

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday
22 June 2016**

Present Councillor KK Manneh (Chairman), Councillors: SWJ Ashley, SJ Brooks, LJ Chaney, J Davenne, M Day, S Evans, WM Howell, R Jones, TA Matthews, R Seabourne, WJ Walker, DJ Williams, PJ Williams and TJ Winter

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council) and Clare Facey (Administration Officer)

CL16/014 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors M Johnston (sickness)

CL16/015 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman was pleased to welcome Councillor Howell to the meeting, following her recent period of illness.

The Chairman reported that he had recently attended the following events:

- Cwmbran Big Event 11 June 2016
(The Chairman reported that he had met the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent at this event, who was interested in strengthening links with the Council.)
- Community Awards/Grants Presentation (Pontypool) 16 June 2016
- Memorial Service for the late Jo Cox MP 17 June 2016
- Armed Forces Day, Torfaen County Borough Council 20 June 2016
- Armed Forces Day, Cwmbran Community Council 22 June 2016

The Chairman also reported that he would be attending the Cwmbran High School "Achievements Evening" on 23 June 2016.

The Clerk reported that the sum of £92 had been raised at the Big Event for the Chairman's Charity. A further sum of £27 had been raised at the Council's commemoration of Armed Forces Day. The Clerk also displayed the new Council Flag, which had been flown for the first time on Armed Forces Day.

CL16/016 Vice Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that he had recently attended the following events:

- Tree planting/wildflower planting 7 June 2016
at Nant Celyn School.
- Torfaen Scouts 9 June 2016
- Armed Forces Day, Torfaen County Borough Council 20 June 2016
- Armed Forces Day, Cwmbran Community Council 22 June 2016
(The Vice Chairman thanked the staff of the Council for their hard work in delivering this event.)

CL16/017 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.

CL16/018 Public Question Time

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders approved on 25 June 2014, the opportunity for public questions was included as an item on the agenda for the meeting.

No questions had been submitted.

CL16/019 Cwmbran Policing Update

The Chairman welcomed PC Jo Skinner to the meeting.

PC Skinner updated members on various current initiatives, including good progress made in dealing with a recent spate of local burglaries. She also outlined changes to the law relating to "legal highs" and the work undertaken to monitor their sale locally. Other current initiatives included early steps to introduce a Public Places Protection Order and a new "Your Voce" consultation procedure.

The Chairman reminded all Members to provide the Clerk with details of any questions they wished to ask Police and Fire Service representatives in advance of the meeting, in order to help provide a more constructive debate.

Issues raised by Members included:

- Incidents of "Boy Racers" and the resultant problems. (PC Skinner described joint working projects to tackle this problem.)
- Security problems at Greenmeadow Farm. (PC Skinner referred to discussions taking place with the Farm to improve matters.)
- Nature of burglaries to local pharmacy. (Llanyrafon)
- Praise for the work of the police in tackling issues such as anti-social behaviour and other incidents at Greenmeadow and Upper Cwmbran West.

Resolved that PC Skinner is thanked for her attendance and willingness to answer questions.

CL16/020 Fire & Rescue Update

Station Manager Tony Jackson, Station Commander – Cwmbran & Blaenavon (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service.) was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted his apologies.

The Clerk reported that representatives of (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service) would be visiting the Council House on 23 June 2016 to undertake an Arson Vulnerability Assessment. (Minute CL15/116 refers). This was a free service provided in relation to community buildings.

Resolved that the above information is noted.

CL16/021 Council Meetings 11 May 2016 and 18 May 2016.

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meetings are confirmed.

(The Chairman signed and initialled the minutes of the above meeting in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 12)

CL16/022 Events & Community Projects Committee 31 May 2016

Councillor Walker introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL16/023 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 8 June 2016

Councillor Seabourne introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP16/007 (Neighbourhood Services Matters), the Clerk referred to information provided by Councillor Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council) about matters raised at the meeting. The Clerk undertook to circulate copies to Members.

In relation to Minute ESP16/008 (Torfaen Environmental Association), Councillor Ashley welcomed the support of Councillor Standing in relation to the work of the committee and elaborated on the role of the Association. The AGM was due to take place on 14 July 2016. He also advised that he would provide the Clerk with a written report on Biodiversity matters. The Clerk confirmed that he would submit the report to Members upon receipt.

Resolved that:

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) no objection is offered to Planning List 1143 and 1144.

CL16/024 Policy & Finance Committee 13 June 2016

Councillor Matthews introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF16/005 (Annual report 2016), the Clerk reported that he would be attending a CIPFA Seminar on 24 June 2016 about the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Annual Report reflected goals set out within the Act and the seminar thus provided a good opportunity to raise awareness of the Council's approach.

In relation to Minute PF16/011 (Task Force Review), the Clerk reminded those members who would be undertaking the review to provide him with details of their availability.

Resolved that:

- (1) that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) in relation to Minute PF16/008 (One Voice Wales AGM 2016: Saturday 1 October 2016) the names of Councillors DJ Williams, R Jones, PJ Williams and S Brooks are submitted to One Voice Wales as being interested in attending the AGM, but that that no Notice of Motion is submitted on behalf of this Council to the AGM.

CL16/025 Statement of Accounts 2015/16 and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016

Members considered the financial accounts for the year ended the 31 March 2016 together with a copy of the Annual Return and a report of the Council's internal auditor, dated 16 May 2016.

The process to be followed for submission of the Annual Return to the Council's external auditor was set out within the Audit Plan approved by the Policy & Finance Committee on 25 January 2016 (Minute PF15/050 refers).

The Chairman and Leader of the Majority Group paid tribute to the hard work of the Council's staff in relation to the preparation of the above documents. The Clerk thanked all the members of staff of the Council who had supported him in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts

It was **resolved** that the Annual Statement of Accounts be approved and that the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, together with the Chairman on behalf of the Council, signs the appropriate sections of the Annual Return for submission to the Council's external auditor.

CL16/026 Letter of Thanks & Appreciation

Thanks were received from the following:

- (a) PC Juliet Murphy (Wings To Fly Drama)
- (b) Mrs JM Harries, Mr William (telephone), Mr Woolway (telephone) and Mrs Morascoe (telephone) (Task Force)
- (c) Station Manager Tony Jackson, Station Commander – Cwmbran & Blaenavon - South Wales Fire & Rescue Service. (Friday Night Project)
- (d) Cwmbran High School (Donation of prize)
- (e) All Creatures Great and Small (Chairman's Charity Donation)

The Clerk reported that, due to technical difficulties it had not been possible to include copies of the above on the main agenda.

Resolved that the expressions of thanks are noted.

Signed

(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)