

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday
9 November 2022 at 6.00pm**

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on
14 December 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: AL Bird (in chair), R Bennett, LJ Chaney, J Davenne, M Day,
G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman, K Manneh, C Morgan, S Morgan,
PJ Seabourne, L Simmonds, M Villars & WJ Walker

(Councillors L Chaney & R Bennett participated in the meeting via remote
means)

Also Clare Facey (Interim Clerk) Katie Jenkins TCBC Lead Engagement
Officer & Louise Day TCBC Communications Manager attended the meeting
via remote means

Absent: Councillors SWJ Ashley, F Jones, P Jones, LG Johnson & S Wharton

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

CL22/058 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors SWJ Ashley (illness),
F Jones (personal), P Jones (personal) & S Wharton (personal).

CL22/059 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.

*Councillor S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute CL22/066
(b) Planning Consultations. She remained in the meeting but took no part
during the discussions.*

CL22/060 Chair's Announcements & Vice Chair's Announcements

a) The Chair reported that he had participated in numerous meetings and
events:-

- Senior Schools Choral Festival 13 October 2022
- 50th Anniversary of The Congress Theatre 15 October 2022
- Signing of the Armed Forces Covenant 25 October 2022

b) Presentation of the Armed Forces Covenant took place on 25th October
2022, represented by the Council's Chairman. The Leader of Torfaen

County Borough Council signed the Armed Forces Covenant, together with the Leader and Armed Forces representative, then each Community Council were called upon to sign the covenant alongside the Armed Forces representative.

The Chair of the Council presented Cwmbran Community Council with the framed signed Armed Forces Covenant to be displayed at The Council House.

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

CL22/061 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.

CL22/062 Gwent Police Update/South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

- (i) Members noted apologies from the Inspector at Gwent Police as no questions had been raised.
- (ii) Members welcomed Station Commander Mark Bowditch from the Fire & Rescue Service to the meeting. He reported that over the bonfire and Halloween period, although these were slightly busier times, they had been significantly quieter than previous years, due to the bad weather experienced.

Members of Llantarnam Ward thanked the Station Commander for the recent posters that had been displayed at the Dowlais Brook site.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the Council note the Police Inspector's apologies
- b) the Fire Station Commander is thanked for his attendance.

CL22/063 Council Meeting 5th October 2022

The Chair introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

With regards to item CL22/051 Members noted that since the last Remembrance Meeting, CADESA had raised concerns over road closures relating to Cwmbran Park. Following discussions with TCBC it had been identified that there was a shortfall of £295, to warrant the extra road closure of part of Henllys Way. The Leader and Chair approved the payment, to expedite the preparation of the extra road closure and to eliminate any safety and noise issues.

The Acting Clerk reported that at the last Remembrance meeting it had been agreed that Cwmbran Community Council would help support CASESA to provide refreshments to all the children attending the Remembrance Parade at Cwmbran Park, in the sum of £50. Members noted that this is a historical arrangement.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) Members noted the payments of £295 for the extra road closure of part of Henllys Way and the £50 payment for refreshments, both relating to Remembrance Day at Cwmbran Park (L10 Remembrance budget)
- b) the minutes of the above meeting are received.

CL22/064 Events & Community Projects Committee 10th October 2022

Councillor A Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Members noted item ECP22/028, the Senior Schools Choral Festival had taken place on Thursday 13th October 2022 at The Congress Theatre. It was noted that unfortunately Rev Harald Thomas had been unwell and Mr David Williamson stepped in to MC the event in his absence. Members who had attended the event reported David Williamson had been fantastic and really engaging with the children and suggested that the Council could use Mr Williamson for other Cwmbran events in the future, such as the Eco Quiz.

Members reported that the event had been a huge success and had been very well attended. Members noted that Caerleon Comprehensive School and Crownbridge School performances had not only been amazing but also inspirational.

The Chair expressed his disappointment that only 3 members were present at the event and kindly asked that members please make every effort to attend in the future, as they are representing the community.

With regards to item ECP22/029 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies, Members were pleased to note that the scaffolding had now been removed from the building.

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

CL22/065 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 10th October 2022

Councillor P Seabourne introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

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

CL22/066 Environmental Sustainability & Planning Committee 12th October 2022

Councillor S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute CL22/066 (b) Planning Consultations. She remained in the meeting during the discussions.

- a) Councillor Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

With regards to item ESP22/036 Winter Warmer Scheme, the Acting Clerk explained to members that unfortunately Promocorp had reported that there had been a delay with the shipping of the thermal blankets, however, as soon as they had been dispatched they would notify the Council.

Members mentioned the survey results that had been produced to identify what products would help members of the public with regards to keeping warm this winter. The Acting Clerk will report the findings at the next meeting. Members also suggested different ways in which the Council could publicise this survey to create more interest. It was suggested that the link could be put on Members Matters. Councillor Davenne also mentioned that he could help publicise it through their social media platforms.

With regards to item ESP22/034 Neighbourhood Services, Members of the Llantarnam Ward expressed their concerns again regarding missed and late collections within their ward. Members explained that they had reported this through the Acting Clerk, to the Executive Member but were still awaiting a response.

