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MINUTES OF THE HYBRID MEETING
Held at The Meeting Room, Atlantic College, St Donats
on 7th January 2026 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairperson: Councillor Dave Johnston
Councillors: Byron Cole, Jasper Copeland Roberts, Tony Evans, Mary Jeffreys and Jayne Thomas.

In Attendance: Jackie Griffin, Clerk.
PC Freya Brice.
Ms Sam Willis, Head of Residential Life at Atlantic College.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence.
Councillor Gareth Halliwell.
Vale Councillors Jo Protheroe and Carys Stallard.

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

Item 3: Police Report.
PC Brice advised there had been a report of 'hare coursing' on Splott Lane.

- St Donats - a recent burglary at St Donats. Police hope to obtain identification. Victim very pleased with police response.

PC Brice has taken over from PC Williamson and would supply contact details to Members.

Item 4: To approve the minutes of the Meeting held 3rd December 2025.
Proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Cole and **resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held 3rd December 2025 be approved.
Councillor Johnston signed the minutes.

Item 5: Matters arising from the minutes, which are not included in this agenda.
Item 11 – Japanese Knotweed – Councillor Copeland Roberts enquired if there was an acceptance by the Vale Council that they are responsible for the disputed area.
Clerk to ask Vale Councillors for any update if available.

Item 6: Report from the Vale of Glamorgan Councillors.

No report available.

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

7.1 Finance Report.

Bank Account Balance - £4,341.90

Payments made since the last meeting:

Clerk's Salary (December) - £224.24:

HMRC (Tax for December) - £56.00.

Lloyds Bank (monthly fee service charge for Community account) - £4.25;

Valeways (Grant Aid Payment) - £100.00;

Wales Air Ambulance (Grant Aid Payment) - £100.00.

Payments due to be made:

Clerk's Salary (January) - £224.24;

HMRC (Tax for January) - £56.00.

Proposed by Councillor Jeffreys, seconded by Councillor Cole and **resolved** that all payments due be made.

Receipts: Third Precept payment for 2025/2026 - £1,727.00.

7.2 Administrative Items.

One Voice Wales AGM – 21st January, 6-8pm. A representative has been requested to attend the meeting which is to be held via zoom. Councillor Copeland Roberts agreed to attend.

7.3 Wales Air Ambulance – Letter of appreciation for the grant made by the Community Council.

Item 8: To discuss Budget and set Precept for 2026/2027.

The Clerk had prepared forecast figures of receipts, payments and bank reconciliation up to 31st March 2026 (end of the financial year). The forecast receipts for the current financial year are £5,183.00 with payments of £4,553.47. This will give a surplus on the year of £629.53 with a projected balance in the bank of £3,167.93.

The precept on a Band D property is currently £24.45. An increase in the precept of £1 would result in an extra £224. If the precept is not increased the precept due to the Council for 2026/2027 would be £5,476.80

Proposed by Councillor Copeland Roberts, seconded by Councillor Thomas and **resolved** that the precept should remain at the current level of £24.45 on a Band D property for the next financial year 2026/2027.

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

No update available.

Item 10: To report on the casual vacancy on St Donats Ward.

No further update.

Item 11: Planning Matters.
No planning matters.

Item 12: To discuss/approve the Biodiversity Action Report (Section 6).
The Clerk had prepared a report which had been circulated to Members and invited any suggestions and additions for the document.
Members discussed biodiversity work in their area which included the grass cutting practices carried out by the Vale Council and requested that this is placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Item 13: To discuss Councillors' Allowances for the year 2025/2026.
The Clerk reminded Members of the allowances available to them to claim being an annual allowance of £156 for work at home and £52 for printing costs. The Clerk to e-mail a form which Councillors can use if they wish to turn down the allowances or can send an e-mail direct to the Clerk to indicate they are turning down the allowances. If the Clerk does not receive an indication, the allowance will be paid.

Item 14: To receive an update from Atlantic College.
Ms Willis advised that students have now returned to College after the Christmas break, although a number are having difficulties travelling due to weather conditions.

Item 15: Reports of Representatives.

15.1 Councillor Thomas advised that she had attended two biodiversity courses hosted by One Voice Wales which she had found interesting although not particularly relevant to this Community Council as it does not own any land.

15.2 Councillor Thomas will be attending the next meeting of the Community Liaison Committee Meeting to be held on 22nd January 2026.

15.3 The Clerk advised that she had attended the meeting of the Western Vale Rural Community Councils Group in Cowbridge Town Hall on 15th December 2025.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss mainly their dissatisfaction with the operation of the Community Liaison Meetings and communication between their Councils and the Vale of Glamorgan Council. It was felt that the Charter between the Town and Community Councils needs to be reviewed and, possibly improved.

With regard to the Community Liaison Meetings and the representatives from the Police and Fire Service, it was felt that rather than detail, they would prefer to have trends between figures from month to month or quarter to quarter.

They want the representatives of Rural Town and Community Councils to have better representation.

Discussion then went onto the Town and Community Boundary Review and, in particular, the lack of information being provided to the Councils affected by the changes. It was confirmed that One Voice Wales is going to hold webinars in 2026 regarding this and that the Monitoring Officer at the Vale of Glamorgan Council has stated at a Clerks Meeting that she will hold a meeting dedicated to the item.

A Member of the Standards Committee was present at the meeting and he was meeting with Tom Bowring, Director of Corporate Services and Rhiannon Birch, Chair

of the Community Liaison Committee the next day to discuss the Western Vale Community Councils group. The Clerk had a copy of informal notes from that meeting which would be e-mailed out to Members for their information.

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

Councillor Evans reported that he had received a quotation of approximately £700 for the provision of power to the proposed site for a defibrillator.

Councillor Evans also advised that the power connection to the defibrillator in Marcross seems to be disconnected at the moment so this is to be investigated.

The Clerk will enquire if grants are still available through any sources for the purchase of a defibrillator and cabinet and Members discussed if any other locations maybe feasible such as the Church.

Item 17: To discuss ongoing issues with the local bus service.

No update.

Item 18: Correspondence and Publications which do not necessarily require discussion i.e. for noting only.

18.1 VGC (Vale of Glamorgan Council) – Business Support Newsletters 5th and 19th December 2025.

18.2 OVW (One Voice Wales) – E Bulletin 5.

18.3 OVW Training Courses – December 2025 to March 2026.

18.4 Police and Crime Commissioner – ‘Funding Safety Together’ Survey.

All items noted.

Item 19: Date of the next Meeting – Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7.00pm.

..... **Chairperson.**

Date : 4th February 2026.