

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 22 June 2022 at 6.00pm

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 July 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: Councillors: SWJ Ashley, AL Bird (Chair), LJ Chaney, M Day, LG Johnston, F Jones, P Jones, KK Manneh, C Morgan, S Morgan, PJ Seabourne, M Villars, WJ Walker

(Councillor Chaney participated in the meeting via remote means)

Also Clare Facey (Interim Clerk) and Inspector Jennie Tinsley-Brustad, Gwent Police

Absent: Councillors Rh Bennett, JS Davenne, G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman, S Wharton

During the meeting, Members stood in silence in memory of the recent passing of Councillor Peter Thomas

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Rh Bennett (personal), JS Davenne (work commitments), G Lloyd-Tolman (work commitments), L Lloyd-Tolman (work commitments).

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 P Jones and S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute CL22/023 Gwent Police Update below (Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Cwmbran) and Minute CL22/024 Council Meeting 16th May 2022 & Council AGM 18th May 2022, (Independent Remuneration Panel). 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 Chair's Announcements & Vice Chairman's Announcements

The Chair reported that he had visited numerous Jubilee Events and expressed his pleasure in being asked to make a speech at the Institute of Welsh Affairs Summer Conference.

The Chair made reference to Cwmbran Community Council's recent success at the Cwmbran Big Event and thanked staff for all their support.

The Vice Chair reported that she had been unable to attend any events due to recent illness and holidays.

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

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

Councillors P Jones and S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute CL22/023 Gwent Police Update below (Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Cwmbran). They remained in the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Tinsley-Brustad of Gwent Police, to the meeting.

A question was submitted prior to the meeting regarding police presence in the area of Fairwater and of the recent reports of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The Inspector explained that she had spoken to the Community Support Officers who are on duty covering that area, usually on bikes, however, there had been no record of these incidents being reported to the police. The Inspector advised members to report any incidents including vandalism and antisocial behaviour so that they are aware of such incidents.

There was an opportunity for Member's questions to Inspector Tinsley-Brustad.

The Inspector updated members on the police operation that was currently operating in Cwmbran Town Centre, due to the recent significant problems they were experiencing, especially around the McDonalds area, the subway and near Vue Cinema.

The Inspector mentioned that Community Support Officers were always willing and able to meet with local Councillors within their wards, if needed, to discuss local issues. She also reported that two new Neighbourhood Sergeants had also recently been recruited.

Members reported anti-social behaviour in many of their wards and the common theme was an increase in police presence within their wards. The Inspector reported that all the Community Support Officers were, in the main, policing on foot, bicycles and buses, and should be visible to the community.

Members reported on youths congregating by the Spice Inn, gangs of children throwing stones in Greenmeadow Ward, the CAP project and continued support from the police, anti-social behaviour in Cwmbran Park, Community Safety Team looking at patterns of anti-social behaviour which will reflect areas that need more support, up to date contact details for the local policing team and a note of thanks regarding the dispersal order in Northville, which was having a huge impact on the area.

No representative of South Wales Fire & Rescue was able to attend the meeting. However, members were concerned regarding adequate fire cover in Cwmbran and a recent explosion near the Old Autopia Car Centre; Members were concerned that the area was a dumping ground and a fire risk.

It was **Resolved**:-

- a) that Inspector Tinsley-Brustad is thanked for her attendance and full report
- b) that the questions raised are highlighted to the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

7 Council Meetings 16th March 2022 & 18th May 2022 (AGM)

Councillors P Jones and S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute CL22/024 Council Meeting 16th May 2022 & Council AGM 18th May 2022, (Independent Remuneration Panel). They remained in the meeting.

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

In relation to Minute CL21/142 (Council Meeting held on 16 March 2022 – (Independent Remuneration Panel) Members noted that the draft IRP for Wales Annual Report had been adopted at Council. Members considered the final report on allowances and payments, for the forthcoming year, as the final report had slight amendments, as per the table reported to members by the Chair. Members discussed the amendments and noted to accept, in principle, but to seek clarification and guidance from One Voice Wales.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the minutes of the 16th March 2022 & 18th May 2022 (AGM) are received
- b) that the final IRP for Wales Annual Report's Determinations are adopted in principle, subject to the clarification and guidance from One Voice Wales.

8 Events & Community Projects Committee 30th May 2022

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ECP22/006 (Cwmbran Big Event), Members welcomed the huge success of the Cwmbran Big Event which had taken place on Saturday 11 June 2022. It is estimated that the event received up to 15,000 visitors. 70+ exhibitors took part including artisan, arts & crafts, charity groups, CAP, Army, Police, Fire Service, Play Service, Sports Development and many more. Interaction and feedback so far has been extremely positive. The Chair of the Council thanked all staff for their hard work and all Members echoed this. A full report would be brought to a future meeting of the Events Committee, once all the feedback has been received and collated.

The Acting Clerk mentioned that the Armed Forces Day and flag raising event had taken place earlier that day, with support from Reverend Nick Perry, various military groups, past and present members of Cwmbran Community Council, the Police and support from the Chair. Members were pleased to note the success of the event.

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

9 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 30th May 2022

Councillor P Seabourne introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that, subject to the correction of the current chair and vice in the present list, the minutes of the above meeting are received.

10 Environmental Sustainability & Planning Committee 1st June 2022

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that

- a) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- b) no objection is offered to Planning Lists 1415 and 1416 (except item 6343, awaiting Member's observation).

11 Policy & Finance Committee 6th June 2022

In the absence of Councillor Rh Bennett, Councillor Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF22/015 (Staffing Matters), Members were asked to note that arrangements would be shortly underway to start the process of advertising for the post of full time Clerical Officer.

In relation to Minute PF22/011 (Installation of Traffic Speed Signs) Members requested an update on the installation of the three Traffic Speed Signs and noted that this would be a perfect photo opportunity during the installation and thereafter.

In relation to Minute PF22/006 (Quarterly Financial Monitoring 2021/22) in relation to the Council's levels of Reserves and identifying future projects to help with the cost-of-living crisis, Members would like this to be addressed fully at the next Policy & Finance Committee.

It was **Resolved** that the recommendations included in the minutes are approved.

12 Accounting Statements and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2022

At the Policy & Finance Committee held on 6th June 2022 (PF22/008) the Annual Return & Accounting Statements and Financial Statements were approved subject to the points raised in minutes PF21/026 Financial Reserves: Review & Risk Assessment, relating to the Financial Statement wording being amended in 2022/23.

Members considered the Annual Return and Accounting Statements 2021/22, Financial Statement for the year ended the 31 March 2022 and report of the Council's internal auditor.

It was **Resolved** that the Annual Return, Accounting Statements and Financial Statement are approved and that the Acting Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, together with the Chair on behalf of the Council, signs the appropriate sections of the Annual Return for submission to the Council's external auditor.