

Summary (Notes) of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 16 March 2022 at 6.00 pm.

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

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, M Day, LG Johnson, KK Manneh, S Morgan, M Villars, WJ Walker, DH Williams and LE Williams.

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

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

Absent: Councillors JS Davenne, F Jones, J Rees, RD Kemp and LM Ryan

At the commencement of the meeting, Members in stood in silence in memory of the victims of conflict in Ukraine and other countries.

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. 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.

Councillors AL Bird, RhM Bennett and S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute CL21/142 Policy & Finance Committee 28 February 2022 below (Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Cwmbran) as an employee of a company who funds the Partnership, professional association with the Partnership and an independent director of Community Alcohol Partnerships respectively. They remained in the meeting.

3. 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.”

4. Chairman’s Announcements & Vice Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman reported that he had visited a number of schools and clubs recently. He had also been present at Blaen Bran Community Woodland on 25 February 2022 to support the Welsh Government’s tree planting initiative

#MyTreeOurForest and attended Oakfield Flower Gardens on 15 March 2022 to view the refurbishment works with other invited guests.

The Chairman referred to the fact that this would be his last meeting as a member of the Council after a long association with local government in Cwmbran. This was to be the last Council meeting before the forthcoming election though a special meeting could be called if circumstances required.

The Vice Chairman paid tribute to the contribution made by the current Chairman and Members echoed the sentiments. The Chairman suitably responded.

It was **Resolved** that

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

5. 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.

6. Gwent Police Update/ South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Tinsley-Brustad of Gwent Police, who was attending her first meeting.

Inspector Tinsley-Brustad introduced herself to Members and described her police career.

Inspector Tinsley-Brustad updated Members on issues raised by a Member relating to recent incidents in Northville and Pontnewydd, anti-social behaviour at Cwmbran train station and dispersal orders for the town centre, Northville and Southville. Members also discussed graffiti locally.

No representative of South Wales Fire & Rescue was able to attend the meeting

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) Inspector Tinsley-Brustad is thanked for her attendance.
- (2) the inspector's contact details are circulated to Members.

7. Council Meeting 9 February 2022

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

In relation to Minute CL21/127 (Estimates 2022/2023), 2017 Members noted that election costs were approximately £17,500. The Council had approved

the sum of £10,000 but has also set aside £25,000 in Earmarked Reserves to cover elections. Actual costs would depend on the number of contested seats.

Torfaen County Borough had advised of potential additional costs in relation to the forthcoming election. Postage costs for Poll Cards could be particularly affected.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the Council fund any costs for the forthcoming election over and above £10,000 from Earmarked Reserves. (Elections) Should this prove insufficient the Council would draw on General Reserves.

(The Chairman signed the minutes as a correct record)

(Note: the minutes of the Council meeting of 9 February 2022 are subject to confirmation on 16 March 2022 not 16 March 2021.)

8. Events & Community Projects Committee Meeting 14 February 2022

Councillor AL Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ECP21/018 (Provisional Programme of Events), Members welcomed the success of the Primary Schools Choral Festival which had taken place remotely on 9 March 2022.

It was **Resolved** that

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

9. Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee Meeting 14 February 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.

10. Grant Application

Members considered an application from Cwmbran Churches Together.

A vote was taken. 12 Members voted in favour of awarding a grant. One Member abstained.

It was **Resolved** that a grant of £2,000 is awarded to support the fundraising activities of the organisation which are used to support the relief of poverty in the community. (Local Government Act 2000 ss 1-5).

11. (a) Environmental, Sustainability & Planning Committee 23 February 2022

Councillor AL Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP21/029 (Seminars & Outside Bodies: Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canal Trust: 31 January 2022), Councillor SWJ Ashley indicated his written report would follow. He confirmed that he had met the new Canal Coordinator (Alice Rees.)

It was **Resolved** that

(1) the minutes of the above meeting are received.

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

(b) Planning Consultations

Details of recent applications had been circulated, together with pre application consultation in relation to the development of 84 new homes, landscaping, open space and associated infrastructure at the Former Police Training College, St Dials.

It was **Resolved** that Members forward any observations in relation to the above proposals to cwmbrancc@cwmbbran.gov.uk so that they could be forwarded on.

12. Policy & Finance Committee 28 February 2022

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF21/048 (Community Alcohol Partnership), Members noted an oral report on progress from Councillor S Morgan. Councillors AL Bird, RhM Bennett and S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as an employee of a company who funds the Partnership, professional association with the Partnership and an independent director of Community Alcohol Partnerships respectively. They remained in the meeting.

In relation to Minute PF21/046 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report), Members considered a report on allowances and payments for the forthcoming year.

In relation to Minute PF21/049 (One Voice Wales Membership 2022/23), Members noted receipt of a letter from One Voice Wales describing the services provided.

In relation to Minute PF21/053 (Staffing Matters), Members noted updated details of the carry over of leave by staff. Members also considered additional responsibilities on staff as a result of staff changes.

Members considered changes to banking arrangements in the light of forthcoming staffing changes.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are received.
- (2) the recommendations included in the minutes are approved.
- (3) in relation to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2022:
 - (i) members adopt the Determinations set out in the report.
 - (ii) the specific responsibilities payment of £500 is paid to the four committee Chairs and Leader of the Council.
 - (iii) each payment is made as soon as possible following the Annual Council Meeting by way of single payment of each appropriate allowance.
 - (iv) all payments are applied proportionally, as described above.
 - (v) the Council recovers any payments made to a member who leaves or changes their role during the financial year on a pro rata basis to reflect the time in the role.
 - (vi) a time limit of one month is set from the date on which an entitlement to travelling or subsistence allowance arises during which a claim for those allowances must be made by the person to whom they are payable. However, this does not prevent an authority from making a payment where the allowance is not claimed within the period specified.
- (4) the information provided by One Voice Wales is noted.
- (5) the payment of honoraria to staff required to undertake additional responsibilities as a result of staff changes is approved, should this prove necessary.
- (6) Blair Mwendo is added as a signatory to each of the Council's bank and building society accounts (Co-operative Bank, Unity Trust Bank and Monmouthshire Building Society) and permitted to access internet banking. (David Collins to be removed from these accounts on leaving the Council).

13. Ukrainian Crisis

Members considered a report about ways in which local councils could support local agencies providing aid and support to refugees displaced by the crisis in Ukraine who were arriving in Cwmbran. Local councils were well placed to offer support, either through direct action or signposting to other registered charities.

It was **Resolved** that, using the power of well-being (Local Government Act 2000) :

- (1) the Council provides support to local charities who are providing sponsorship and support to those displaced by the crisis in Ukraine and other areas of conflict and were arriving in Cwmbran in the form of signposting to relevant agencies.
- (2) the Council allocates up to £10,000 from within its Anti-Poverty budget to provide direct financial support to local charities who are providing sponsorship and support to those displaced by the crisis in Ukraine and other areas of conflict and were arriving in Cwmbran.

14. Annual Council

It was **Resolved** that the Annual Council meeting would take place on 18 May 2022 at 6.00 pm. The meeting to be held in person and remotely using a video conferencing facility in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Exclusion of the Press & Public

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

Formal minutes of the above meeting will follow. These will be subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on a date to be agreed.