

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday  
29 March 2017**

**Present** Councillor KK Manneh (Chairman). Councillors SWJ Ashley, SJ Brooks, LJ Chaney, D Daniels, S Evans, M Johnston, R Jones, R Kemp, TA Matthews, J Powell, J Rees, RA Seabourne, D Standing, WJ Walker and DJ Williams

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

**CL16/102 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors J Davenne (personal), and Councillor WM Howell (personal)

**CL16/103 Chairman's Announcements**

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

- "An Evening to Celebrate Cwmbran and its Communities" 4 March 2017  
(The Chairman paid tribute to the hard work of the staff in organising and staging this function).
- Torfaen Sea Cadets Parade 21 March 2017
- Primary Schools Choral Festival 23 March 2017  
(The Chairman reported how privileged he had felt to be a part of the Council at this event.)

The Chairman was also pleased to announce that Councillor SWJ Ashley had recently become a Grandfather and extended his warm congratulations.

**CL16/104 Vice Chairman's Announcements**

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

- Blenheim Road Primary School "Size of Wales" Event 24 February 2017  
(in the company of HRH The Prince of Wales)
- "An Evening to Celebrate Cwmbran and its Communities" 4 March 2017  
(The Vice Chairman paid tribute to the hard work of the staff in organising and staging this function. He also praised the contribution of Torfaen Sea Cadets, who had entertained guests at the function).
- Pontypool Eisteddfod 16 March 2017  
(the Vice Chairman asked for his thanks to be forwarded to Pontypool Community Council)
- Primary Schools Choral Festival 23 March 2017

**CL16/105 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.

Any Declarations of Interest had to be made in writing, as described above.

In relation to Minute CL16/109 below (Council Meeting 15 February 2017),

Councillors J Rees and RA Seabourne declared a personal interest in Minute CL16/100 (b) of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2017 (Letters of Thanks & Appreciation – Co Star)

In relation to Minute CL16/096 below (Events & Community Projects Committee 20 February 2017), Councillor RA Seabourne declared a personal interest in Minute ENT16/031 (Senior Schools Choral Festival 2017)

In relation to Minute CL16/098 below (Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 1 March 2017), Councillor Ashley declared an interest in Minute ESP16/044 (Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters).

#### **CL16/106 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.

#### **CL16/107 Cwmbran Policing Update**

The Vice Chairman welcomed Sergeant Ian Green of Gwent Police to the meeting.

Sergeant Green reported that Inspector Morgan, who often attended Council meetings on behalf of Gwent Police, would soon be leaving his post to take up a new Chief Inspector Partnership post in East Gwent. Sergeant Ian Green who was his sector deputy, would act as the temporary Inspector for Torfaen until such time as a successor was in post. Members congratulated Sergeant Green on this temporary appointment.

Sergeant Green referred to improvements in the way Gwent Police now recorded cybercrime, which allowed and provided more accurate records.

He also referred to an increase in drug related crime and child sexual exploitation. The perpetrator of a recent assault in Fairwater had not yet been identified but investigations remained ongoing. Sergeant Green drew Members' attention to additional patrols carried out to reassure the public. He also called for the public to be vigilant when walking about the area.

A recent operation in relation to off road motor cycling had been successful and Sergeant Ian Green referred to work carried out with local ramblers etc., which may have helped to control incidents of grass fires. In answer to a Member's question, he elaborated on the operation in relation to motor cycles and referred to coverage of the success of the operation on social media.

Issues raised by Members included:

- anti-Social Behaviour in Upper Cwmbran. Sergeant Green referred to arrests made.
- use of Motor cycles and Quad bikes near Monnow Court
- gunfire at Ty Canol. Sergeant Green agreed to investigate.
- Incidents of criminal damage arising from parking.
- progress in relation to incidents at Fairwater Shops.
- arrows being fired in fields at Llantarnam. Sergeant Green agreed to investigate.
- growth in "phone Scams." Sergeant Green also referred to an increase in identity crime.

**Resolved** that Sergeant Green is thanked for his attendance and willingness to answer questions.

**CL16/108 Fire & Rescue Update**

Representatives of South Wales Fire & Rescue Service were unable to attend.

**CL16/109 Council Meeting 15 February 2017**

Councillor SJ Brooks introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Councillors J Rees and RA Seabourne declared a personal interest in Minute CL16/100 (b) (Letters of Thanks & Appreciation – Co Star.)

In relation to Minute CL16/101 (Notice of Motion), the Clerk explained that, as this item had been referred to the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee to consider, any further action would be implemented following Council confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of that committee held on 1 March 2017 (see Minute CL16/098 below).

