

Minutes of a Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 8 October 2014

Present Councillor S Evans (in the Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, LJ Chaney, D Daniels, J Davenne, M Day, WM Howell, M Johnston, R Jones, R Kemp, TA Matthews, JC Powell, J Rees, D Standing, WJ Walker, PJ Williams and TJ Winter

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

CL14/046 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors S Brooks (holidays), KK Manneh (work commitments), N Salkeld (bereavement) and DJ Williams (personal)

The Clerk reported that Councillor Salkeld had expressed her gratitude to the Council for the floral tribute sent to her recently.

CL14/047 Chair's Announcements

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

- 4 August 2014 Service to commemorate the centenary of World War One at Holy Trinity Church (The Chairman was pleased to report that the offertory at this service had been donated to his nominated charity, SSAFA)
- 9 August 2014 Wales Ghurkha Community Open Day
- 14 September 2014 Greenmeadow Farm Event
- 6 September 2014 Blaen Bran Woodland Community Day
- 6 September 2014 Concert by Linden Singers in aid of McMillan Nurses
- 20 September 2014 Cwmbran Amateur Swimming Club (Otters) 40th Anniversary
- 4 October 2014 Ghurkha Dashain Celebration Party

CL14/048 Vice Chair's Announcements

None

CL14/049 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. Councillors Ashley, Daniels, Davenne, Rees and Powell declared an interest in item CL14/053 (3) below (Planning Application 12/P/00288) and withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this item.)

CL14/050 Cwmbran Policing Update.

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Ian Green of Gwent Police. Sergeant Green reported on crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) levels around Cwmbran. He described current initiatives to address these matters, such as working with Street Pastors, and answered members' questions.

Issues raised by members included:

- Factors behind the increased crime statistics in Pontnewydd.
- Initiatives to reduce Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) associated with Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night.
- Proposals to allow premises in Fairwater to stay open until 5 am.
- Traffic problems at the junction of Llantarnam Road and Oakfield Road.
- ASB at Granston Square, Coed Eva.
- The need to maintain contact between the PCSO and ward members.

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

CL14/051 Cwmbran Fire & Rescue

The Chairman welcomed Station Commander Matt Guerin of South Wales Fire & Rescue Service. Station Commander Guerin presented statistics of incidents attended locally and answered members' questions. He made particular reference to arrangements in relation to Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night. He also outlined progress in relation to the Fire Cover Review, which had resulted in the loss of an appliance from Cwmbran, though he was unable to advise when these arrangements would come into effect. Members asked about the number of staff affected (16) and options for redeployment.

Issues raised by members included:

- Records in relation to flooding.
- Road Traffic Accidents/Flooding – liaison between the Fire & Rescue Service and Torfaen County Borough Council.
- Recent accident at Cwmbran Drive.
- Fires resulting from using saucepans for deep fat frying.

- Carbon Monoxide Safety Advice, with particular reference to rented accommodation.
- Fires resulting from litter bins.

Resolved that Station Commander Guerin be thanked for his attendance and willingness to answer questions.

CL14/052 Council Meetings 23 July 2014 and 15 September 2014

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

Resolved that, subject to the addition of Councillor P Williams' name to the list of members who had submitted apologies for absence, the minutes of the above meetings are confirmed.

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

CL14/053 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 10 September 2014

Councillor Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

The Clerk agreed to record details of any questions asked by members in response to reports from County Councillor Cunningham in the minutes of future meetings.

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) no objection is offered to Planning List 1061 and 1062.
- (3) in relation to application 12/P/00288 on Planning List 1063, in objecting to the proposals. Members were concerned that the proposals represented an overdevelopment of an area of Cwmbran (Llantarnam) which was already subject to pressure on its existing infrastructure. Members questioned whether there was sufficient housing demand locally to justify such a large development and were worried about the impact on community life which would be likely to arise from an influx of new residents. In particular, members feared that the development would result in a large number of commuters coming into the area, bringing consequent strain on traffic, access, parking and road safety.

Members considered that the development would add to the pressures caused by the existing high residential density levels within Torfaen in general and in this part of Cwmbran in particular.

Members were also concerned that the development contravened existing Planning Policy (Planning Policy Wales 2002) which protected sites listed on the *Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*. A feature of the register was the identification of the essential setting of a listed site. This safeguarded

areas adjacent to the historic parks and gardens which, although outside them, formed an essential part of their immediate background. Without these areas the historic character of the site in question would be diluted and damaged.

Members therefore considered that any development that affects the view from inside the registered park and garden outwards and also any development that affects the view of the historic park and garden from outside of it, was contrary to national planning policy.

Members considered that the Local Planning Authority should therefore also seek the views of CADW as part of the consideration of this application.

(Councillors Ashley, Daniels, Davenne, Rees and Powell declared an interest in item (3) above (Planning Application 12/P/00288) and withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this item.)

CL14/054 Policy & Finance Committee 15 September 2014

Councillor Howell introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that

- (1) subject to the addition of the word "Officer" after the word "Administrative" the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) in relation to minute PF14/032 (Governor Vacancies) Councillor P Williams be appointed as the Council's representative at Llantarnam Community Primary School and Councillor Johnston be appointed as the Council's representative at Nant Celyn Primary School.
- (3) any members wishing to fill other vacancies to represent the Council on any Governing Bodies should contact the Clerk in the first instance.

CL14/055 Letters of thanks and appreciation

Thanks were received from the following:

- (a) Pontnewydd RBL Branch (Grant)
- (b) J Leyshon (Task Force)
- (c) Cwmbran Mini & Junior Rugby (Grant)
- (d) Wales Ghurkha Community (Grant/Civic Support)
- (e) R Davies (Task Force)
- (f) S Holvey (Task Force)
- (g) Cwmbran Stroke Support Group (Grant)

Expressions of gratitude had also been received by telephone from Mrs Cleaver (81 Bryn Milwr) for gardening work undertaken by the Task Force.

Resolved that the expressions of thanks be noted.