



You are summoned to attend the following meeting:

**Policy & Finance Committee**

**9 March 2015 @ 6.00 pm**

Venue: Council Chamber Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY

**AGENDA**

To: Councillors SWJ Ashley, LJ Chaney, D Daniels, M Day, R Jones, R Kemp, TA Matthews (Vice Chair), J Rees, WJ Walker and DJ Williams

Councillors S Evans, M Johnston, S Brooks and WM Howell (Chair)  
(Ex Officio Members)

To: ALL OTHER MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Members' Declarations of Interest**

3. **Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments (January 2015)**

Schedules of receipts & payments and bank reconciliations are attached for members only.

(Members of the public may obtain this information from the Clerk to the Council)

Background papers will be brought to this meeting to allow members to scrutinise any transactions etc. in more detail, should they wish.

4. **Bad Debts**

To consider writing off debts as described below.

Year Ended 31 March 2014 5 debts totalling £140.33 (nett) relating to gardening work undertaken by the Task Force

Year Ended 31 March 2015 1 debt totalling £13.00 (nett) relating to gardening work undertaken by the Task Force

Each of these debts has been the subject of several approaches to the debtors to recover the debt. Although each debt remains outstanding, it is considered that further action would not be cost effective. Each individual debt is below £30.00. Each debtor would not be allowed to purchase any other services from the Council until the debt was cleared.



5. [Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2015](#)

To Panel's Annual Report has been published. An electronic copy of the 74-page Report is available at

<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/150223-irp-report-february2015-v1-en.pdf>

The draft Report was reported to members in October 2014 (Minute PF14/041)

Payments to Community Councillors are prescribed in Determinations 42 – 47 of the Annual Report. Details are attached.

These are permissive powers that require a formal decision the Council. But where the council makes such a decision, it must apply to all members at the levels determined by the Panel. An individual member may make a personal decision to elect to forgo part or all of the entitlement to any of these allowances by giving notice in writing to the Clerk.

The Council is required to give publicity to such payments.

It is **recommended** that determinations 42 to 47 of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2015 are adopted.

6. **Town Twinning**

This year, Cwmbrân's twin town of Bruchsal will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its twinning arrangement with Sainte-Ménéhould, France, on 9 May 2015.

To celebrate this anniversary, representatives of all of Bruchsal's twin towns have been invited to attend the celebrations. The chairman of the Council (or substitute) and a companion have therefore been invited to attend for the weekend 8 May – 10 May 2015.

A similar invitation has been extended to Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council. The Chairman of Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council will be travelling to Germany, accompanied by another member.

Our colleagues in Bruchsal have advised

*"The guests from Cwmbran will be picked up at the airport and will then be brought to their hotel (including breakfast) in the centre of Bruchsal. Accommodation, dinner and lunch will be taken care of by us. So you will have to meet the costs of the journey to Bruchsal and maybe for some snacks and beverages in between. We suggest that you arrive on Friday late afternoon/evening and will depart on Sunday around maybe lunch-time/afternoon (or whatever time is okay with you). The celebration of the anniversary takes place on Saturday evening, 19.00 clock."*

7. [Maintenance of Council House & Other Matters](#)

To consider the attached report.

8. [One Voice Wales membership 2015-16](#)

To consider the attached request to renew the Council's membership for the coming year.

9. [Wales White Paper Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People](#)

The White Paper on the reform of local government in Wales entitled 'Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People' has been published by the Welsh Government.

Whilst much relates to Principal Authorities and Area Boards, there is a very important section on Community Councils. Members may find the attached commentary from the Society of Local Council Clerks helpful.

The White Paper is open for consultation until the end of April.

10. [Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust: Canal restoration Project](#)

To consider the attached report

11. [Torfaen Museum Trust](#)

To consider the attached request for financial assistance.

12. **Seminars & Meetings of Outside Bodies**

To consider the attached reports in relation to seminars and meetings of outside bodies, attended by representatives of the Council.

- (a) [One Voice Wales Gwent Valleys Partnership](#)      [10 February 2015](#)  
(b) One Voice Wales Larger Councils Network      25 February 2015 (oral report)



*David Collins, Clerk to the Council*  
2 March 2015  
[david@cwmbrian.gov.uk](mailto:david@cwmbrian.gov.uk)  
tel. 01633 624154