**Resolved** that subject to the correct spelling of the word “Sergeant” in Minute CL16/093, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

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

**CL16/110 Events & Community Projects Committee 20 February 2017**

Councillor WJ Walker introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Councillor RA Seabourne declared a personal interest in Minute ENT16/031 (Senior Schools Choral Festival 2017)

In relation to Minute ENT16/029 (“An Evening to Celebrate Cwmbran and its Communities” 4 March 2017) Councillor Walker expressed his delight that so many Members were able to attend this year.

In relation to Minute ENT16/030 (Primary Schools Choral Festival 21, 22 and 23 March 2017), Members expressed their particular gratitude for the work of the Council’s staff in organising the raffle held on behalf of the Chairman’s charity.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

**CI16/111 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 20 February 2017**

Councillor M Johnston introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute GL16/023 (c), the Administrative Officer clarified the position in relation to previous grants to the applicant.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

*(Following the Council meeting, cheques were presented to the grant recipients referred to in the minutes of the above meeting of the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee.)*

**CL16/112 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 1 March 2017**

Councillor S Evans introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP16/044 (Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters), Members referred to previous concerns about access at a site in the vicinity of Cwmbran Park. Members asked for feedback on the issues which had been raised. (Councillor Ashley declared an interest in this item).

Members also emphasised the importance of being able to view hard copies of plans when they ask for further details of developments and not merely electronic versions, which were sometimes hard to study in sufficient detail.

In relation to Minute ESP16/047 (Sponsored Litter Bins – Canal), Members noted that three litter bins could be provided at Maendy Way, Greenhill Way and Ty Coch Lane at a total cost of £1200 from within the current budget heading N05. Emptying of the bins would be undertaken on the Council's behalf by Torfaen County Borough Council.

In relation to Minute ENT16/048 (Historical Buildings and Landscapes), members drew attention to suggestions that a sub group is established to take forward this project.

**Resolved that:**

- (1) the name of Councillor DJ Williams is added to the list of Members who had submitted apologies for absence.
- (2) the provision of three litter bins as described above is approved. (Minute ESP16/047)
- (3) a working sub group is established to examine the feasibility of the collation of a list of buildings and landscapes that are integral to the heritage and history of Cwmbran, the membership of the sub group to be appointed at Annual Council. (Minute ESP16/048)
- (4) subject to the above, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (5) no objection is offered to Planning Lists 1175.
- (6) the Clerk is instructed to clarify the position in relation to action taken to address Members' earlier concerns about access at the site near Cwmbran Park, as referred to above.

**CL16/113 Policy & Finance Committee 6 March 2017**

Councillor Matthews introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF16/085 (Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments), the Clerk referred to a number of recent invoices from Torfaen County Borough Council. He paid tribute to the role played by the Administrative Officer in ensuring the timely and accurate payment and processing of these invoices in accordance with the proper processes. Members echoed the sentiments of the Clerk but also emphasised the need to request earlier invoices wherever possible to ensure that payments were properly processed and authorised.

In relation to Minute PF16/087 (Annual Review of Internal Audit & Audit Plan), although it is appropriate for the Policy & Finance Committee to carry out the review, Members received and considered the results of the Review and Plan, because of the link to the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

In relation to Minute PF16/088 (Investment Strategy) the Clerk reported a minor amendment to the draft strategy in relation to High Credit Quality. He also corrected a minor spelling mistake.

In relation to Minute PF16/090 (Earmarked Reserves), the Clerk referred to a request from the Friends of Bruchsal to meet costs incurred during the current year. Further enquiries were being made in relation to the costs identified. (Code P02) Members also drew attention to an underspend in the current year's budget in relation to Anti- Poverty Initiatives such as Foodbanks (Code I20)

In relation to Minute PF16/097 (Staffing Matters), the Clerk referred to a minor amendment to the request for a Member of staff to carry over leave.

**Resolved** that:

- (1) the Annual Review of Internal Audit & Audit Plan are approved. (Minute PF16/087
- (2) the amendments to the Investment Strategy reported are approved. (Minute PF16/088)
- (3) the sum of £2,100 is identified as Earmarked Reserves to meet any costs paid to Friends of Bruchsal (code P02)
- (4) the sum of £4,500 is identified as Earmarked Reserves to meet any costs in relation to Anti- Poverty Initiatives such as Foodbanks (Code I20)
- (5) the revised arrangements for the carry over leave are approved (Minute PF16/097)
- (6) subject to the above, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

#### **CL16/114 Letter of Thanks & Appreciation**

Thanks were received from Brigadier Robert Aitken CBE, Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Reverend Canon Harald Thomas MBE, Richard Williams and Tony Rosser ("An Evening to Celebrate Cwmbran and its Communities. 4 March 2017")

The Chairman confirmed that the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent had been very pleased to attend the above function and hoped that there would be further opportunities for the Council to work with the Lieutenancy.

Members also paid tribute to the contribution made to the function by Mr Rosser of the Street Pastors.

**Resolved** that the expressions of thanks are noted.

Signed .....  
(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)