

Summary (Notes) of the meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Monday 28 February 2022 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.

Formal minutes of the above meeting will follow.

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on 16 March 2022.

The minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on a date to be agreed.

Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on

Present: Councillor SWJ Ashley (Chairman), Councillors Rh Bennett, AL Bird, LJ Chaney, M Day, LJ Johnston, F Jones, S Morgan, M Villars and WJ Walker.

(Councillors Bennett, Chaney and Day participated in the meeting via remote means.)

.Also: David Collins (Clerk) and Clare Facey (Administration Officer.)

Absent: Councillors SJ Brooks. KK Manneh and DH Williams

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting.)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillor SJ Brooks (personal), KK Manneh (personal) and DH Williams (personal)

2. 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.

Councillors AL Bird and S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute PF21/048 below (Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Cwmbran) as an employee of a company who funds the Partnership and an independent director of Community Alcohol Partnerships respectively.

They remained in the meeting during the discussions.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2022 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the addition of a non-prejudicial declaration of interest by Councillor S Morgan in relation to Minute PF21/031 (Community Alcohol Partnership for Cwmbran) as an independent director of Community Alcohol Partnerships the minutes of the above meeting are received. (Councillor Morgan remained in the meeting for the discussion.) Minute CL21/127 refers.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments (December 2021 & January 2022)

Members considered the above information, including bank reconciliation.

Issues raised by Members included:

- Business Rates (G03)

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

5. Quarterly Financial Monitoring 2021/22: Quarter 3 (October, November, December 2021)

Members considered quarterly monitoring information of expenditure against budget for Quarter 3 (October, November, December 2021)

Issues raised by Members included:

- Explanations of Variances.

It was **Resolved** that the information is approved.

6. Unity Trust Bank

Members noted the Unity Trust Bank had reviewed interest rates following the increase in the Base Rate by the Bank of England on 3 February 2022. The rate on the Council's account had now increased to 0.25% as of 4 February 2022.

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

7. Interim Internal Audit Report y/e 31 March 2022

Members considered the above report. There were no issues which the Clerk wished to raise in response to the report.

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

8. Investment Strategy 2022/23

Members considered a draft strategy.

It was **recommended** that that the Investment Strategy is approved.

9. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report

The Draft Annual Report was considered by the Council on 27 October 2021 (Minute CL21/090 refers.).

The final report had been received on 24 February 2022. It would take effect from 9 May 2022.

It was **recommended** that the report is submitted to Full Council to allow the Council to adopt the determinations contained in it.

10. Council House Matters

Members noted that arrangements had been made to move the defibrillator at the Council House to the outside of the building, where it would be more of an asset to the community.

A new cabinet has been obtained and a local electrician would assist with the works. Costs would be met from Code G10 (Premises Maintenance & Asset Replacement.)

Members discussed the cost of the original defibrillator and the importance of raising awareness of the new location. Members also discussed the potential for a mapping exercise of similar facilities and referred to locations where there was a defibrillator in place.

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

11. Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Cwmbran

Councillors AL Bird and S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute PF21/048 below (Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Cwmbran.) as employee of a company who funds the Partnership and an independent director of Community Alcohol Partnerships respectively.

They remained in the meeting during the discussions.

Members noted that a meeting had been held remotely on 15 February 2022 to discuss the above.

It was **recommended** that details of issues discussed at further meetings are reported back to Members.

12. One Voice Wales Membership 2022/23

Members noted receipt of an invoice in relation to the Council's membership of One Voice Wales.

It was **recommended** that the Council renews its membership of One Voice Wales for 2022/23

13. Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils

Members considered a revised Protocol along with information on complaint handling. Members discussed issues associated with the procedure including the role of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

Following a vote, adoption of the revised Protocol was supported (7 votes to 3.).

It was **recommended** that the revised Protocol is adopted.

14. Seminars and Outside Bodies

Members considered reports in relation to seminars and meetings of outside bodies, attended by representatives of the Council:

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| (i) | Local Councils in Partnership Committee | 27 January 2022 |
| (ii) | One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee | 16 February 2022 |

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

Exclusion of the Press & Public

Due to the confidential nature of the business the remaining matters were considered in private.