

Policy & Finance Committee

Subject to Confirmation by Cwmbran Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on Monday 11 July 2016

Present Councillor TA Matthews (in the Chair). Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Brooks, D Daniels, M Day, S Evans, M Johnston, R Jones, WJ Walker, DJ Williams and TJ Winter

Also Clare Facey (Administrative Officer)

PF16/013 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillor WM Howell (illness).

PF16/014 Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they had and sign the Interests Sheet to give details of the nature of their interest.

Councillor Ashley declared an interest in item PF16/015 in relation to Communities First. Councillor Ashley and Winter both declared an interest in item PF16/016 in relation to Randomz and CCYP. Councillor Daniels and Walker both declared an interest in item PF16/022 in relation to Community Notice Board and Llantarnam Residents Association.

PF16/015 Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments and Bank Reconciliation (May 2016)

Members considered the above information.

Issues raised by Members included:

- Bron Afon Wildlife Planting (N05)

The Administrative Officer explained this item of expenditure to members.

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

PF16/016 Foodbank & Other Anti-Poverty Initiatives

Members welcomed Emma Davies, Collaboration and Improvement Officer at Torfaen County Borough Council, to the meeting. Emma provided a full report to members in order to help determine any potential way forward and help in understanding the work and priorities of projects such as foodbanks.

It was explained that Torfaen County Borough Council is funded to deliver three of the Welsh Governments flagship tackling poverty programmes, Community First, Families First and Flying Start. Together these programmes provide resources to tackle poverty in the community.

Each programme is different in its targeting, both geographical and demographic and offers different forms of support, although there are several

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areas where their priorities and outcomes overlap. They work together to avoid duplication and to extend the reach through co-facilitation and collaboration.

Flying Start is Welsh Government's Flagship Early Years Programme for families with children aged under 4 years old and targets some of the most deprived areas in Wales. Communities First provides services within communities that respond to specific needs such as skills, employment, physical and mental health but also has a role to play in building community capacity and engaging and supporting families to access the services of the other programmes. Families First provides TCBC with the principles that they want to embed across all services to provide holistic support at a point of early intervention.

Families First is delivered on a needs basis across Torfaen and its model of family support assessment is at the heart of the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy. Through its process of referral and its Team Around the Family (TAF) Co-ordinators, the programme provides a co-ordinated approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and families. It offers a model of collaboration that can bring the services of each of the programmes together around individual families.

Focusing on the most deprived populations in Torfaen, the programme undertakes activities to remove barriers to engagement and participation through provision of informal, non-threatening opportunities around the programme strategic objectives including:-

- Accessing employment and volunteering opportunities through work clubs and intensive employability support
- Support for social enterprise and signposting to affordable local services
- Provision of training and learning opportunities with literacy, numeracy, digital skills and more
- Reducing/managing debt and support for budgeting
- Raising educational attainment and attendance levels at primary and secondary schools through support for children from ages 6 to 11 and 11 to 16
- Reduce BMI and long term limiting illness through physical activity project, healthy eating and nutrition project and street games for young people
- Provision of support mechanisms to improve mental wellbeing and increase access to other Communities First provision
- Support for local groups to access activities, signposting to funding opportunities, training and volunteering opportunities

There followed members questions, whereby Emma Davies responded. She explained in more detail regarding the Flying Start Scheme which was a very successful programme, providing support to the most vulnerable individuals and families. However, this scheme was not currently available to all in Cwmbran, but to Communities First Cluster areas. Emma explained that a meeting would be held this week to discuss the possibilities of this scheme being run throughout Torfaen, including the Cwmbran area. Members were

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extremely interested in this scheme and asked that Emma notify the Council of the outcome as this may be something that Cwmbran Community Council might be able to assist with.

Members also suggested that a list of community groups be collated and published through Cwmbran Community Council's handbook to help and encourage interaction and community gatherings, for all ages.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.
- b) that Emma Davies is thanked for her extremely informative report.
- c) that Members await a further report from Emma Davies.
- d) a list of community groups to be published in the next Handbook.

PF16/017 Randomz “Friday Night Project”

At the last Policy and Finance Committee members asked for further information about the extent of funding required and the purposes to which it would be put before considering further. Members noted the following information:-

- Venue cost £27 for one hour
- 2 x paid staff £27 for one hour
- £10 travel cost for transport of young people
- Totalling £64 per week

Members were awaiting further information and asked that this item be deferred to the next Policy and Finance Committee

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

PF16/018 Local Government Ethical Framework

Members noted that on the 22nd June 2016, Council confirmed the Committee's recommendations to adopt a revised Code of Conduct. Council also approved a report from the Clerk on the detailed implications of the new arrangements following training which would be provided by the Monitoring Officer. Members noted that the training would be delivered on 12th July 2016.

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

PF16/019 One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting 2016: Saturday 1 October 2016

Members noted that the following members had been nominated to attend the above meeting: Councillor S Brooks, R Jones, DJ Williams and TJ Winter. It was also noted that the Council had agreed not to submit a Notice of Motion this year.

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

PF16/020 Residents Handbook

Members noted that the latest Residents Handbook was launched at the Big Event, plus copies were also available at Armed Forces Day. The Administrative Officer explained that Handbooks were currently being taken to local primary schools for further distribution. She also explained that the Office had recently received an electronic Welsh translation of the handbook should anyone wish to receive a copy in Welsh.

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

PF16/021 Council House Maintenance Matters

The Administration Officer reported to members that an Arson Assessment had recently been undertaken by Cwmbran Fire Station. It was also reported that the annual boiler maintenance had been undertaken with no problems identified.

Members noted that one of the Task Force men was currently acting as the temporary caretaker/cleaner.

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

PF16/022 Community Notice Board

Members noted that Llantarnam Residents Conservation Society (LLARCS) had purchased a notice board to be erected near the junction of Llantarnam Road and Oakfield Road. Members noted that planning permission was required for the erection of the noticeboard and that an application fee would be payable.

It was noted that the fee would be halved if Cwmbran Community Council was able to make the application on LLARCS behalf.

It was **recommended** that Cwmbran Community Council undertake the planning application on LLARCS' behalf and pay the planning application fees in the sum of £150 (under the Regeneration Budget I13).

PF16/023 Seminars & Meetings of Outside Bodies

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

- (i) Torfaen Public Services Board 9 June 2016
- (ii) TCALC/LCP 21 June 2016
- (iii) CIPFA Seminar re Future Generations (Wales) Act 24 June 2016

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

PF16/024 Exclusion of the Press & Public

It was **recommended** that the following item was not for publication because, in accordance with paragraphs 12 & 14 of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Access to Information Variation Order Wales 2007), it contained information about a particular individual or individuals and information relating to the financial and business affairs of particular persons, including the council and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining exemptions outweighed the public interest in disclosing information.

PF16/025 Task Force Review

Members considered a report following a benchmarking exercise in relation to the Task Force review. Some members of the Review Group indicated that they had received insufficient notice of the meeting and it was suggested that the meeting is reconvened.

It was **recommended** that a meeting of the Review Group is arranged to discuss the Task Force review.

Signed.....

(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council.)