

Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Monday 17 October 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

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on 9 November 2022.

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting to be held on 28 November 2022

Present: Councillor R Bennett (Chair), A Bird, L Chaney, M Day, F Jones, P Jones, L Lloyd-Tolman, K Manneh, C Morgan & M Villars

(Councillor L Chaney participated in the meeting via remote means)

Also: Debbie Dando (Clerical Officer), Stephanie Kopec (Clerical Officer) & Councillor L Simmonds

Absent: Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Morgan

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

PF22/043 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors SWJ Ashley (illness) & S Morgan (personal).

PF22/044 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.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

PF22/045 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

The Chair signed the minutes.

PF22/046 Community Engagement

Members noted that this item had been deferred from the last Policy & Finance meeting, following a presentation from David Leech (Chief Officer, Communities, Customer Service and Digital at Torfaen County Borough Council).

The Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting asked members to suggest a date for the proposed workshop to explore community engagement. It was suggested that day and evening workshops are arranged to accommodate all members. Monday 6th December was a date suggested for a possible day workshop, to be confirmed by the Chair.

It was **recommended** that day and evening workshops are arranged with a provisional date set of Monday 6th December 2022, to be confirmed.

PF22/047 Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments (August 2022)

Members considered the above information, including bank reconciliations. The Acting Clerk confirmed that corresponding statements and reconciliations had been verified by Councillor M Villars, in accordance with financial regulations.

It was **recommended**:-

- a) that the Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments for August 2022 is noted
- b) that Councillor Villars is thanked for verifying the accounts.

PF22/048 Council House Matters

- a) The external works to the building are currently still in progress. Members noted that the decoration of the external works had been slightly delayed due to the painter being hospitalised. He should be able to finalise the works over the next couple of weeks.
- b) Internal alterations to Reception and Main Office area – in March 2019 The Council received architectural drawings from Torfaen County Borough Council. This was put on hold during Covid.

Quotes and re-drawings were currently being reviewed and investigated. To update members once received at a future meeting.

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

PF22/049 Training Plan 2022/23

Members noted that in accordance with Section 67 of the 2021 Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act, the Council has a Statutory duty to make and publish a training plan for all members and staff which will support efforts to the capability of the sector. The first training plan must be adopted and published by 5 November 2022.

It was **recommended** that the Training Plan for 2022/23 is adopted and published accordingly.

PF22/050 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report

Members noted the draft determination for 2022/23 whereby the IRP Panel considers members of Community and Town Councils should not be out of pocket for carrying out their duties. The panel would recommend any feedback by 1st December 2022, however One Voice Wales is collating responses on Town and Community Councils behalf and would therefore appreciate any comments by 16th November 2022.

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

PF22/051 Governance Documents: Investment Strategy

Members noted that it is important to annually review the Council's internal systems, such as the Investment Strategy. Therefore, Members were asked to review and approve the Investment Strategy for 2022/23.

It was **recommended** that the Investment Strategy for 2022/23 is approved.

PF22/052 Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Cwmbran

To receive a report at the next meeting relating to the CAP meeting taking place on 25th October 2022.

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

PF22/053 Traffic Speed Signs

At the last meeting members requested that this item is discussed to identify future locations of speed signs and funding possibilities.

Members noted that the following locations have already been identified and awaiting installation, as soon as the materials had been received from Germany:-

- Llantarnam Road
- Station Road
- Blenheim Road

At previous meetings this funding had already been approved under the Regeneration budget (£25,000) with a further £75,000 in Earmarked Reserves.

Various sites were recommended to be considered for future speed signs, such as Hollybush Way and Thornhill. However, Members suggested that this item is considered at the next Group meeting, with possible information being sought from Gwent Police of data analysis regarding hotspots in relation to speeding/incidents within the Cwmbran Community Council area.

It was **recommended** that this item is deferred to the Group meeting for further consideration.

PF22/054 Seminars & Outside Bodies

- i. The Remembrance Parade Meeting 29 September 2022 - Members noted that this had already been reported at the Events & Community Project Committee Meeting.
- ii. The Canal Trust 6 October 2022 - Members noted that this had already been reported at the Environmental & Sustainability Committee Meeting.
- iii. One Voice Larger Local Council Committee 12 October 2022 – Members received an update from Councillor Bird who had attended the meeting.

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

Signed(Chair, Policy & Finance Committee)