

Minutes of a Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 7 January 2015

Present Councillor S Evans (in the Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Brooks, LJ Chaney, M Day, WM Howell, M Johnston, R Jones, R Kemp, KK Manneh, TA Matthews, J Rees, WJ Walker, PJ Williams and TJ Winter

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

CL14/069 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors D Daniels (personal), J Powell (maternity), N Salkeld (work commitments), D Standing (personal) and DJ Williams (flu).

CL14/070 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised members that Councillor Jessica Powell had given birth to a daughter (Marianna Iris) on 1 January 2015. Members asked that the Council's best wishes be conveyed to Councillor Powell by means of a card and floral tribute.

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

- 20 November 2014 Llantarnam Special Awards Evening
- 22 November 2014 Baroque Singers carol concert at St Gabriel's Church
- 27 November 2014 Community Awards/Grants Presentation Evening
- 29 November 2014 Store Opening at Cwmbran Shopping (accompanied by charity fundraiser)
- 30 November 2014 Advent Sunday service at St Gabriel's Church
- 1 December 2014 Torfaen County Borough Council Play Awards
- 11 December 2014 Llantarnam School Christmas Concert
- 12 December 2014 Christmas Lights Switch On Ceremony
- 13 December 2014 Mayor's Charity Indoor Bowls Tournament
- 18 December 2014 HMS Kittywake, Presentation Evening
- 30 December 2014 "Miss Nepal" Ghurkha community event

CL14/071 Vice Chairman's Announcements

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

- 27 November 2014 Community Awards/Grants Presentation Evening

CL14/072 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.

CL14/073 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.

CL14/074 Cwmbran Policing Update

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Ian Green and CSO 105 Zaihd Rouf of Gwent Police. Sergeant Green reported on crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) levels around Cwmbran, with particular reference to the Christmas period.

Issues raised by members included:

- Drug related activity in St Dials.
- Successful police intervention (in partnership with Bron Afon) in relation to antisocial tenants in St Dials.
- praise for the work of PCSOs in Pontnewydd.
- security for bicycles/bicycles at Cwmbran Shopping.
- responsibility for problems arising from people moving from one licensed premises to another.

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

CL14/075 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 described current initiatives such as "Be Independent", which provided fire safety advice for the elderly and discussed the slight increase in the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires

(ADFs) recently. He also referred to a recent review of Special Service Calls undertaken.

Issues raised by members included:

- Increased fires arising from domestic appliances – Station Commander Guerin emphasised the need for the public to be vigilant when using electrical appliances. He described joint working and liaison with retailers/manufacturers and agreed to look into concerns raised by members in relation to specific products. He also confirmed that the service would provide advice to the public if they had any concerns over specific appliances.
- Special Service Calls in relation to people locked out of their homes – Station Commander Guerin explained the Fire & Rescue Service only became involved if there was a fire risk or danger.
- ADFs - trends/causes.

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

CL14/076 Council Meetings 19 November 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.)

CL14/077 Events & Community Projects Committee 24 November 2014

Councillor Chaney introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to minute ENT14/021 (Christmas Entertainment Programme), members praised the role of staff in delivering a successful programme of events. Ward members were especially pleased with the event held at Pontnewydd, though it was unfortunate that the event clashed with the Council's entertainment at Cwmbran Shopping.

In relation to minute ENT14/022 (Cwmbran Shopping), members noted the seminar with representatives of Cwmbran Shopping had been confirmed for 2 February 2015.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL14/078 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 24 November 2014

Councillor Howell introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL14/079 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 3 December 2014

Councillor Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) no objection is offered to Planning List 1074.

CL14/080 Policy & Finance Committee 8 December 2014

Councillor Howell introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to minute PF14/053 (5) (Revenue Estimates 2015/16), the Leader of the Majority Group reported that the NJC agreement reached in relation to 2014-16 Pay scales applied to SCP 5 to 49 only. The Council needed to give specific authority for the increase to also apply to any staff on SCP 50 to SCP 59 as the Council has agreed to extend the grade range of staff covered by NJC terms and conditions. This would include the Clerk's post, which was currently graded SCP 48-51

In relation to minute PF14/054(e) (Seminars & Meetings of Outside Bodies: Torfaen Armed Forces Community Covenant), members considered a request to support a bid to modernise Court Farm and Oakfield Community Hall, which was used by the local Gurkha community.

In relation to minute PF14/056 (Pay & Grading Review), members noted the outcome of the review had not been accepted by the staff concerned and that a formal job evaluation exercise would now be undertaken.

Resolved that

- (1) subject to the correction of page numbers, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the bid to modernise Court Farm and Oakfield Community Hall is supported.
- (3) the new pay scales referred to above be also applied beyond SCP 49. Non consolidated payments (ie lump sum payments) would not apply beyond SCP 49.

CL14/081 Letters of thanks and appreciation

Thanks were received from the following:

- (a) Cwmbran Stroke Support Group (Grant)
- (b) Caerleon Comprehensive School (SSCF)
- (c) Ty Hafan (Summer Playscheme Sponsored Walk)
- (d) Linda Holden (Task Force)

Resolved that the expressions of thanks are noted.

CL14/082 Revenue Estimates 2015/16

Members noted information circulated showing the Council's Revenue Estimates for the above financial year and precept requirement.

Members discussed the information, which had been considered by appropriate committees of the Council.

Resolved that the Council's spending for 2015/16 is set at £593,060 to be made up as follows:

Precept	£561,375
Funding From reserves	£31,685

Signed Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council