

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 9 February 2022 at 6.00 pm.

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on
16 March 2022

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.

Present: Councillor SJ Brooks (Chairman), Councillors SWJ Ashley, AL Bird, RhM Bennett, LJ Chaney, JS Davenne, M Day, LG Johnson, F Jones, RD Kemp, , S Morgan, LM Ryan, M Villars, WJ Walker, DH Williams, LE Williams.

(Councillors Ashley, Bennett, Davenne, Jones, Ryan and Johnson participated in the meeting via remote means.)

Absent: Councillors KK Manneh and J Rees

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

CL21/115 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor KK Manneh (personal) and Rees (work commitments).

CL21/116 Membership

It was **Resolved** that the vacancy in membership of the Council following the recent death of Councillor M Johnston (Two Locks Ward) is noted.

CL21/117 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.

CL21/118 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.”

CL21/119 Chairman’s Announcements & Vice Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman reported that he had participated in an on-line seminar on 9 February 2022 in relation to ethical matters. He agreed to circulate details of issues discussed.

The Chairman also indicated that he would provide full details of engagements he had attended as Chairman prior to leaving office.

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.

CL21/120 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.

CL21/121 Gwent Police Update/ South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

No representatives of from Gwent Police or South Wales Fire & Rescue Service were present. Inspector George had submitted apologies for absence.

Some matters had been raised with Gwent Police by Members prior to the meeting and the Clerk had forwarded information received in response.

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

CL21/122 Council Meeting 15 December 2021

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

(The Chairman signed the minutes as a correct record)

CL21/123 Events & Community Projects Committee Meeting 10 January 2022

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ECP21/012 (Provisional Programme of Events), Members considered a way forward in relation to the Primary Schools Choral Festival to avoid the forthcoming Pre-Election Period which was expected to commence on 18 March 2022. Members also noted that a quote was awaited from the Council's usual business partner who helped to stage the Big Event. Members also noted that the Chairman of the Council had attended the service to commemorate the life of John Williams (Fielding) with Councillors Walker and Villars. A wreath had been laid at the graveside on behalf of the Council.

In relation to Minute ECP21/013 (2) (Committee Estimates 2022/23), Members noted that the Council had flown the Union Flag to commemorate the 70th anniversary of HM The Queen's accession to the throne. Celebratory messages had also been shared across social media.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are received.
- (2) the recommendations included in the minutes are approved.
- (3) the Primary Schools Choral Festival is held on-line w/c 7 March 2022.

CL21/124 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee Meeting 10 January 2022

Councillor WJ Walker introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that

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

CL21/125 Environmental, Sustainability & Planning Committee 12 January 2022

Councillor AL Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP21/016 (c) Mynydd Maen Wind Farm proposal, Members considered the appointment of a Member to represent the Council on a community liaison group (CLG) for the proposed Mynydd Maen Wind Farm. The first meeting would be held online, via Microsoft Teams, on 16th February at 6.00 pm.

In relation to Minute ESP21/017 (Neighbourhood Services), Members noted that Torfaen County Borough Council was currently undertaking consultation in relation to Active Travel. Observations were due by 23 February 2022.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) subject to the addition of the name of Councillor Fay Jones to the list of Members present the minutes of the above meeting are received.
(Councillor Jones participated in the meeting by remote means.)
- (2) the recommendations included in the minutes are approved.
- (3) Councillor DH Williams is nominated to sit on the liaison group for the proposed Mynydd Maen Wind Farm.
- (4) the Council notes that observations had been forwarded to Torfaen County Borough Council in relation to applications 21/P/0631, 21/P/0984, 21/P/0981 and 21/P/0049.

CL21/126 Policy & Finance Committee 17 January 2022

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation Minute PF21/023 (Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments (November 2021)) Members noted that Unity Trust Bank had reviewed interest rates. Rates reduced on 21 May 2020 to 0% on Instant Access, following the bank of England base rate changes. The rate had now increased to 0.15% as of the 17 December 2021.

In relation to Minute PF21/024 (Review of Internal Audit and Audit Plan) Members noted that references to "Annual Review" should state "Annual Return." Members noted that the interim internal audit had taken place on 3

February 2022. The audit had indicated a satisfactory position. The end of year audit had been provisionally arranged for 18 May 2022. Members paid tribute to the contribution of Council staff in helping to achieve a satisfactory outcome to the interim internal audit.

In relation to Minute PF21/034 (Governance and Financial Management: A Self-Evaluation Toolkit for Community and Town Councils in Wales), Members noted that the Clerk and Councillor S Morgan had participated in a Focus group session on 7 February 2022 to discuss experiences of using the toolkit as part of a pilot exercise.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) 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.)
- (2) the recommendations included in the minutes are approved.

CL21/127 Estimates 2022/2023

Members considered the Council's Estimates and Precept for the forthcoming year.

Councillor WJ Walker proposed the use of £50,000 from General Reserves to reduce pressure on the precept rather than £100,000. This was seconded by Councillor M Villars. The proposal was defeated by 12 votes to 2 with one abstention.

Councillor AL Bird moved the draft budget. Councillor SWJ Ashley seconded the proposal. Councillor AL Bird seconded the proposal. The proposal was agreed by 13 votes to 2 with no abstentions.

The Chairman of the Council did not vote in relation to either proposal.

Councillor Walker asked that his opposition to the budget is recorded in the minutes.

It was Resolved that:

- (1) the 2022/23 Estimates are approved.
- (2) the Precept for 2022/23 is confirmed as £601,675.00 Band D £44.13 (£601,675 / 13,634)

CL21/128 Dates of Future Meetings: Pre-Election Period

It was **Resolved** that meetings which had been due to be held during the forthcoming Pre-Election Period are cancelled.

CL21/129 Exclusion of the Press & Public

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was **Resolved** that the following matters 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.

CL21/130 Staffing Matters

The Clerk and Administration Officer left the meeting for the consideration of this item.

Members considered a series of arrangements in relation to the Clerk's intention to stand down from the role of Clerk to the Council.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the arrangements reported are confirmed.
- (2) any decision on taking forward recruitment arrangements to appoint a replacement, full-time Clerk is deferred until after the forthcoming elections in May 2022.

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