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Group Manager O'Keefe be thanked for their time and verbal update.

NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD (CX) –

The Director of Corporate Resources advised that the report presented was a follow-up report to the version of the report originally presented to the Committee at its October meeting. The report sought a representative of Town and Community Councils (TCCs) to join the Public Services Board (PSB) in line with the statutory guidance for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which would continue the involvement of TCCs in the work of the PSB and the effective dialogue that had been established between TCCs.

At the meeting in October the Committee recommended that a request be sent to the PSB, that two representatives of TCCs be appointed to the Board, one representative for Town Councils and one representative for Community Councils, and that Councillor S. Hodges (Barry Town Council) continue to represent TCCs on the PSB until such time that the Committee's request be responded to.

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The Director advised that in December 2024, the PSB considered the request by the Committee for there to be two representatives. Following discussion, it was agreed that for parity with other representation on the Board (for example, the third sector) the invitation would be confirmed as being for one representative from the TCC sector to sit on the PSB. It was also recognised that the PSB/TCC exchange meetings also provided an opportunity for the sector to participate in the work of the PSB and to discuss relevant issues. Therefore, the Committee was requested to appoint one representative to sit on the PSB for a period of up to two years. If, as discussed at the Community Liaison Committee meeting in October, the Committee wished to consider a shorter term, then the PSB was content for the Committee to appoint for less than two years.

Following the Director's presentation of the report, Councillor Cave reiterated their point previously made in that it would be beneficial for the representative seat to rotate between Town and Community Councils, and, in the interest of fairness, it would be logical if the next representative was an individual from a Community Council.

The Chair then called a vote in relation to rotating the single TCC representative position on a two-yearly basis between Town and Community sized Councils, as moved by Councillor Cave and seconded by the Chair.

With the Motion carried, and the remit of the TCC representative position confirmed, the Chair asked for nominations, to which Councillor S. Hodges from Barry Town Council and Councillor C. Hadley from Colwinston Community Council were nominated. A nomination was also posed for Councillor C. Hawkins from Wick Community Council; however, this was subsequently withdrawn by Councillor Hawkins.

With both nominations seconded, the Chair took both nominations to an Elected Member vote with a show of hands also received from TCC representatives on the Committee beforehand. Councillor C. Hadley from Colwinston Community Council was duly appointed as the TCC representative on the PSB for a period of two years to January 2027.

The Chair then posed two further recommendations for the Committee's consideration, the first being that the appointed representative share PSB meeting agendas with all TCC Clerks where possible for comment in advance of PSB meetings and that the representative provide a verbal update on previously held PSB meetings at subsequent meetings of the Committee as a standard agenda item. Both recommendations were subsequently seconded and carried by no dissent.

In response to a suggestion raised by the representative for St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council in relation to also having regular updates from the Welsh Ambulance Service at future Committee meetings, the Chair suggested that enquiries be made via the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer as to the extent to which the Service would be able to commit to attending Committee meetings.

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Councillor Hodges also requested that, if individuals were nominating a representative in future, that the individual obtain the nominees agreement in advance.

In conclusion, the representative for Penarth Town Council, in their previous capacity as the PSB representative for the Committee, advised that it was essential that the PSB engage further with TCCs, especially in relation to the priorities set out in the PSB work plan. In response, the Director of Corporate Performance offered to relay Councillor Cuddy's comments to the PSB.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED –

- (1) T H A T the single Town and Community Council Representative position on the Public Service Board be rotated on a two-yearly basis between Town and Community sized Councils.
- (2) T H A T the appointed Town and Community Council Representative on the Public Service Board share Public Service Board meeting agendas with all Town and Community Council Clerks where possible for comment in advance of Public Service Board meetings.
- (3) T H A T the appointed Town and Community Council Representative on the Public Service Board provide a verbal update on previously held Public Service Board Meetings at subsequent meetings of the Community Liaison Committee as a standard agenda item.
- (4) T H A T Councillor Carl Hadley from Colwinston Community Council be appointed as the Town and Community Council Representative on the Public Services Board, for a period two years, to January 2027.

Reason for decisions

- (1) To ensure that representation reflected the varied compositions of Town and Community Councils within the Vale of Glamorgan area, resulting in nominations being sought from Town Councils only for the period January 2027 to January 2029 followed by Community Councils only for the period January 2029 to January 2031.
- (2) To provide all Town and Community Councils with the opportunity to pass comments to the Representative in advance of Public Service Board meetings.
- (3) To ensure that the Committee was kept informed of Town and Community Council input and representation at Public Service Board meetings.
- (4) To enable a representative from Town and Community Councils to be appointed to the Public Service Board to ensure effective engagement with Town and Community Councils and adhere to the Statutory Guidance for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.