Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 24 February 2016

Present Councillor R Jones (Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Brooks, M Day, S Evans, M Johnston, TA Matthews, RA Seabourne, D Standing, WJ Walker, DJ Williams and TJ Winter

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council) and Councillor BJ Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council)

ESP15/039 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors LJ Chaney (personal), WM Howell (illness) and KK Manneh (work commitments)

ESP15/040 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 Seabourne declared a personal interest in Minute ESP15/041(b) below (Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters.

ESP15/041 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning & Highways Matters

Members considered outstanding planning lists 1127

It was **recommended** that no observations are submitted in relation to list 1127

(b) Schedule of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions

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

Councillor Seabourne declared an interest in applications 15/P/00623, 15/P/00618 and 15/P/00762.

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

(c) Tree Preservation Order 177: Trees in Open Space to North of Court Road Industrial Estate and Bordering Cwmbran Brook, off Llantarnam Road.

The Ward Member welcomed this Order in the light of the number of trees lost locally over the years.

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

(d) Footpath at Court Farm Road

The Clerk referred to the Council's long standing application to register a public footpath at the above site. He advised that Torfaen County

Borough Council County Borough Council had informed the Council that there had been no objections to the proposal and that, once funds were available; notice of confirmation would be published. Members noted that the details of order had to be published in a paid-for newspaper, and that this would incur a cost. Members expressed their concern at the potential that this could cause to finally registering the footpath.

Members also discussed the position in relation to another nearby footpath near John Fielding Gardens. This order was soon to be made following a Planning Inspector direction's to Torfaen County Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that the Clerk contact Torfaen County Borough Council to request an early conclusion to the above maters.

ESP15/042 "Clean for the Queen" HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations: 4 March 2016

Members noted the arrangements which would be in place for the forthcoming Community Litter Pick as part of the above celebrations (Minute ESP15/036 refers). The event would see various community organisations collaborating as part of the celebrations. The Clerk confirmed that litter picking equipment was available. He also conformed that this equipment was available to other groups and individuals on request. Members praised the contribution made by various volunteer groups to helping to keep their local environment clean & tidy.

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

ESP15/043 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. The Clerk drew attention to information circulated to all members via the weekly "Members Matters" newsletter on 24 February 2016 about the refurbishment works. All expenditure had been committed by Blaen Bran and receipts/invoices would follow. It was anticipated that all planting would be complete by the end of February. Members were pleased at the progress which had been made on this collaboration project, with particular reference to the Replacement Tractor Sculpture.

Members also welcomed the suggestion for a formal "unveiling" of some of the works, involving the Chairman of the Council and guests.

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

ESP15/044 Neighbourhood Services Matters

The Chairman welcomed that Councillor John Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member Neighbourhoods)

In relation to Minute ESP15/042 above, he confirmed that any items from the Litter Pick which were suitable for recycling would be recycled. He was also

pleased to report that Torfaen County Borough Council had achieved their latest recycling targets.

Other matters reported by Councillor Cunningham included:

- Waste Collections over the Christmas period. – update on concerns raised.
- Maintenance of grassed areas along key highway routes – land ownership was key to responsibility. Clarification of wildflower corridors & meadows/
- Tourism hub at Two Locks.
- Rural Development Projects – summary of projects at Blaen Bran Woodland.

Other issues raised by members included:

- Continuing concern over Maintenance of grassed areas along key highway routes, including an area blighted by an abandoned tractor.
- Praise for works undertaken recently to repair pot holes.
- Condition of a footpath near the Mill Tavern, which was giving rise to flooding. Councillor Cunningham agreed to investigate.
- Access to Big Event via Court Farm Industrial Estate – poor ground conditions. Councillor Cunningham agreed to investigate.
- Potential to make compost arising from Green Waste publically available.

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

ESP15/045 Seminars & Outside Bodies

Members considered reports in relation to the following seminars and meetings of outside bodies, attended by representatives of the Council.

(i) Shared Learning Events: Best Practice in Sustainable Development & community Benefits. 3 February 2016

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

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