With regards to item ESP22/036 – under the Fuel Banks Scheme, the Acting Clerk reported that she had recently spoken with Mal Edgson from CAB. He recommended that by using other local organisations as a benchmark, they could identify what Cwmbran Community Council could contribute to the scheme. He suggested that the Council could provide £10,000 per quarter (as a pilot amount), which could be reviewed over the next quarter, giving the project some flexibility.

Members approved the £10,000 per quarter, suggesting that this quarter is approved but then reviewed before taking to the next quarter.

- b) Planning Consultation/s – Members considered the outstanding planning lists and there were no objections to planning list 1433. However, the Council objected to item 6396 on list 1434. The Council objects to this planning proposal as the signage would protrude and be a light over neighbouring and nearby homes, which would be disturbing. The Council also objects on environmental grounds, it would have a negative impact on the local wildlife.
- c) Thornhill 4 U Too Grant – Members approved the grant application that was received from Thornhill 4 U Too and was considered similarly to previous foodbanks awarded recently, in the sum of £3,333. To be budgeted under N05, New Environmental Projects, earmarked reserves.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- i) Members note the position regarding the delivery of the Thermal Blankets from Promocorp and the Acting Clerk share the link of the recent survey with members and publicise it through our social media platforms
- ii) Members approve the £10,000 per quarter, suggesting that this quarter is approved but then reviewed before taking to the next quarter.
- iii) no objection is offered to Planning List 1433. To note the objections relating to planning list 1434, item 6396 and forward to the Planning Department
- iv) that the grant application from Thornhill 4 U Too is awarded in the sum of £3,333. To be budgeted under N05, New Environmental Projects, earmarked reserves
- v) the minutes of the above meeting are approved.

CL22/067 Policy & Finance Committee 17th October 2022

Councillor A Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

With regards to item PF22/052 Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Cwmbran, Councillor S Morgan reported that the last meeting had been very poorly attended. The Member reported that there were 2 possible funding applications currently identified, one funding possibility with CCYP and the other for a youth basketball coaching programme, again both with the objective of educating young people with regards to substance misuse.

With regards to item PF22/053 Traffic Speed Signs, Members noted that the installation of the 3 speed signs was due to take place this week and Members would be notified accordingly for publicity/photo opportunities.

It was suggested that the recent item on Smartwater is added to the next Policy & Finance meeting for discussion.

It was **Resolved**:-

- a) that the above matters are noted and the Smartwater item is added to the next Policy & Finance meeting
- b) that the minutes are approved.

CL22/068 Community Engagement

Members noted that this item had been deferred to the next Policy & Finance meeting.

CL22/069 Torfaen Residents Survey 2022

Members welcomed Katie Jenkins, Lead Engagement Officer and Louise Day, Communications Manager from Torfaen Council's Communications and Engagement team, to the meeting.

They provided a presentation to members about the Torfaen Residents Survey. They have created a new engagement platform called Get Involved. The Officers explained that they are currently providing the Annual Resident's Survey, together with the Council's developing five-year plan for the borough and the Council's budget forecast for the next financial year.

The Engagement Officer reported that TCBC has an online community engagement hub, which is convenient, easy to use and can be done in your own time. Consultations include documents, photos, videos and details of how you can speak to the team face-to-face. They explained how you can register and join the site and keep track of what happens next.

The Officer explained how the annual residents survey provides valuable feedback about council services. It provides the Council with the public's views on what you think needs to be done and will ultimately shape how the services are prioritised and delivered in the future.

All responses received will be analysed and presented to the Council's Chief Executive and senior leaders. They are also given to individual service areas. As well as providing valuable feedback to teams about what you think of the Council's services. From this year, the survey will also be an important measure for the Council's new County Plan. The survey closes at the end of November 2022.

The Torfaen County Plan highlights the Council's ambitions and well-being objectives for the borough until 2027. It includes 9 priorities including raising educational attainment, encouraging new businesses and improving the local environment. It also includes a list of specific targets that will be updated every year.

Officers are asking everyone to complete the surveys, if Cwmbran Community Council can promote the surveys on their website and social media channels, through noticeboards and wherever possible.

Members thanked the Officers for their presentation and it was noted that the surveys would be shared with all members and through the Council's social media platforms.

It was **Resolved**:-

- a) that the Officers are thanked for their full report and presentation
- b) that the surveys are shared with all members through Members Matters and available on the Council's social media platforms.

CL22/070 Review of the Community Areas and Community Electoral Arrangements

The Council had recently received information from Torfaen County Borough Council who are undertaking a review of the community areas and community electoral arrangements, which Torfaen County Borough Council has a duty to keep under review in accordance with Section 25 of the Local (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. The last general review was undertaken in 2012 with new arrangements being agreed and implemented in the 2017 Election.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales is currently planning the next round of reviews for County Borough wards. The first step in initiating the community warding reviews is for Torfaen County Borough Council to formally approve the process and to establish a Reform Working Group. A report to achieve this review was taken to TCBC's Full Council meeting. They are still awaiting the results.

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

CL22/071 Exclusion of the Press & Public

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed that the following matter 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.

CL22/072 Staffing

The Council agreed that a full national staffing review would be undertaken through Torfaen County Borough Council.

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

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

