

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 8 June 2016**

**Present** Councillor R Seabourne (in the Chair), Councillors S Brooks, LJ Chaney, M Day, S Evans, R Jones, KK Manneh, TA Matthews, D Standing, WJ Walker and TJ Winter

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council), Clare Facey (Administration Officer) and Councillor BJ Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council)

**ESP16/001 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors SWJ Ashley (personal) WM Howell (illness) and DJ Williams (personal).

**ESP16/002 Appointment of Chairman**

It was reported that, at a meeting held on 18 May 2016, Councillor S Evans was appointed Chairman of this committee for the Municipal Year 2016/17. Councillor R Seabourne was appointed as Vice Chairman.

(Councillor Evans had not expected to be able to attend the meeting and Councillor Seabourne therefore took the chair for the commencement of the meeting. It was agreed that Councillor Seabourne would continue in the chair for the whole meeting.)

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

**ESP16/003 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 S Evans declared an interest in item 6071 on list 1140 in Minute ESP16/004 below.

Councillor S Brooks declared an interest in item 6072 on list 1140 in Minute ESP16/004 below.

**ESP16/004 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters**

Councillor S Evans declared an interest in item 6071 on list 1140 below.  
Councillor S Brooks declared an interest in item 6072 on list 1140 below.

**(a) Planning & Highways Matters**

Members considered outstanding planning list 1140, 1141 and 1142.

It was **recommended** that:

(i) no objection is offered to list 1140.

(ii) in relation to list 1141, no objection is offered in respect of item 6076. In relation to item 6075 (16/P/00263), members expressed concern that a footpath which crossed the site was obstructed and considered that it should be maintained by the developer. Members also drew attention to a large area of open space which had become neglected

and overgrown. Members were concerned at the failure to maintain this area. Members were also concerned that the proposals did not appear to be reflected in the Local Development Plan.

*(Councillor Cunningham also agreed to look into these concerns.)*

(iii) in relation to list 1142, no objection is offered in relation to items 6077 and 6079.

In relation to item 6078 (16/P/00124), Members echoed the concerns of the Countryside Access Officer, who had highlighted the fact that there were two paths proposed shown to the south of the estate (one to the LEAP/Play Area and one linking two sections of the adopted highway). Members sought clarification as to any provision to be made for the management and maintenance of these paths and asked who would ultimately be responsible for their repair. Members asked that Torfaen County Borough Council is asked to respond to the Council on these matters. (The Administrative Officer also drew attention to observations on these proposals submitted by Councillor PJ Williams.)

(iv) observations submitted by the Team Leader (Ecology) in relation to application 16/P/00223 are noted

**(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) Town & Country Planning Act 1990 s78 (1) Appeal – works to trees at Three Blackbirds Inn, Llantarnam.**

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

**ESP16/005 Schools Eco Quiz 2016**

Members considered a report which reviewed the success of the above event. Members agreed that the event had been a success and paid tribute to the knowledge of the children who had taken part. Members also paid tribute to the work of Andrew Meaney who had acted as a skilled Quizmaster and thanked staff for their hard work in recording the scores at the event.

It was **recommended** that the report.

**ESP16/006 Blaen Bran Community Woodland**

Members considered progress in relation to the Council's recent decision to support some environmental improvement works at this site. It was anticipated that the memorial bench would be in place soon to accompany the other projects – hedge planting, willow bed planting, new sign and tractor. Members accepted an invitation to visit the site once the works were complete.

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

**ESP16/007 Neighbourhood Services Matters**

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

Matters reported by Councillor Cunningham included appointments to Torfaen County Borough Council's Cabinet, Committees and Outside Bodies, Streetscene Review and Cwmbran Big Event.

Councillor Cunningham emphasised the need to work more closely with Bron Afon, who were responsible for a significant amount of green space across Torfaen. A series of meetings had been put in place to obtain feedback and help improve the service.

The Clerk encouraged as many Members as possible to support the Big Event and visit the Council's stand.

Other issues raised by members included:

- Flooding at the Old Mill Tavern Site.
- Recycling arrangements for black, plastic flower pots.
- Grass cutting on roundabouts, including those maintained locally by Monmouthshire County Council.

**ESP16/008 Torfaen Environmental Association**

Torfaen Environmental Association (TEA) was a registered Environmental body able to apply for funding through the Landfill Communities fund for a range of environmental improvements projects against a set criteria. It was initially involved in doorstep recycling schemes rolled out across Torfaen in 2006/7 but had been fairly inactive since.

Members note that the Council had recently been approached about relaunching the Association. The objective of the refreshment of TEA would be to start the process of funding new projects via the Landfill Communities Fund. To enable this, a steering committee would need to be put in place able to promote, access and enable new projects to be realised.

The convening of a short meeting of invited interested bodies had thus been suggested. This meeting would be followed on a separate date by an AGM at which new members of the steering committee and affiliates would be engaged.

It was **recommended** that Councillor Standing is asked to attend the subject to the timing of any meetings being suitable for him.

*Signed* .....

*(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)*