Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 1 July 2015

Present Councillor R Jones (Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Brooks, M Day, WM Howell, D Standing, DJ Williams & TJ Winter

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

ESP15/006 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors S Evans (personal), M Johnston (Civic Duties) and KK Manneh (Personal).

Members also noted the apologies of Councillor BJ Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council).

ESP15/007 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.

ESP15/008 Blaen Bran Community Woodland

The Chairman welcomed Glyn Jones and Jeff Davies of Blaen Bran Community Woodland.

On 15 April 2015 Members had reviewed matters discussed at a recent seminar about the woodland. (Minute ESP14/056 refers). The Clerk was asked to examine options for sponsoring an area of woodland and report back. The Clerk advised that he had subsequently met representatives of Blaen Bran Community Woodland on site to discuss potential options.

Members considered the potential options, which included planting a “living hedge” to help form a boundary and provide a focus for biodiversity; new planting to replace damaged larch; refurbishment of the children’s education area (“Parsons Wood.”) and planting in an area of existing banking. Notional costs were also considered along with funds available from within the committee’s budget. Each option could be used as an opportunity to commemorate the centenary of World War One or as a memorial to former members who have passed away. Sympathetic signage could refer to the support of the Community Council.

Issues raised by members included:

- the problems which the community woodland had encountered in recent years due to phytophera affected larch.
- the benefits of local “managed” woodland.
- current expenditure within the committee’s budgets.
- the potential to work with other partners, such as CCYP, Bron Afon and Cwmbran Shopping, to help refurbish the children’s education area.
- opportunities to commemorate the centenary of World War, including the planting of poppies.
- previous tree planting initiatives at Blaen Bran.
- recent action undertaken by Torfaen County Borough Council to control illegal off-roading on common land.

It was **recommended** that:

(1) the Council agrees in principle to help fund a project at Blaen Bran Community Woodland.

(2) representatives of Blaen Bran Community Woodland are requested to contact the Clerk to the Council with further details of costs of refurbishing the children's education area.

(3) the Clerk to the Council is authorised to contact CCYP, Bron Afon and Cwmbran Shopping to establish whether there was scope to work together in relation to the refurbishment of the children's education area.

(4) the Clerk to the Council is authorised to investigate opportunities to use this project as an opportunity to commemorate the centenary of World War One.

(5) this matter is given further consideration on receipt of the financial information described above.

ESP15/009 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning & Highways Matters

Members considered outstanding planning list 1097.

It was **recommended** that no objections are submitted in relation to list 1097.

(b) Schedule of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions

Members considered a schedule of recent decisions of Torfaen County Borough Council.

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

(c) Footpath Matters

The Clerk referred to the Council's application to register a route at Court Farm as a public footpath and advised that this matter had now been passed to the legal representatives of Torfaen County Borough Council so that the order could be prepared. (Minute CL13/115 refers)

It was **recommended** that the information is noted.

ESP15/010 Neighbourhood Services Matters

This item was not discussed as Councillor John Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member Neighbourhoods) was unable to attend the meeting.

Signed …….. (Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)