

Minutes of a Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on

Wednesday 23 July 2014

Present Councillor S Evans (in the Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Brooks, D Daniels, M Day, M Johnston, R Jones, R Kemp, KK Manneh, TA Matthews, J Rees, WJ Walker and TJ Winter

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council) and Clare Rowles (Administrative Officer)

CL14/030 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors LJ Chaney (personal), J Davenne (work commitments), WM Howell (holiday), N Salkeld (holiday) D Standing (work commitments) and DJ Williams (medical).

CL14/031 Chair's Announcements

The Chairman reported that he had recently attended the following events:

- 28 June 2014 Armed Forces Day – Cwmbran
- 14 July 2014 Civic Function at “The Curry House.”
- 17 July 2014 Civic Cinema Function (“Dawn of the Planet of the Apes”)
- 18 July 2014 West Pontnewydd Scouts Retirement Function
- 19 July 2014 Blaenavon Civic Dinner

CL14/032 Vice Chair's Announcements

The Vice Chairman reported that he had recently attended the following events:

- 8 July 2014 Young Fire Fighters Graduation Ceremony
- 9 July 2014 Cwmbran Junior Schools in Bloom Competition
- 9 July 2014 “Wizard of Oz” at Fairwater Comprehensive School
- 15 July 2014 Nant Celyn Primary School Awards Evening

CL14/033 Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they had and sign the Interests Sheet to give details of the nature of their interest.

CL14/034 Cwmbran Policing Update.

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Ian Green of Gwent Police. Sergeant Green reported on crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) levels around Cwmbran and answered members' questions. He also updated members on arrangements to police the forthcoming NATO Summit, which would take place at the Celtic Manor in September 2014.

Sergeant Green also outlined arrangements to reduce the risk of crime and antisocial behaviour during the school holidays, especially at school sites, where problems were sometimes experienced.

Issues raised by members included:

- Recent antisocial behaviour at a public house in St Dials.
- The cost of policing the NATO Summit compared to the need to introduce savings.
- Traffic problems at the junction of Oakfield Road/Llantarnam Road.
- Definitions of crime/shoplifting.
- Parking problems at Church Road (Mount Pleasant Ward).

Resolved that Sergeant Green be thanked for his attendance and willingness to answer questions.

CL14/035 Cwmbran Fire & Rescue

A representative of the Fire & Rescue Service was unable to attend the meeting.

Resolved that the position is noted.

CL14/036 Council Meeting 25 June 2014

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

In relation to Minute CL14/027 (Statement of Accounts and Annual Return), members were pleased to note that the Council's external auditors had confirmed that there were no issues in respect of which they proposed to qualify their Audit Opinion on the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2014. There were also no misstatements identified in the accounting statements. Members congratulated staff on this favourable outcome from the audit process. The Annual Return would be formally reported to Council in September 2014.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting be confirmed.

(The Chairman signed and initialled the minutes of the above meetings in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 12.)

CL14/037 Events & Community Projects Committee 30 June 2014

Councillor Walker introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ENT14/009 (Summer Playschemes), members were pleased to note that all sites were now full. Members also noted proposals to introduce Twitter accounts for each site.

In relation to Minute ENT14/011 (World War Centenary), members noted that the proposals for children from one of the Council's Playschemes to attend the service at Holy Trinity Church Pontnewydd on 4 August had been accepted. The children would form a "guard of honour" displaying poppy-based items of craftwork. They would also be welcome to attend the service if they wished. The Chairman of the Council, and all members, had also been invited to attend. Details of the service would follow. A collection would be taken at the service with all proceeds to the chairman's charity SSAFA. Members also noted that Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre was staging an exhibition commencing on 26 July reflecting the centenary.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL14/038 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 30 June 2014

Councillor Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL14/039 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 2 July 2014

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting. Members commented on the poor attendance at this meeting.

Resolved that

- (1) subject to the addition of Councillor Day's name to the list of members who had submitted apologies for absence and the correction of the date of the meeting to "2 July 2014," the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) no objection is offered to Planning List 1051 and 1052. Members noted that amended plans had been submitted in relation to application 5724 on list 1052.

CL14/040 Policy & Finance Committee 7 July 2014

Councillor Matthews introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF14/022 (Grant Application from Royal British Legion Pontnewydd Branch), Members noted the proposal to establish a subcommittee of this Council to manage its regeneration budget (I13) in the

light of the discontinuation of Cwmbran Regeneration Partnership. Officers of Torfaen County Borough Council had offered to provide project management support in relation to potential projects.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting be confirmed.

CL14/041 Plenary Powers

Members considered arrangements for the Council's decision-making process during the forthcoming Summer recess, including the potential to involve opposition groups in this process.

Resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, together with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Majority Group, be granted plenary powers to respond to any matters requiring decisions to be taken during the Summer recess period as no Council Committees or Council Meetings would now be held until September. Any matters dealt with to be reported to the next Meeting of the Council.

CL14/042 Letters of thanks and appreciation

Thanks were received from Cwmbran Stroke Support Group (Grant) and Mrs H Probert (Task Force). Expressions of gratitude had also been received by telephone from two local residents for gardening work undertaken by the Task Force.

Resolved that the letters of thanks be noted.

Signed

Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council

Following the meeting, the Chairman of the Council presented cheques to the organisations who had been awarded grants by the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee. Members remained for the presentations.