Minutes of a Meeting of the Events & Community Projects Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on 23 February 2015

Present Councillor LJ Chaney (Chairman), Councillors S Brooks, D Daniels, M Day, S Evans, WM Howell, R Jones, TA Matthews and J Rees

Also Councillor TJ Winter

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

ENT14/029 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors M Johnston (sick), J Powell (maternity) and WJ Walker (sick).

Apologies were also subsequently submitted by Councillor PJ Williams.

ENT14/030 Members' 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. Councillors Daniels and Rees declared an interest in item ENT14/031 below.

ENT14/031 Summer Playschemes

Councillors Daniels and Rees declared an interest in this item.

All members had been invited to attend for this item.

Members were joined by Julian Davenne (Play Service Manager) and Andrea Sysum (Play Policy Officer) from Torfaen County Borough Council) to assist with their deliberations.

Members considered a further detailed report from the Clerk on the way forward for the Summer Playschemes. The report followed Inspections undertaken by the Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) and consideration by members on 12 January 2015 (Minute ENT14/028).

In accordance with members' earlier instructions, the report included information on options for delivering play opportunities through the medium of Welsh, opportunities to reflect the priorities of Communities First and a detailed description of the Playschemes currently delivered by Torfaen County Borough Council.

Issues raised by members included;

- Options for the continuance of the Playschemes in the light of the observations of the CSSIW.

- Particular options to ensure continued Playscheme provision for children aged under 8. Members noted that the Playschemes would not need to be registered and inspected by the CSSIW if provision for children under 8 was for less than 2 hours.
- Demand for the provision of a Playscheme through the medium of Welsh.
- Opening hours.
- Staff training.
- Schools at which to locate the Playschemes. Members noted that 9 schools had expressed an interest but that budgets contained provision for only 7 sites, as in 2014.
- Use of volunteers. Members discussed the historical context to using volunteers as specialist 1:1 support staff. (The Leader of the Council called for a detailed breakdown of the costs of using volunteers and how these were funded.)

Members noted that the Council had already determined to only appoint paid staff aged 18 or over.

It was **recommended** that

(1) the 2015 Summer Playschemes is made available to all children of primary school age, but children aged under 8 would only be allowed for less than two hours.

(2) for 2015, the Playscheme opening hours to be set as follows:

10.00 to 11.59	Children under 8
10.00 to 16.00	All other children

(3) charges be set at £5 per family (i.e. siblings), irrespective of age of children or number of siblings.

(4) a list of seven recommended Playscheme settings (school sites) for 2015 is submitted to the next Full Council meeting for approval, taking into account the capacity of each site, geographical spread and proximity to Communities First areas.

(5) the Clerk to the Council is instructed to look into the potential demand for providing additional Welsh Language Playscheme provision and report to Full Council, details to be reported to the next Full Council meeting.

(6) Officers of Torfaen County Borough Council are requested to provide the Clerk to the Council with costs for managing and delivering the use of volunteers as specialist 1:1 support staff, details to be reported to the next Full Council meeting.

(7) the Clerk to the Council continues to liaise with officers of Torfaen County Borough Council to identify any potential to work in partnership to deliver staff training.

(8) the Council reaffirms its commitment to provide a high quality, inclusive programme of Playscheme for 2015, which reflected the Council's own high standards and recognised principles of Best Practice.

ENT14/032 Christmas Entertainment Programme 2014

Members reviewed the success of the various activities arranged by the Council to celebrate Christmas 2014. Members welcomed the continued support of Blaen Bran Community Woodland through the donation of Christmas Trees. Members considered the potential to invite other community partners and commercial sponsors to help with future activities held to celebrate Christmas.

It was **recommended** that

(1) the programme of events takes place earlier in December in 2015, to encourage greater attendance.

(2) an item is included on the agenda for the next meeting of this committee to consider any alternative funding opportunities for the Council's Christmas Entertainment Programme and the possibility of using additional or alternative locations.

ENT14/033 "An Evening to Celebrate Cwmbran and its Communities"

Members noted that the Council had confirmed the recommendation of the Policy & Finance Committee to transfer the budget for the above event to this committee. (Minute PF14/066).

The Clerk to the Council updated members on various aspects of this event, which would take place at Greenmeadow golf Club on 7 March 2015. Entertainment would be provided and a raffle would be held to raise funds for the Chairman's charity. Several prizes had already been donated.

It was **recommended** that:

(1) the above arrangements are noted.

(2) a presentation is made at the event to Paul Murphy MP in recognition of his distinguished service to Torfaen.

ENT14/034 Primary Schools Choral Festival 3, 4 and 5 March 2015

Members noted the final arrangements for the above event, details of which were described on a poster distributed by the Administration Officer.

It was **recommended** that the arrangements are noted.

ENT14/035 Remembrance Budget & World War One Centenary

Members noted that the Council had transferred the budget for the above event to this committee. (Minute CL14/082).

Forthcoming milestones included Armed Forces Day and a number of key anniversaries associated with the centenary of World War One. Members were pleased to note that the PA system used for Remembrance Sunday 2014 would again be used for 2015. Members also welcomed the offer from Torfaen County Borough Council to locate a World War One Centenary exhibition at the Council House to coincide with Remembrance Sunday.

Members discussed the potential to help commemorate the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of the Ghurkhas into the British Army as part of Armed Forces Day but respected the views which had been expressed by some Ghurkhas on celebrating this milestone in the light of their current dispute with the UK Government over pensions.

Members also considered a written report of the Clerk following a seminar he had attended to review lessons learned to date in commemorating the centenary of World War One. The event had been arranged by the Imperial War Museum, which was leading the First World War Centenary Partnership Programme. Councillor Matthews also referred to forthcoming meetings which would be convened by Torfaen County Borough Council to take forward the centenary commemorations.

It was **recommended** that:

(1) the above information is noted.

(2) an event is held at the Council House to commemorate Armed Forces Day on Saturday 27 June 2015

ENT14/036 Members Seminar: Cwmbran Shopping

The Committee considered a written report of the Clerk following a members' seminar attended by representatives of Cwmbran Shopping. The seminar had highlighted a number of interesting opportunities to work in partnership and support community initiatives.

It was **recommended** that:

(1) the above information is noted.

(2) this item is included on the agenda for a future meeting to review progress.

Signed ……..

(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)