

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Venue: The meeting was held remotely and at the Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on
9 February 2022

Present: Councillor SJ Brooks (Chairman), Councillors SWJ Ashley, AL Bird, RhM Bennett, LJ Chaney, JS Davenne, LG Johnson, S Morgan, M Villars and WJ Walker.

(Councillors Ashley, Bennett, Chaney, Davenne, Morgan and Villars participated in the meeting via remote means.)

Also David Collins, Clerk to the Council

Absent: Councillors M Day, M Johnston, F Jones, RD Kemp, KK Manneh, J Rees, LM Ryan, DH Williams and LE Williams

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

CL21/104 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors KK Manneh (personal) F Jones (personal) J Rees (work commitments), DH Williams (personal) and LE Williams (personal).

Apologies for absence were also accepted from Clare Facey, Administration Officer.

CL21/105 Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they had and give details of the nature of their interest.

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute CL21/113 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee: 24 November 2021 (Neighbourhood Services) and Minute CL21/114 Policy & Finance Committee: 29 November 2021 (Installation of Traffic Speed Signs) as a member of Torfaen County Borough Council. He remained in the meeting during the discussions. He would reconsider the nature of the interest matters at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

CL21/106 Voting

It was **Resolved** that the manner of any voting at this meeting would be by calling each name alphabetically with a response of "for" or "against" or "abstain."

CL21/107 Chairman's Announcements & Vice Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that he had attended a number of recent community events. He would report details to a future meeting

There were no announcements from the Vice Chairman.

It was **Resolved** that

- (i) the information is noted.
- (ii) the attendance of the Chairman and Vice Chairman at events is approved,

CL21/108 Public Question Time

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders the opportunity for public questions was included as an item on the agenda for the meeting.

No questions had been submitted.

CL21/109 Gwent Police Update/South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

No representatives of Gwent Police or South Wales Fire & Rescue Service were able to attend. Members noted that Councillor Villars had received a response from Gwent Police about speeding and traffic in Llantarnam.

It was Resolved the information is noted.

CL21/110 Council Meeting: 27 October 2021

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute CL21/083 (Gwent Police Update/South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update), Members noted that a report would be submitted to the Council's Policy & Finance Committee in relation to the establishment of a Community Alcohol Partnership.

In relation to Minute CL21/092 (Risk Register 2021/22), Members considered an addition to the Register at Section 5, Political/Reputational Risks.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
 - (2) the amendment to the Risk Register is approved.
- (The Chairman signed the minutes as a correct record)

CL21/111 Events & Community Projects Committee: 15 November 2021

Councillor SJ Brooks introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ECP21/006 (Provisional Programme of Events), Members considered a way forward in relation to the annual dinner usually

held as a Celebration of Cwmbran and its Communities in March. Members noted recent advice in relation to coronavirus. (Members noted that in relation to this Minute, the date “1982” in the recommendation should read “1972.”)

Members also considered the arrangements for the Primary Schools Choral Festival, Schools Eco Quiz and Cwmbran Big Event.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are received.
- (2) the recommendations included in the minutes are approved.
- (3) the Community Celebration Dinner is not staged this year, with financial savings arising being used to support local Foodbanks. (Local Government Act 2000 s 2 (Power of Well-being))
- (4) the Primary Schools Choral Festival is held remotely this year, with any financial savings being used to support local music-related charities (Local Government Act 1972 s.145)
- (5) the Schools Eco Quiz is held remotely. (Local Government Act 2000 s 2 (Power of Well-being)/Environment (Wales) Act 2016.)
- (6) a report is submitted to the next meeting of the committee in relation to the potential to stage the Cwmbran Big Event.

CL21/112 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee: 15 November 2021

Councillor WJ Walker introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Members noted that in relation to Minute GVO21/006 (New Applications Received), the date “1972” in the recommendation should read “1976.”

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are received.
- (2) the recommendations included in the minutes are approved.

CL21/113 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee: 24 November 2021

Councillor AL Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP21/003 (Membership), the Chairman of the Committee highlighted the committee’s recommendation that its terms of reference are broadened to include all matters relating to sustainability and Well-being of Future Generations.

In relation to Minute ESP21/004 (b) (Planning, Highways & Footpath Matters) (Mynydd Maen Wind Farm Proposal), Members noted that further details would be presented to the next meeting of the committee. Members were encouraged to submit questions about the proposals in advance of the meeting. All Members were welcome to attend.

In relation to Minute ESP21/005 (Neighbourhood Services), Members discussed current arrangements in relation to refuse collection. (Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as a member of Torfaen County Borough Council. He remained in the meeting during the discussions. He would reconsider the nature of the interest matters at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.)

No Planning applications were considered.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are received.
- (2) the recommendations included in the minutes are approved.
- (3) the Clerk is instructed to seek clarification from the Chief Executive of Torfaen County Borough in relation to current arrangements in relation to refuse collection.

CL21/114 Policy & Finance Committee: 29 November 2021

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF21/005 (Accounting Statements and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021), Members noted that a Certified copy of the Annual Return had been received from Audit Wales. An Unqualified Audit Opinion had been given. There were no additional matters raised. Notice had been published in accordance with appropriate requirements. Members had been provided with a copy of the Certified Annual Return, which had also been published to the Council's website etc. The Chairman of the Council paid tribute to the Council's staff in helping to secure an Unqualified Audit Opinion.

In relation to Minute PF21/006 (Standards & Ethics Committee), Members noted that the appointment of Councillor SJ Brooks had been confirmed.

In relation to Minute PF21/014 (Installation of Traffic Speed Signs ("Speed Indicator Devices"): Llantarnam Road, Station Road and Greenmeadow Drive/Blenheim Road and other potential locations), Members noted discussions between the Clerk and Torfaen County Borough Council about the erection of the signs. Members noted that the reference to Greenmeadow Drive would be amended. (Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as a member of Torfaen County Borough Council. He remained in the meeting during the discussions. He would reconsider the nature of the interest matters at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.)

In relation to Minute PF21/018 (Appointment of Internal Auditor) Members noted the advice of the Clerk in relation to issues raised by a member at the committee meeting. Members had also been provided with draft terms of reference for the Auditor.

In relation to Minute PF21/019, Staffing Matters, Members noted that current arrangements in relation to office cover.

Cwmbran Community Council
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It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are received.
- (2) the recommendations included in the minutes are approved.
- (3) the terms of reference for the Internal Auditor are confirmed.
- (4) that the Council confirm that the Certified Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 is approved and accepted by the Council.
- (5) Members are requested to contact the Clerk to clarify preferred arrangements relating to the location and siting Speed Indicator Devices.

Signed..... (*Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council*)