

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Events & Community Projects Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on 11 January 2016**

**Present** Councillor M Day (in the Chair), Councillors SJ Brooks, D Daniels, S Evans, WM Howell, M Johnston, R Jones, KK Manneh, TA Matthews, J Rees, WJ Walker, DJ Williams and PJ Williams.

Also Councillors R Seabourne, R Kemp and DJ Williams.

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

**ENT15/032 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted from J Powell (Governor Duties) and LJ Chaney (illness).

**ENT15/033 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. Councillor Daniels declared an interest in Minute ENT15/034 below.)

**ENT15/034 Summer Playschemes 2016**

(Councillor Daniels declared an interest in this item.)

The Clerk drew Members' attention to forthcoming changes about the regulation and inspection of the Playschemes. He referred to previous reports to Members about the changes and the implications they would have on the way in which the Playschemes were delivered. The changes would extend the upper limit for the registration of the Playschemes from eight to twelve years.

Members noted the attempts made by the Clerk to obtain clarification about the changes from the Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) and advice on ways in which the Council could still deliver the Playschemes. The matter had also been raised with the local Assembly Member. There remained uncertainty as to how some of the changes would impact on the Council. There were cost implications to some of the changes but the majority were of a more practical or logistical nature, such as staff qualifications. Members did not feel that the Council had received sufficient support from the CSSIW and therefore considered options for a way forward, including the option of not delivering the Playschemes at all.

It was clear to Members that the Playschemes could no longer be delivered along the same lines as previous years. The Leader of the Majority Group referred to recent discussions with the Head of Community & Youth Service at Torfaen County Borough Council about the potential to work in partnership and deliver play opportunities locally in a new way in 2016. These discussions remained ongoing, though timing was now becoming critical. The Leader of the Majority Group was optimistic about the prospect of devising a successful, collaborative model which would suit all parties. Financial implications would be a key part of these arrangements. He emphasised that the changes described

above would also impact on Torfaen County Borough Council. It would also be important to send a clear message to the public about any new way forward.

It was **recommended** that consideration is deferred pending the outcome of the discussions referred to above.

**ENT15/035 Christmas Entertainment Programme 2015**

Members considered the programme of activities arranged by the Council as part of its Christmas celebrations. The events had, once again, made a positive contribution to the holiday season locally and generally been well supported.

Potential improvements to future arrangements included:

- bringing forward the start time of the Christmas Lights Switch On at the Council House, to encourage more families to attend.
- scope to standardise the start times of each event, to avoid confusion.
- the potential to avoid a clash of dates between the Tree Lighting at Pontnewydd and entertainment at Cwmbran Shopping.
- reverting to an indoor location for the entertainment at Cwmbran Shopping.

It was **recommended** that the above suggestions are taken forward as part of the planning of events for Christmas 2016.

**ENT15/036 “An Evening to Celebrate Cwmbran and its Communities.”**

Members reviewed the arrangements for the above event, which would take place on 5 March 2016 at Greenmeadow Golf Club. The arrangements, including the guest list, had been the subject of discussion with the Chairman of the Council. The event would once again provide an opportunity to raise funds for the Chairman’s Charity.

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

*(Following the meeting, the Clerk reminded Members about the forthcoming Schools Eco Quiz at the Congress Theatre on 21 April 2016 commencing at 6.00 pm. All Members were encouraged to attend.)*

Signed .....

*(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)*