

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday
31 January 2024 at 6.00pm**

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on
27 March 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: A Bird, M Day, F Jones, P Jones, L Lloyd-Tolman, K Manneh,
C Morgan, M Villars, WJ Walker & S Wharton

*(Councillors SWJ Ashley, R Bennett, L Chaney & P Seabourne participated in
the meeting via remote means)*

Also present: Gareth Davies (Clerk to the Council), Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk) &
Lee Stachow (Inspector Gwent Police)

Absent: Councillors J Davenne, L Johnson, G Lloyd-Tolman, S Morgan & D Thomas

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

CL23/119 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors G Lloyd-Tolman
(Work) & S Morgan (Meeting)

CL23/120 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 declared a non-prejudicial interest in minute
CL23/132 Cwmbran Strategic Group. They remained in the meeting during
the discussion.*

CL23/121 Voting

It was **Resolved** that the manner of any voting at this meeting will be by a
simple show of hands of "for" or "against" or "abstain".

CL23/122 Chair's Announcements & Vice Chair's Announcements

The Chair reported to members that January had been a quiet month for activities, however there was a lot going on behind the scenes with the planning for the Celebration Dinner and the Eco Quiz which is taking place at the Congress Theatre Thursday 1st February, with 13 schools attending.

Councillor C Morgan reported to members that he attended the John Fielding VC Service at Llantarnam Church which was very well attended.

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

CL23/123 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.

CL23/124 Gwent Police Update/South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

(i) Members welcomed Inspector Lee Stachow to the meeting.

The Inspector reported to members that Gwent Police have had a very busy period. Incidents had been reported in the Cwmbran area of several individuals trying doors of properties, with three groups of individuals operating separately. Two individuals have been arrested and remanded in custody, with further arrests expected.

Officers have been out in the community doing lots of preventative work with the Neighbourhood Team issuing prevention packs containing smart water for residents to mark their property and catcher assets are being used with a view to someone trying to steal from it to tackle vehicle crime and identify offenders.

Officers have also been working with Trading Standards to close businesses in the area involved in the selling of illegal vapes.

Councillor Seabourne raised concerns with parking outside Henllys Church in Wales Primary School at drop off and collection times and asked the Inspector if officers could attend the schools. Members discussed the issues with parking at a number of schools in Cwmbran, with drivers also parking on drop kerbs.

Councillor Ashley informed the Inspector of the anti social behaviour at the Pontnewydd Tree Lighting Ceremony, held 29th November 2023 and his concerns with the amount of traffic in Pontnewydd around 6pm, especially on a Friday. The Inspector will contact the Torfaen Enforcement Team.

- (ii) A written report has been circulated to members from South Wales Fire and Rescue. Members were pleased that the report confirmed that Cwmbran will have fire cover at all times.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) Inspector Lee Stachow is thanked for this report.
- b) South Wales Fire and Rescue Service are thanked for their report.
- c) The position is noted.

CL23/125 Council Meetings: 13 December 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.

CL23/126 Events & Community Projects Committee 8 January 2024

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

It was **Resolved** that:-

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

CL23/127 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 8 January 2024

Councillor P Seabourne introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

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

CL23/128 Regeneration & Major Grants Committee 8 January 2024

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.

CL23/129 (a) Environmental Sustainability & Planning Committee 17 January 2024

Councillor Villars informed members that item ESP23/047 the new Zebra Crossing is to be installed on Brangwyn Avenue not Hogarth Close as noted in the minutes and will take 6 weeks to install.

Planning Consultation List 1490, item 6539 Councillor Bird objects to the loss of car parking spaces which could impact on the traffic and the nearby railway station car park.

Councillor S Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) Planning Consultation list 1490, item 6539 objection to the loss of car parking spaces, no objections to other items on list. No objections to Planning List 1491.
- b) the minutes of the above meeting are approved and actioned therein.

CL23/130 Policy & Finance Committee 22 January 2024

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.

CL23/131 Cwmbran @75

Councillor Bird updated members on the recent meeting held for Cwmbran @75, with the meeting being very positive. Plans include an exhibition of local artists colouring book organised by Llantarnam Grange and a video memories project with College Gwent and the Council. Choirs from Bruchsal will also be visiting Cwmbran during the celebrations.

The branding will be launched at the Awards Celebration Dinner in March 2024 and be going out to partners to use.

Councillor C Morgan informed members that a Rugby Tournament would be taking place in Cwmbran to celebrate Cwmbran @75 and the Music Festival would also be a 75th birthday party.

Councillor Ashley suggested planting trees to mark the anniversary.

The Clerk informed members that he had received an offer of support for celebration events from a local business.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

CL23/132 Cwmbran Strategic Group

Councillors S Ashley & P Jones declared a non-prejudicial interest in minute CL23/132 Cwmbran Strategic Group. They remained in the meeting during the discussion.

Councillor K Manneh attended the meeting and informed members that they planned to meet with the MP and Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council to look at details of how it can be implemented in Cwmbran.

The clerk reported to members that there had been a lack of communication between local Government and Councils and the Society for Local Council Clerks is looking to address this. The clerk will report back to Council when more information is available.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

CL23/133 Community Review

Councillor L Lloyd-Tolman reported to members that the initial response had been circulated to members but needed to be amended due to the feedback received.

It was proposed that a short meeting is held on the 19th February 2024 after the Regeneration and Major Grants committee meeting. Members agreed to the proposal.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) a meeting is held 19th February 2024 to consider and approve the response.
- b) the position is noted.

CL23/134 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.

CL23/135 Finance Update

The RFO reported to members that reports had been generated on the new financial system for Councillor Villars to look at and see if they are suitable for Council. Both systems will run in parallel until at least the end of the current financial year or longer if required.

Staff will be receiving training for the planning module, which will be tested and introduced slowly to the meetings once completed.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

CL23/136 Budget Update

Members considered the attached budget report and agreed to the proposed budget and to set up an ear marked reserve for core grants.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the RFO produces a report for the Council meeting on the ear marked reserves.
- b) the position is noted.

CL23/137 Precept for 2024/25

The RFO reported to the members the proposed precept request for 2024/25 financial year.

The Council members agreed to the precept as follows:-

Total funding required	£789,820.00
Funded by –	
Reserves	£151,074.17
Precept	£638,745.83

Council Tax base	13,913
Band D Equivalent	£45,91

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) RFO to inform the precepting authority of the decision.
- b) the position is noted.

CL23/138 Staffing Update

Members received a staffing update from the Clerk.

It was **Resolved** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

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