

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday
13 December 2023 at 6.00pm**

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on
31 January 2024

**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, R Bennett, M Day, P Jones, G Lloyd-Tolman,
L Lloyd-Tolman (Chair), K Manneh, C Morgan, S Morgan, D Thomas, M Villars
& WJ Walker

(Councillor S Wharton participated in the meeting via remote means)

Also present: Gareth Davies (Clerk to the Council), Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk)

Absent: Councillors A Bird, L Chaney, J Davenne, L Johnson, F Jones & P Seabourne

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

CL23/098 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from A Bird (Personal), L Chaney
(illness), J Davenne (Work), F Jones (Family) & P Seabourne (Personal)

CL23/099 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 S Ashley, P Jones & S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest
in minute CL23/111 MBACT Funding for Canal Project Work. They remained
in the meeting during the discussion.*

*Councillors G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman, D Thomas & M Villars declared
a non-prejudicial interest in minute CL23/113 Grant Applications. They
remained in the meeting during the discussion.*

CL23/100 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".

CL23/101 Chair's Announcements & Vice Chair's Announcements

The Chair reported to members that it has been a very busy time since the last meeting. The Remembrance Sunday Parade was very well attended despite the weather.

The Windrush event was very successful showcasing the contribution of the Windrush generation and descendants on Cwmbran and the surrounding areas. The event was excellent with lots of positive feedback and hopefully it could be repeated in the future.

Lots of community activities have taken place recently which have been attended by members, including the Tree Lighting Ceremonies in Pontnewydd and at the Council House and a community Pantomime.

An awards ceremony was held at the Council House on Monday 11th December 2023 for the Christmas Card Competition held jointly with Torfaen Play, over 500 entries were received with 17 Children from across the Cwmbran area attending to receive an award.

The chair thanked Tasty not Wasty for their hard work in the food share, especially on Christmas Eve in the Cwmbran and Torfaen area.

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

CL23/102 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.

CL23/103 Gwent Police Update/South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

- (i) The Clerk had received an update from Gwent Police Inspector Lee Stachow, which will be circulated to members.

Regarding the recent spate of graffiti in the area, 14 incidents had been reported on the 2-3rd November 2023 and two arrests had been made pending further enquiries.

Concerning the anti-social behaviour along the canal, the Inspector reported that 6 calls had been logged concerning fishing and 4 logs concerning off road bikes which were not directly linked to the canal. The neighbourhood Policing team monitor the calls and regularly patrol the canal area on foot as well as push bikes.

Councillor Ashley updated members on the anti-social behaviour which took place at the Pontnewydd Tree Lighting Ceremony.

- (ii) No update from Wales Fire & Rescue Service has been provided.

Councillor P Jones has concerns with the Fire & Rescue Service cover on weekends in the Cwmbran area. There was no fire cover on Saturday between 9.30am and 3pm, and no cover again on Sunday afternoon due to the vehicle being in Caldicot. The number of fire vehicles has been reduced from two to one and if there was a major incident it could put lives in danger. The Clerk is to contact the Wales Fire & Rescue Service concerning weekend cover.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) Wales Fire & Rescue Service is contacted concerning weekend cover.
- b) the position is noted.

CL23/104 Council Meetings: 8 November 2023

Councillor L Lloyd-Tolman introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the minutes of the above meetings are approved and actioned therein.

CL23/105 Events & Community Projects Committee 13 November 2023

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the minutes of the above meetings are approved and actioned therein.

CL23/106 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 13 November 2023

Councillor L Lloyd-Tolman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the minutes of the above meeting are approved and actioned therein.

CL23/107 Regeneration & Major Grants Committee 13 November 2023

Councillor C Morgan introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the minutes of the above meetings are approved and actioned therein.

CL23/108 Environmental Sustainability & Planning Committee 22 November 2023

Councillor Walker enquired if the £4000 remaining to clear the weeds in the canal would be spent in the spring. The Clerk confirmed that a refund had been requested.

Councillor L Lloyd-Tolman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) Planning Consultation list 1485 no objections. List 1486 item 6524 members are making enquiries into the application, no objections to other items on list.
- b) the minutes of the above meeting are approved and actioned therein.

CL23/109 Policy & Finance Committee 27 November 2023

Councillor R Bennett introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the minutes of the above meeting are approved and actioned therein.

CL23/110 Cwmbran @75

The Clerk reported to members that the meeting held at The Council House was well attended. The logo design brief is due to go out soon and will be launched at the Community Celebration Dinner in March 2024.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

CL23/111 MBACT – Funding For Canal Project Work

Councillors S Ashley, P Jones & S Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in minute CL23/111 MBACT Funding for Canal Project Work. They remained in the meeting during the discussion.

The Clerk has been in contact with MBACT concerning the funding received from Torfaen CBC and this has been confirmed as separate funding to be used for training. The funding requested from the Council to be used for work on the non-navigable part of the Canal. MBACT have also confirmed that they will provide a 3 monthly update report along with a full annual report.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

CL23/112 Cwmbran Strategic Group

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th December, which will look at the terms of reference.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

CL23/113 Grant Applications

Councillors G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman, D Thomas & M Villars declared a non-prejudicial interest in minute CL23/113 Grant Applications. They remained in the meeting during the discussion.

The Clerk updated members on the grant application received from Cylch Meithrin for £1456.38. Members discussed the application and the grant was approved by members.

Members discussed the applications received for flexible winter funding from Food Bands for support to provide services around the Christmas period. Applications have been received from Thornhill Food Bank and Costar for £1000 and Llantarnam who have not confirmed an amount. Evidence to be provided that the money has been spent on food. Members approved the requests for flexible winter funding.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) The grant application received from Cylch Meithrin is approved.
- b) The applications for flexible winter funding for food banks is approved.
- c) the position is noted.

CL23/114 Project Proposal Form

Members discussed the project proposal form to enable the efficient recording and progressing of project proposals from Councillors. Members agreed to adopt the form.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the Project Proposal Form is approved.
- b) the position is noted.

CL23/115 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.

CL23/116 Finance Update

The RFO reported to members that training had been completed on the new finance system and admin plus. The finance system will be operational by the end of December 2023 and will be operated on a dual basis with the old system until April 2024.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

CL23/117 Budget Update

The RFO reported that members had made a number of suggestions for amendments to the attached budget reports and these would be sent out to members to consider.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

CL23/118 Staffing Update

The Clerk reported to members that a member of staff had requested reducing their working week from 5 days to 4 days and a second request had been received from a member of staff to increase from 2 days a week to 3 days. The changes were approved by members.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the staff changes are approved.
- b) the position is noted.

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