



Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

You are summoned to attend the following meeting:

Policy & Finance Committee

5 December 2016 @ 6.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY

AGENDA

To: Councillors: SWJ Ashley, D Daniels, M Day (Vice Chair), S Evans, WM Howell, M Johnston, R Kemp, WJ Walker, DJ Williams and TJ Winter

Councillors: KK Manneh, R Jones, SJ Brooks and TA Matthews (Chair)
(Ex Officio Members)

To: ALL OTHER MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Members' Declarations of Interest**
3. **Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments (September & October 2016)**

Schedules of receipts & payments and bank reconciliations are attached for members only. (Members of the public may obtain this information from the Clerk to the Council).

Background papers will be brought to this meeting to allow members to scrutinise any transactions etc. in more detail, should they wish.

4. **Internal Audit Services**

The Council's Internal Auditor has regrettably recently advised that, due to ill health, she must step down from her role as internal auditor. Options are currently being assessed to determine a way forward. Progress will be reported to Members at the meeting.

5. **Local Government Pension Scheme: Lump Sum Payment 2016-17**

The Actuarial Valuation from March 2013 set the employers rate as 18.7% plus a lump sum. The amount of the lump sum for this year is £12,800. This amount is now due to the pension fund. A link to the Actuarial Valuations can be seen below - the results are on Page 35.

http://www.greatergwentpensionsfund.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/RpS_CA_Torfaen-AVR-FINAL.pdf

Members are asked to approve the payment.



6. Christmas Trees Budget

The cost of Christmas trees at The Council House and Pontnewydd this year amounted to £1800 per tree, a total of £3,600 net, with VAT bringing the cost to £4320. The approved budget is £4000 (Code L09 – Christmas Trees, Lights & Carols). Financial Regulations allow the Clerk to approve up to £3000 extra expenditure in urgent cases, which must be reported to Members.

The cost of lights on the building is expected to be around £650 net, with VAT bringing the total to £780. This is met from code L08 (“Other Miscellaneous Events.”).

It is **recommended** that Members note and endorse the expenditure.

7. Insurance Renewal

The council is in a Long Term Agreement (LTA) with Zurich. This means that the Council is committed to renew its existing policy. In return, Zurich we have applied an LTA discount and frozen the rates that have been applied to the relevant lines of cover.

The renewal premium is £8,240.83 (including taxes).

It is **recommended** that the premium is accepted.

8. Review of Post 16 Education in Torfaen

Torfaen County Borough Council has commenced consultation on proposals to establish a 6th Form Centre for Torfaen and make a regulated alteration to Croesyceiliog School, Cwmbran High School and St Alban’s RC High School by ending sixth form provision. It is proposed that these arrangements are implemented on 1 September 2019.

The consultation period in relation to these proposals began on 11 November 2016 and will close on 23 December 2016. Details have also been circulated to Members separately.

Observations can be made to Mr Dermot McChrystal, Head of Education Services (FAO Mark Horton) c/o Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB, by email to secondaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk or by attending the consultation “drop-in” event at Cwmbran Stadium on 5 December 2016 (4.30 pm – 6.30 pm). Other events are taking place in Pontypool & Blaenavon.

The consultation document (46 pages) in relation to these proposals can be viewed here:-

<http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/EducationLearning/21st-Century-Learning/Latest-News.aspx>

Members are asked to consider this information.

9. Regeneration Projects Update

(i) On 11 July 2016, Members agreed to meet the costs of a planning application for a notice board at Oakfield Flower Gardens. (Minute PF16/022 refers). Consent to display the advertisement was granted by Torfaen County Borough Council on 10 November 2016

(ii) To report the following request from Bron Afon Community Housing

“Thanks for your support this year from the community council , I have been thinking of future plans for next year and feel that the best way forward for us is to become a group , I have meet with a few people who are interested in being

involved in meetings about how we go forward next year , these people are Andrew Neville,(Torfaen Economy, Enterprise and Environment Services) Bleddyn lake(friends of the Earth) & Veronika Brannovic (Gwent Wildlife trust , and a lot of ideas have come from these meetings for next year , so I was wondering if the community council would be interested in helping to fund some more wildflower planting projects next year , as you kindly did this year , we are keen to carry on with the success that we have had this year and would appreciate any support that we could have as regards funding and would acknowledge this in all our media streams and in other ways you feel appropriate . Thanks again.

Steve Caddy
Environmental Teamleader
Bron Afon Community Housing
14 November 2016”

Members are asked to consider the above information.

10. **Council House Update**

To consider the attached report.

11. **HR Visit by Peninsula Employment Visit 16 November 2016.**

To consider the attached report.

12. **Torfaen Boundary Changes**

At the meeting of this committee held on 24 October 2016, members discussed the implications of the Review of the Parliamentary Constituencies for Wales. (Minute PF16/044 refers). At the Council meeting held on 16 November 2016, Members noted that the Review did not affect Council ward boundaries but asked the Clerk to clarify the position in relation forthcoming reviews. (Minute CL16/068 refers)

On 9 December 2013, the Committee received details of a review on boundaries for the County of Torfaen, together with the proposals for community boundaries. (Minute PF13/049 refers.). Details can be viewed on the following link <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/2156/made>. These changes will take effect for the 2017 elections.

A further review will be undertaken in 2017, which will be put in place in time for the elections, currently expected in 2022.

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

13. Seminars & Outside Bodies

To consider the attached reports in relation to seminars and meetings of outside bodies, attended by representatives of the Council.

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| (i) One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee | 19 October 2016 |
| (ii) Randomz Committee Meeting | 17 November 2016 |

It is **recommended** that the reports are noted.



David Collins, Clerk to the Council

28 November 2016

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Members are invited to remain behind after the meeting for a light Christmas Buffet