

Minutes of a Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 19 November 2014

Present Councillor S Evans (in the Chair), Councillors S Brooks, LJ Chaney, J Davenne, M Day, M Johnston, R Jones, R Kemp, KK Manneh, TA Matthews, J Rees, N Salkeld, D Standing, DJ Williams and TJ Winter

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

CL14/056 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors SWJ Ashley (civic duties), WM Howell (sickness), and P Williams (work commitments).

CL14/057 Chair's Announcements

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

- 10 October 2014 Comrades Club Charity Night (Pontypool)
- 18 October 2014 Congress Theatre Concert – Cwmbran Male Choir and Sophie Evans
- 31 October 2014 Mayor's Hallowe'en Party (St Joseph's)
- 5 November 2014 Cwmbran Salvation Army Anniversary Celebration Party & Fireworks
- 6 November 2014 Community Engagement Seminar with Police & Crime Commissioner (Ystrad Mynach)
- 9 November 2014 Remembrance Sunday Parade in Cwmbran (Members were disappointed at the amount of press coverage given to this event by the local media)
- 13 November 2014 Senior Schools Choral Festival
- 15 November 2014 Cwmbran Otters Awards Presentation

CL14/058 Vice Chair's Announcements

- 9 November 2014 Remembrance Sunday Parade in Pontnewydd
- 13 November 2014 Senior Schools Choral Festival (The Vice Chairman thanked staff for their hard work in organising the festival)

CL14/059 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.

CL14/060 Public Question Time

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders approved on 25 June 2014, the opportunity for public questions was included as an item on the agenda for the meeting.

No questions had been submitted.

CL14/061 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 input into licensing applications. He also outlined progress towards establishing a Crime Prevention Panel locally, and answered members' questions.

Issues raised by members included:

- Factors leading to an increase in crime levels in Coed Eva (Sgt Green explained that there were no underlying reasons and also described the means by which burglars gained entry to properties)
- Changes to the way in which violent crime was now recorded, which had resulted in more incidents being recorded.
- To welcome the format within which statistics were now presented to members.

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

CL14/062 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 Operation Bang and activities undertaken in partnership with Gwent Police, Torfaen County Borough Council and the Probation Service. He also referred to the successful arrangements in relation to Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night locally.

Station Commander Guerin also outlined progress in delivering the service's 2013/14 Improvement Objectives. Improvements had been achieved in reducing incidents of deliberate fire setting and improving the public perception of the Fire & Rescue Service.

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 take effect as negotiations remained ongoing. A review of operations had been undertaken as part of this review.

Issues raised by members included:

- the need for firm action against persons attacking Fire crews.
- Controls over temporary shops established to sell fireworks – Station Commander Guerin explained how the service used local knowledge and other connections to exercise control.

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

CL14/063 Council Meetings 8 October 2014

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting 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.)

CL14/064 Events & Community Projects Committee 13 October 2014

Councillor Chaney introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to minute ENT14/014 (Summer Playscheme 2014), the Leader of the Majority Group referred to a constructive meeting held with representatives of the Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) about 2015 Playscheme. However he remained concerned about some aspects of the advice provided by CSSIW and indicated that he would be taking these matters up with Welsh Government. A more detailed report would be submitted to the next meeting of the committee, on 12 January 2015. The Leader answered members' questions about the ages of children who would be attending the 2015 Playschemes, safeguarding arrangements and the future role of the CSSIW.

It was **recommended** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the information reported by the Leader of the Majority Group is noted.

CL14/065 Grants to Voluntary Organisation Committee 13 October 2014

Councillor Standing introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **recommended** that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL14/066 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 22 October 2014

Councillor Jones introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Councillor Standing apologised for being unable to attend the meeting or submit an apology, due to work commitments.

In relation to minute ESP14/027 (b) (Schedule of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions), members noted that Torfaen County Borough Council had clarified matters in relation to application 14/P/00399.

In relation to Minute ESP14/028, members noted that only a small number of people had attended the "What Matters to You" Roadshows held by Torfaen County Borough Council.

In relation to Minute ESP14/029, members noted that the Clerk would be contacting local schools once the committee minutes had been confirmed by Full Council.

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) no objection is offered to Planning List 1068.
- (3) in relation to item 5781 on Planning List 1069, members acknowledged the need for some form of development at this site but emphasised the need to clarify arrangements in relation to asbestos removal and drainage due to concerns over flooding locally. Controls put in place in relation to earlier proposals to develop this site should be retained.
- (4) no objection is offered to item 5782 on Planning List 1069.

CL14/067 Policy & Finance Committee 27 October 2014

Councillor Matthews introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to minute PF14/046 (Regeneration Sub Committee), the Leader of the Majority Group explained that, following discussion with Torfaen County Borough Council, it had been confirmed that the committee previously established in relation to the Cwmbran Regeneration Partnership remained in existence, and that a meeting of this body would take place on 25 November 2014 at 2.30pm. Notice of the meeting had been sent to Cwmbran Community Council representatives.

In relation to minute PF14/047 (b) (Seminars & Meetings of Outside Bodies), the Clerk referred to a TCALC/LCP Social Media Workshop taking place on 21 November 2014, to which all members were invited.

In relation to minute PF14/047 (d) (Seminars & Meetings of Outside Bodies), Councillor DJ Williams confirmed that he sat on both the LSB Joint Executive and the Tactical Group.

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the points of information reported above are noted.

CL14/068 Letters of thanks and appreciation

Thanks were received from the following:

- (a) Ty Hafan (Playschemes Sponsored Walk) (The Administrative Officer confirmed that further money had been raised at the Playschemes in aid of Ty Hafan)
- (b) Mr & Mrs Rees (Task Force)
- (c) Mr & Mrs Pattimore (Task Force)
- (d) St Albans RC High School (Senior Schools Choral Festival)

Resolved that

- (1) the expressions of thanks are noted.
- (2) letters of thanks are sent to all schools that had taken part in the Senior Schools Choral Festival.

Signed

Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council