Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 2 December 2015

Present Councillor R Jones (Chair), Councillors S Brooks, LJ Chaney, M Day, S Evans, WM Howell, M Johnston, KK Manneh, R Seabourne, D Standing, DJ Williams and TJ Winter

Also County Councillor BJ Cunningham

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

ESP15/026 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors SWJ Ashley (personal) and WJ Walker (illness).

ESP15/027 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 Brooks and Standing declared a personal interest in Minute ESP15/030 below.

ESP15/028 Grow Wild Flagship Site ("Cwmbran's Urban Buzz")

Members had asked to receive details of progress of the above project. (Minute ESP15/020 refers)

The Clerk reminded members that the project had been one of three finalists in a national competition. The other finalists were "Discovering the Diff" (RSPB, Millennium Stadium and Cardiff City Council) and "Furnace to Flowers" (Gwent Wildlife Trust, Ebbw Vale and Blaenau Gwent CBC). The winner had being decided on by a national public vote.

Despite an effective campaign which had enjoyed the support of Cwmbran Community Council and had focussed on the local and wider 'Gwent' community, the project had not won the competition. It had received 33.8% of the overall vote with 5927 votes in all. Overall 17,535 votes had been cast. The winner was Gwent Wildflower Trust with "Furnace to Flowers."

Despite disappointment at the result, Members noted that that the project would still benefit from a "runners up" prize of £4,000 so it might still prove possible to go ahead with some aspects of the work.

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

ESP15/029 Sustainable Development Charter

At the last meeting, members had considered a presentation on the Charter from Natalie Rees, Sustainable Development Charter Coordinator from Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales. Members agreed to support the Charter in principle, subject to further advice on other opportunities to develop Best Practice and how the Charter would impact on the work of the Council. (Minute ESP15.021 refers).

Members considered further information provided by Natalie Rees about the Charter, which was a voluntary support network of all types of organisations who could adopt the principles and goals in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

It was **recommended** that the Council becomes a signatory to the Sustainable Development Charter.

ESP15/030 Blaen Bran Community Woodland

(Councillors Brooks and Standing declared a personal interest in this item.)

On 1 July 2015, members had considered the potential for partnership working between the Council and the Blaen Bran Woodland. (Minute ESP15/008 refers). Members agreed in principle to help fund a project at the woodland and had asked to receive further details of potential costs etc.

Members considered a detailed report which described six potential projects and the finance available within the current financial year. The total cost of supporting all six options was £2,336.

It was **recommended** that

(1) the Council supports all six projects.

(2) The projects are funded from within the Committee's revenue estimates for the current year, using funds available for "Sponsored Litter Bins, Benches, Trees" (N05) and "New Projects" (N10).

ESP15/031 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning & Highways Matters

Members considered outstanding planning lists 1115 and 1116.

It was **recommended** that

(1) no objections are submitted in relation to list 1115.

(2) no objections is submitted in relation to application 15/P/00703 on list 1116.

(3) in relation to application 15/P/00710 on list the Clerk is instructed to obtain more details of the proposed future use of the building from Torfaen County Borough Council, as some members regretted the fact that the proposals did not retain the community use of the building or propose a use which reflected the surrounding canal redevelopment.

(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) Tree Preservation Order 176. Trees in Open Space Area, adjacent to Nightingale House, Ty Box Road, Pontnewydd.

The Clerk reported that this Order had been made on 28 October 2015. Objections or representations were to be submitted by 25 November 2015. Details had been sent to the Ward Member.

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

(d) Footpath Matters

Members noted that public notice of the proposal to register a route at Court Farm as a public footpath had been published on 2 December 2015. If no objections were submitted within 42 days, the Order would be confirmed and the path would become registered as a public right of way.

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

(Note: At the end of the meeting, Councillor Seabourne circulated information about forthcoming Planning training workshops, further to a training course she had attended, delivered by Planning Aid Wales.)

ESP15/032 Neighbourhood Services Matters

Members welcomed Councillor John Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member Neighbourhoods) to the meeting, who reported on current issues and answered members' questions, as set out below.

- Kitchen Waste Caddy Liners. A detailed response had already been reported to Members.
- Skinny Bins roll out was now complete.
- A "Waste Newsletter" had now been produced for the public.
- Six new refuse vehicles had been purchased.
- New buses for use by X24 bus service.
- Flood Risk Management Plan for Torfaen.
- Winter Maintenance.

Other issues raised by Members included

- the condition of the footpath near Morrisons. (The path was not owned by Torfaen County Borough Council.)
- a dangerous street lighting column at Tillsland.
- Use of plastic flowers at the cemetery. (Councillor Cunningham subsequently confirmed that plastic floral tributes at cemeteries were allowed.)
- Non collection of bins at Gifford Close and other locations.
- Lids for recycling boxes. (Lids were not provided but nets were available.)

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

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