Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 20 January 2016

Present Councillor R Jones (Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Brooks, LJ Chaney, S Evans, M Johnston, D Standing, WJ Walker and TJ Winter

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

ESP15/033 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors M Day (illness), WM Howell (illness), KK Manneh (personal) R Seabourne (personal) and DJ Williams (personal). Also County Councillor BJ Cunningham

ESP15/034 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 declared a personal interest in Minute ESP15/035 below (Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters. Item 5996 on List 1122.)

ESP15/035 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning & Highways Matters

Members considered outstanding planning lists 1121 and 1122. Councillor Brooks declared an interest in item 5996 of list 1122.

It was **recommended** that no observations are submitted in relation to list 1121 or 1122.

(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.

ESP15/036 "Clean for the Queen" HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Members considered details of an initiative drawn to the Council's attention by Sir Simon Boyle KCVO, Lord Lieutenant of Gwent. The project was based around encouraging communities to undertake litter cleaning activities in the run up to HM The Queen's birthday. Particular activity was proposed for the weekend of 4 – 6 March 2016. There would be limited resource implications to such an activity outside of possibly purchasing some protective clothing and other small items of equipment.

Members were interested in supporting the project in principle and discussed potential sites for such an activity, which could take place locally on Friday 4 March 2016. Potential sites included an area around the canal, working in partnership with a local group. There was also potential to involve young people through schools or uniformed organisations such as the sea cadets.

The Clerk reported that, as part of the Council's recent invitation to the public to suggest potential new regeneration sites, a number of sites & activities had been suggested which could fit in well with the "Clean for the Queen" project.

It was **recommended** that:

(1) Councillor Ashley contact the Clerk with further details of a potential activity in the area of the canal, including contact names etc. of any local groups who might be prepared to take part in such a project.

(2) the Clerk is instructed to circulate details of other sites, already submitted as potential regeneration sites as described above, to Members.

ESP15/037 Blean Bran Community Woodland

Members considered progress in relation to the Council's recent decision to support some environmental improvement works at this site. (Minute ESP15/030) refers. Discussions had taken place regarding materials & payment details and the scope to commemorate the centenary of World War One. It was also proposed that the Chairman would undertake a formal "unveiling" of the refurbishment work.

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

ESP15/038 Neighbourhood Services Matters

Members noted that Councillor John Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member Neighbourhoods) was unable to attend the meeting. However the Clerk read out a written report which he had provided. The report described measures put in place to address adverse weather over the Christmas break and Christmas Waste & Recycling Collections. The report also referred to actions taken in response to the recent fire at Coed Eva School and improvements to car parking at Cwmbran Boating Lake. The Clerk undertook to circulate a copy of Councillor Cunningham's report to all members.

Issues raised by members included:

- problems with food waste collection due to a defective vehicle.
- Rural Development projects, investment at Llanyrafon Manor and works at Blaen Bran (the Leader of the Majority Group undertook to try to obtain further information for Members.)
- potential tourism hub near the canal at Two Locks.
- Concerns at missed collections over Christmas and the need to learn lessons for Christmas 2016, such as considering the provision of two clear bags per household at Christmas or allowing use of the Green Bin.

It was **recommended** that

(1) the information is noted.

(2) the Clerk is instructed to raise members' concerns about Christmas Waste Collection arrangements with Councillor Cunningham.

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