

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday
1 February 2023 at 6.00pm**

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday
29 March 2023

**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: A Bird, L Chaney, J Davenne, P Jones, G Lloyd-Tolman,
L Lloyd-Tolman, K Manneh, P Seabourne, M Villars, W J Walker

(Councillors SWJ Ashley, R Bennett, S Wharton participated in the meeting
via remote means)

Also present Gareth Davies (Appointed as the new Clerk to the Council),
David Leach (TCBC)

Absent: Councillors M Day, L G Johnson, F Jones, C Morgan, S Morgan, L Simmonds

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

CL22/090 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors F Jones, C Morgan,
S Morgan

CL22/091 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 SWJ Ashley and P Jones declared a non-prejudicial interest in
Minute CL22/098 – Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee. They
remained in the meeting.*

CL22/092 Chair's Announcements & Vice Chair's Announcements

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

- Several Christmas events
- Salvation Army Warm Spaces Monday lunch
- Cwmbran Community Council Community Awards
- John Fielding Memorial

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

CL22/093 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.

CL22/094 Gwent Police Update/South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

Councillor Villars updated members on a litter pick at Cwmbran Stadium, where he spoke to the local Police Community Support Offices for Llantarnam who invited him and Councillors Walker to attend a monthly meeting.

- (i) No update from Gwent Police has been provided.
- (ii) No update from Wales Fire & Rescue has been provided.

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

CL22/095 Community Engagement

The committee welcomed David Leech (Chief Officer at Torfaen County Borough Council) to the meeting.

The officer gave a full and informative presentation to members, relating to Communities at the heart of Public Service and how to work together to build up resilience so that we can work on the challenges together and integrate communities.

The aim is to find out the help communities are asking for from the local councils and what the challenges are and how we can collectively support our community and identify 3 key areas. Also working in conjunction with the Health Authority to look at the factors that impact people's health.

At the last discussion at the Policy & Finance meeting priorities were identified including:

- Natural Environment which identified issues with the canal, fly tipping and litter.
- Income and Job prospects to look at Education in the community, including the lack of work experience and knowledge.
- Culture and Leisure, including employment opportunities to offer in the Cwmbran area.
- Age and Frailty including improving homes and promoting warm spaces.

Members discussed the groups in the area which may be interested in getting involved and how we can look at things differently. Including the involvement of local churches and how to engage younger people.

Members mentioned the past successes tackling problems with a common goal. With charities time now being taken up with supporting communities through Food Banks, families need to be supported to raise their income and not rely on Food Banks.

The officer asked members to have a think how local community groups operate including who they are and the services they offer to the local community. Next session to look at the problems and see where we can work together.

Members thanked the officer for his presentation.

It was **recommended** that:

- a) David Leech is thanked for his report.
- b) Members to email the Chair A Bird with details of local Community Groups in their area.

CL22/096 Council Meeting 14th December 2022

The Chair introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- c) that the above matters are noted
- d) the minutes of the above meeting are received.

CL22/097 Events & Community Projects Committee 9th January 2023

This meeting was cancelled.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) that the above is noted.

CL22/098 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 9th January 2023

Councillors SWJ Ashley and P Jones declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item. They remained in the meeting.

This meeting was cancelled.

(a) It was **Resolved** that the above is noted.

(b) New Grant Applications Received

It was **recommended** that the applications be dealt with as indicated below:

Applicant	Grant Awarded	Statutory Power
(a) Able	No Grant awarded due to the request being for Educational purposes.	Local Government
(b) Friends of Pontnewydd Park	No Grant awarded, deferred to the next ESP meeting as this could be from Regeneration or Environment Budgets rather than grants.	Local Government Act
(c) TLC Wellbeing Centre	No Grant awarded due to the applicant being a Church.	Local Government

CL22/099 Environmental Sustainability & Planning Committee 18th January 2023

It was **Resolved** that:-

Councillor A Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

- i) the minutes of the above meeting are noted and approved.
- ii) Planning list 1443 to note a concern that litter is picked up, no objection is offered to Planning List 1444.

CL22/100 Policy & Finance Committee 23rd January 2023

Councillor A Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved.

CL22/101 Council House Matters: Internal alterations to the Council House

Members agreed to not move ahead with the current plans. A full assessment of the building is to be carried out for staff use and disability requirements.

CL22/102 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.

CL22/103 Revenue Estimates 2023-24 and Earmarked Reserves

The Budget for 2023-24 was agreed and approved.

It was **Resolved** that :-

- i) Agreed to move earmarked reserves of £80,000 from Asset Replacements - £50,000 to Well Being and £30,000 to Playschemes.
- ii) Councillor Davenne to make a Presentation at the next meeting on the cost of running Playscheme.
- iii) the position is noted.

CL22/104 Staffing

The Chair confirmed the start date for the new Clerk will be the 1st March 2023.

Members agreed to allow staff affected by Teacher Strikes to work from.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- i) The position is noted

CL22/105 Appointment of Responsible Officer.

Following legal advice from One Voice Wales, Members are to note:

Under Local Government 1972 – Section 112 (5) with a vacant post or post to be filled a parish or community council may appoint the Chairman of the council to be a responsible officer of the council, without remuneration.

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