Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry Community Council
Rudry Parish Hall
Rudry
Caerphilly
CF83 3DF
Email: clerk@dwrcouncil.co.uk
Website: www.dwrcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Tuesday, 29 September 2026 at 6.00pm

The meeting was held as a 'hybrid meeting', thus it was open as an in-person, indoors meeting at Rudry Parish Hall and available by prior request to the Clerk as a remote virtual meeting.

Present:

Cllr Lee Cecil, Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones, Cllr Zoe Hewer, Cllr Kev Ingram, Cllr Kevin Stanworth and Jessica Thomas (Clerk)

Chair, Cllr Lee Cecil, led the meeting that commenced at 6.00pm

1) Apologies / Introductions
Apologies were received in advance of the meeting for Cllr Amanda McConnell and Cllr Phil Rosser.

2) Police Update
Police were not in attendance, however, their report was shared with Councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Lee Cecil provided an update regarding an incident involving a vehicle parked obstructively. The matter was followed up promptly by PCSO Ellie Morgan

3) Declarations of Interest
None.

4) Minutes and matters arising
The Council has agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 28 July 2026 were correct, and they were duly signed by the Chair.

5) Chair and County Members' Update
None.

6) Clerk's Report
- **a.** Statement of transactions has been presented and agreed by all Councillors. Audit has now been concluded as a qualified audit.
- **b.** VAT claim for 2024/25 was submitted to HMRC and has now been paid. The Council is awaiting a code to access the system in order to submit the 2025/26 VAT claim.

7) Current Projects
- **a.** ASB / Off road biking deterrent / Traffic calming / Safe Routes in Communities / Speed Watch (With Heddlu Gwent Police)
  Cllr Kevin Stanworth advised that he attended the meeting regarding the off-road biking at Gwern Y Domen. The police and other parties involved are liaising to arrange suitable signage to be put up in the area to deter this. Cllr Kevin Stanworth also noted that the Police are hoping to seize bikes where appropriate.

- **b.** Renewals

Discussions are ongoing.

8) Items for Discussion

a. Beach / Draethen Land ASB
Cllr Lee Cecil reported that the problem in the area has decreased from previous years but remains a concern in the village. Police have responded when reports have been made. Land ownership has now been confirmed which has given more authority for enforcement. Cllr Lee Cecil noted that the Community Council has taken all reasonable steps available, including leaflet drops, liaison with the police and fire service and we have established ownership for the land.
All Councillors agreed that residents should contact 101 to report issues as the local policing team have emphasised that increased reports enable them to allocate more resources to an area.

b. Barrier in Rudry
The FOI request relating to the barrier was circulated to Councillors. The clerk advised that an email had been sent to CCBC to confirm the requirements for removal of the barrier, no response has been received to date.
Cllr Lee Cecil suggested contacting Cllr Chris Morgan to clarify the requirements.
Councillors agreed that, in the meantime, quotations would be obtained for removal of the barrier.

c. Holly Bush Pub, Draethen
Cllr Lee Cecil provided an update on a meeting attended with Caerphilly Planning and Plaid Cymru representatives. Information was provided confirming that the Holly Bush is protected, as it has always been known as a pub and should remain as a pub.
If the owner applies for a change of use, the property must first be placed on the market as a pub, at a market value determined by CCBC. A change of use would only be considered if no purchaser comes forward. Cllr Lee Cecil advised that all investors remain committed.

d. Festive Lighting for Waterloo & Invoice for Festive Lighting 2026
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones received a quote from CCBC to facilitate the installation of Christmas tree lights. The quote was cost prohibitive as this would be in addition to the cost of a tree and the lights. Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones suggested an alternative of a tree decorated with baubles and potentially battery-operated lights. He will look at permissions for this. Cllr Kev Ingram suggested a contact within CCBC Parks who would be able to give permission for a live tree. We would need to sign a disclaimer to confirm DWRCC would be responsible for maintenance.
Councillors agreed that the invoice to LITE for the Christmas Lights can be paid once the charge for Waterloo lights have been removed from the invoice.

e. Defibrillator in Waterloo
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones confirmed that along with the clerk, a reset was performed and the defibrillator is now in full working order.

f. Land in Waterloo
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones advised that Total Energy has now informed him that all of their land will be going for sale on the open market, at market value, in 2 years. Due to this, it is not possible for DWRCC to obtain this land.

g. Caerphilly Play Sessions
All Councillors agreed to proceed with the sessions using the full £500 grant from OVW.

h. Invoice for VisionICT
The invoice is for £192. All Councillors agreed.

i. South Wales Police Youth Trust Donation
As suggested by Cllr Amanda McConnell, Gwent Police were contacted to establish whether a similar initiative existed closer to our area. Gwent Police confirmed they do

not have such a scheme at present. All Councillors agreed to proceed with a £30 donation to South Wales Police Youth Trust.

j. Correspondence relating to former planning application – 26/0426/HH (including resident concerns)
Councillors considered the correspondence relating to the former planning application. Councillors confirmed that the process followed had been fair and consistent with the council's usual approach to planning matters. Councillors were satisfied that the minutes previously approved accurately reflected the discussions held. A final response will be issued separately.

k. NJC updated pay rates & back pay
All councillors acknowledged the mandatory pay increase and confirmed their agreement.

l. Councillor absence approval
Councillors considered Cllr Amanda McConnell's absence due to her commitments as a County Member. All Councillors agreed to formally approve absence from Community Council meetings, as a result of these commitments, until May 2027.

9) Planning Applications
26/0560/COU – 12 Waterloo Place, Waterloo - Noted

10) Biodiversity
The flower bulbs arrived and have been given to Councillors to be planted immediately.
Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones attended Caerphilly Nature Recovery Plan launch. He advised they are currently promoting wildflower seeds for residents, and he applied for seed for the verges. There were also discussions of 12 endangered species within Caerphilly Borough. Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones said it was a very useful meeting, and he will continue to attend as a representative for DWRCC.

11) Exclusion of Press and Public
None.

12) Exempt Items
None.

13) Any Other Business (For Information Only)
Cllr Kevin Stanworth advised that the defibrillator, at Three Counties Agriculture, requires new pads as the ones that arrived were sent to DWRCC in error and were for BTMCC. The clerk will check this to establish whether a payment was made for this.

The next meeting is agreed for Tuesday, 27 October 2026 at 6.00pm at Rudry Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Signed: **Date:**