

**Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Monday 25 November 2024 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 Wednesday 11 December 2024.

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting to be held on: Monday 20 January 2025.

**Present** Councillors A Bird, L Chaney, M Day (Chair), P Jones, L Lloyd-Tolman, C Morgan & W Walker

*(Councillors R Bennett & M Villars participated in the meeting via remote means)*

Also Gareth Davies (Clerk), Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk), Gillian Lewis & Rachel Standfield (Senior Economy & Strategic Regeneration Officer)

**Absent** Councillors S Ashley, L Johnston, F Jones, K Manneh, S Morgan & P Seabourne

*(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)*

**PF24/038 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillor S Ashley (Personal) & F Jones (Personal)

**PF24/039 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.

**PF24/040 Minutes – 14 October 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2024 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor M Day signed the minutes.

**PF24/041 Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments (September 2024) and Bank Reconciliation for September 2024.**

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

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) that the Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments and Bank Reconciliation for September 2024 are noted.
- b) that Councillor Villars is thanked for verifying the accounts.

**PF24/042 New Model Financial Regulations**

The RFO updated members on the changes which included electronic and online payments with the existing limits. Members approved the new model Financial Regulations.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the New Model Financial Regulations are approved.
- b) the position is noted.

**PF24/043 Seminars & Outside Bodies**

Members received a presentation Gillian Lewis & Rachel Standfield (Senior Economy & Strategic Regeneration Officer) detailing the Cwmbran Placement Plan.

The plan involves a holistic approach to the planning and design of developments and spaces, focusing on a positive outcome, distinctiveness and a sense of place.

The plan focuses on 6 principals –

- i) People and Community
- ii) Location
- iii) Identity
- iv) Movement
- v) Mix of uses
- vi) Public Realm

Placemaking Plans in Torfaen as required by the Welsh Government to inform direction for future investment in town centres and to provide multipurpose spaces, sustainable transport and a good quality public realm.

The vision is that by 2034. Cwmbran Town will be an economically significant hub, with improvement plans for the town centre, improved connectivity, redevelopment and public art.

The Public consultation is taking place with public drop-in days and the proposed plan and information also available in Cwmbran Library.

Gillian Lewis & Rachel Standfield (Senior Economy & Strategic Regeneration Officer) answered questions from members who were concerned with the areas to be improved and the funding of the development plan as part of the area is privately owned.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) Gillian Lewis & Rachel Standfield (Senior Economy & Strategic Regeneration Officer) are thanked for their presentation.
- b) the position is noted.

**PF24/044 Exclusion of the Public & Press**

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is **recommended** that the following matters 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.

**PF24/045 Budget Report**

Members discussed organising a group meeting to look at the draft budget for the 2025 – 2026 financial year. The RFO will send invitations to members.

The RFO updated members on the following budgets to date:

- i) Budget Review October 2024 – ECP
- ii) Budget Review October 2024 – Elected Members
- iii) Budget Review October 2024 – ESP
- iv) Budget Review October 2024 – GVO
- v) Budget Review October 2024 – Office Admin
- vi) Budget Review October 2024 – Premises
- vii) Budget Review October 2024 – P&F
- viii) Budget Review October 2024 – Staffing
- ix) Budget Review October 2024 – RMG
- x) Budget Review October 2024 – T/F

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the RFO arranges a group meeting to discuss the 2025 – 2026 draft budget.
- b) the position is noted.

**PF24/046 Council House Building Update**

The Clerk informed members that the new fire doors had been installed and were ready to be painted. Upstairs carpets had been fitted and one of the offices will soon be ready for staff to use. The members room will also be decorated and refurnished, which will then be a suitable working space for meetings and members to use.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) The position is noted.

**PF24/047 Staffing Update**

Members received a staffing update from the Clerk.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

*Signed .....*(Chair, Policy & Finance Committee)