

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of
Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 18 January 2017**

Present Councillor S Evans (in the Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, SJ Brooks,
LJ Chaney, R Jones, TA Matthews RA Seabourne, D Standing & WJ Walker

Councillor BJ Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council, Executive
Member)

Also Clare Facey (Administration Officer)

ESP16/035 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

ESP16/036 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 SWJ Ashley and RA Seabourne declared an interest in Minute ESP16/037 (a) below.

ESP16/037 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning Application 16/P/01429/FUL

Construction of 78 residential dwellings at former Llantarnam Community Primary School.

Councillors SWJ Ashley and RA Seabourne declared an interest in this item.

The Administration Officer explained to members that the Clerk had written to the developers opposing the application with members' observations and objections. Since this time, the application had been sent to Cwmbran Community Council by Torfaen County Borough Council asking for the Council's observations.

Members asked that the same objections be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council. Members also suggested that a site meeting be convened with the developers and members at their earliest convenience to discuss members' concerns.

It was **recommended** that

(1) the same objections be reiterated to Torfaen County Borough Council's Planning Department.

(2) that a site meeting be arranged with members and the developers.

(b) Planning Lists

Members considered outstanding planning list 1166.

It was **recommended** that

(1) no objection is offered to items 6169, 6170 and 6171.

(2) in relation to item 6168 on list 1166 - Ward Members expressed concerns about access arrangements for this development and the relationship between the design of the proposed housing and the nearby shopping complex. Members asked what the developers were doing to improve this. Members are mindful of the increased volume of traffic of this development. Therefore, members oppose the development on these grounds.

(c) 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.

ESP16/038 Primary Schools Eco Quiz – Thursday 9 February 2017 – Sponsored by Knauf Insulation

Members noted the good progress of the upcoming Eco Quiz which is being held at The Congress Theatre on Thursday 9th February 2017.

The Administration Officer explained that 12 local primary schools had expressed an interest in participating.

Members noted that the prize money was £100 for first place, £75 for second place and £50 for third place and all participating schools would receive £25. Members were pleased to note that Knauf would continue to sponsor the event in the sum of £500.

Knauf would also like to invite the winning team for a plant tour and small buffet following the event.

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

ESP16/039 Seminars & Outside Bodies

Members noted that Councillor Ashley would be attending a meeting of the Torfaen Environmental Association on 19th January 2017. Councillor Ashley informed members that the Association had received many applications for Landfill Tax and explained that he would bring the minutes of that meeting to the next Environmental Committee Meeting for members' information.

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

:

ESP16/040 Neighbourhood Services Matters

Councillor John Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member Neighbourhoods) informed members on the following:-

- **2017/18 Budget Setting** – Due to a better than expected settlement from Welsh Government for 2017/18, Torfaen County Borough Council has an additional £616,000 that is available for member policy choice. The full details are still being developed, however, the following areas are being considered:-
 - A further allocation around cleaner and greener

- An allocation towards highways infrastructure
- A moratorium on the proposed library saving of £250,000

Proposals will be subject to scrutiny activity before being included in the final budget proposals being taken to full Council on 28 February 2017.

- **Controlled Crossing at Cwmbran High Schools** – The installation of a controlled crossing and associated road safety works at Cwmbran High is well underway and should be completed by the end of the week. The works are being carried out as part of the Safe Routes in Communities Scheme.
- **Maendy School Bus Turning Area** – Torfaen County Borough Council are nearing completion on the bus turning area at Maendy School and the resurfacing work will commence next week.

Councillor Cunningham answered members' questions and the following subjects were discussed:-

- Councillor Seabourne also mentioned the new pelican crossing which was currently being installed outside Cwmbran High School. Mention was also made to rubbish being left around the area of Fairwater Shops. Councillor Cunningham explained that this area belongs to Bron Afon.
- Councillor Standing thanked Councillor Cunningham's team on the recent clean up on the incline between Ty Canol and Two Locks. However, he expressed some concerns over the Christmas rubbish collections. Councillor Standing also mentioned a footpath near East Roedin which seems to have been neglected over recent months.
- Councillor Matthews congratulated the team on their efforts and hard work during the icy period. He also expressed his concerns over broken and uneven pavements.

It was **recommended** that Councillor Cunningham is thanked for his full report to members.

ESP16/041 Task Force

At a meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on 24 October 2016, Members recommended that responsibility for receiving regular performance management information about the work of the Task Force was assigned to this committee. (Minute PF16/053 refers).

Members therefore considered performance information about the work of the Task Force for the period 13th January 2016 to 10th January 2017. Members were pleased to receive this information.

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

Signed

(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)