

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 7 June 2017**

**Present** Councillor KK Manneh (in the Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, Rh Bennett, SJ Brooks, PJ Cathcart, A Davies, M Day, LG Johnston, M Johnston, R Jones, M Villars and WJ Walker

Also Councillor Fiona Cross (Torfaen County Borough Council, Executive Member: Environment)

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council) and Clare Facey (Administrative Officer)

*(Members and officers introduced themselves prior to the commencement of the meeting.)*

**ESP17/001 Appointment of Chairman**

Members noted that, at a meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on 17 May 2017, Councillor KK Manneh was appointed Chairman of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2017/18. Councillor M Johnston was appointed as Vice Chairman.

Terms of Reference for the Committee were also agreed at the above meeting.

It was **recommended** that the position is noted.

**ESP17/002 Apologies for Absence**

None.

Members noted that any apologies for absence should be submitted by the member concerned in advance of the meeting.

**ESP17/003 Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have and sign the Interests Sheet to give details of the nature of the interest.

**ESP17/004 Executive member for Environment: Torfaen County Borough Council**

Members welcomed Councillor Fiona Cross (Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member Environment) to her first meeting.

Councillor Cross outlined the matters within her portfolio. She set out her wish to work strategically with town & community councils to achieve shared objectives.

Members identified a series of ward based matters which had been the cause of concern. These included grass cutting in Llantarnam and accumulation of rubbish at a site in Pontnewydd. The Executive Member encouraged Members to take up such matters through normal communication matters, emphasising her preference to concentrate on more strategic issues when meeting the committee. She confirmed however, that she would be prepared to assist if the normal communication channels failed to resolve such matters.

Members also identified a series of wider concerns, such as the potential to work in partnership to preserve the local built environment, facilities to recycle batteries and problems arising from the shape of the new refuse bins. The Executive Member agreed that these might represent matters which could be examined in the future. The location of litter bins might also benefit from a joint approach.

The Leader of the Majority Group reminded all Members that any matters they wished to raise with the Executive Member should be submitted to the Clerk in advance of future meetings. He suggested that points should be referred to the Clerk no later than two weeks before the meeting. The Clerk undertook to take up some of the ward based matters referred to above with Torfaen County Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that Councillor Cross is thanked for her report to members.

### **ESP17/005 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters**

#### (a) Planning Lists

Members considered outstanding planning lists 1183 and 1184.

The Administrative officer undertook to clarify the location of item 6224 on list 1183 to confirm that the site was within the Council's boundary.

The ward member indicated that he would examine item 6231 on list 1184 and consider whether he wished to submit any observations.

It was **recommended** that, subject to the above, no objection is offered to lists 1183 and 1184.

#### (b) Planning Decisions of Torfaen County Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that the decisions are noted.

#### (c) Highways Act 1980 – Extinguishment and Diversion of Public Footpaths at Pentre Bach Farm, Pentre Lane, Henllys (now Llantarnam). Members noted that observations were requested within 28 days of 16 May 2017

It was **recommended** that

- (i) no specific observations are submitted in relation to the proposed Order.
- (ii) the Clerk make enquiries with Torfaen County Borough Council about the potential to include additional information on maps etc. submitted to the Council for comment, such as the location of any stiles and a clearer indication of the final destination/starting points of any new footpaths.

#### (d) Pre Application Consultations:

Members considered a number of proposed developments, details of which had been submitted to provide publicity and consultation before applying for planning permission. Members noted that any response submitted in relation to such consultations would not prevent the Council from responding during the course of the application process.

It was **recommended** that

(1) the Council respond to each consultation as follows:

- i. Former Police Training College – Phase 2.  
Residential development and associated works.  
(Response due by 15 June 2017.)

*Members remained concerned about drainage issues and flooding concerns associated with this overall development.*

- ii. Development at Caldicot Way.  
Residential development.  
(Response due by 23 June 2017)

*No specific observations. Members discussed the potential loss of trees arising from the development.*

- iii. Land off Brangwyn Avenue, Llantarnam.  
Construction of 14 dwellings, open space, parking & associated works.  
(Response due by 27 June 2017.)

*Members expressed their concerns at the loss of children's play facilities associated with the development and the risk to children's play facilities caused by other similar developments. Members also asked that the detailed comments of the ward member are forwarded to the developer.*

(2) a seminar is arranged to help members develop an agreed protocol; for responding to the Pre Application Consultation process, using the expertise of an agency such as Torfaen County Borough Council or Planning Aid Wales.

## **ESP17/006 Provisional Programme of Events**

Members noted that the Environment, Sustainability and Planning Committee would host an Annual Schools Eco Quiz on Thursday 8th February 2018 at The Congress Theatre for local schools.

The Clerk emphasised the extent to which the event was an important means by which the Council - and the committee in particular - promoted an understanding in the community of environmental matters and encouraged sustainable solutions. Further details would be reported to Members as they emerged.

All Members were encouraged to attend to support the event.

The Clerk also reminded Members that the Council would be present at the Big Event on 10 June 2017. He encouraged all Members to support the event.

It was **recommended** that the proposed arrangements are noted.

**ESP17/007 Exclusion of the Press & Public**

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed that the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 be exercised.

**ESP17/008 Task Force**

At a meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on 24 October 2016, Members recommended that responsibility for receiving regular performance management information about the work of the Task Force was assigned to this committee. (Minute PF16/053 refers).

Members therefore considered performance information about the recent work of the Task Force.

Members also noted that new equipment had recently been purchased for the Task Force team. The equipment comprised a battery powered hedge trimmer and blower. These tools provided a cleaner, greener option to the delivery of the service and reduce the risk of hand arm vibration for staff. (Minute CL16/125 refers).

The Clerk reported that he continued to look into the options to acquire a single vehicle, such as a transit van, which the Task Force could use all year round (Minute ESP16/057 refers).

It was **recommended** that

- (i) the information is noted.
- (ii) the actions described in relation to equipment and a vehicle are supported.

*Signed* .....

*(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)*