

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 21 June 2017**

**Present** Councillor R Jones (in the Chair). Councillors SWJ Ashley, AL Bird, SJ Brooks, PJ Cathcart, JS Davenne, A Davies, M Day, N Hopkins, LG Johnston, M Johnston, F Jones, KK Manneh and WJ Walker

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

**CL17/015 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Rh Bennett (holiday), J Rees (personal) and M Villars (holiday)

**CL17/016 Chairman's Announcements**

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

Armed Forces Day 21 June 2017

The Chairman also referred to a series of site visits he had made recently to the "Gun Shop" in Pontnewydd and the site of a new funeral home, also in Pontnewydd.

The Chairman welcomed a member of the public who was present at the meeting.

**CL17/017 Vice Chairman's Announcements**

None.

**CL17/018 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.

**CL17/019 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.

**CL17/020 Cwmbran Policing Update**

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Jason White and Sargent Ian Green of Gwent Police.

Inspector White explained that he had recently taken over the role of Inspector Morgan. He outlined his background and paid tribute to the achievements of Inspector Morgan during his time in Cwmbran. He also paid tribute to the contribution made by Sargent Green and his colleagues.

Sargent Green provided an overview of recent incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour on a ward by ward basis. He also referred to problems

associated with parking in certain wards. Inspector White referred to recent arrests made.

Issues raised by Members included:

- a series of recent burglaries in Llantarnam. Inspector Green referred to the impact of an organised crime group which had also been active in other parts of Cwmbran. He described the pressure which this put on police resources and the extent to which officers could maintain a visible presence across the town as a whole
- problems arising from archery activity at Llantarnam. Sargent Green indicated that he thought that these matters had been addressed but agreed to make additional enquiries.
- Police response to incidents (for example, Pontnewydd and Llantarnam.) Inspector Green encouraged Members to make use of electronic communications for an effective response.
- PCSO details for Thornhill

**CL17/021 Fire & Rescue Update**

No representatives were present.

The Clerk again agreed to make enquiries with South Wales Fire & Rescue about their availability to attend meetings

**CL17/022 Council Meetings 24 April 2017 & 17 May 2017**

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

**Resolved** that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) in relation to Minute CL17/104 (Appointment of Members to sit on Outside Bodies, the following additional appointments were made, to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council
  - (i) South Sebastopol Environmental Steering Group  
Councillors SWJ Ashley and PJ Cathcart.
  - (ii) Greenmeadow Community Farm Shadow Board  
Councillors SJ Brooks and F Jones

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

**CL17/023 Events & Community Projects Committee 30 May 2017**

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

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

**CL17/024 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 7 June 2017**

Councillor KK Manneh introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP17/005(c) (Planning, Highways, Footpaths & Licensing Matters), Members noted the receipt of a major objection from the Open Spaces society representative in relation to the proposed extinguishment and diversion of Public Footpaths at Pentre Bach Farm. It would not be possible to proceed with this application as the objections were viable. The applicant had been asked if they wished to continue as a report for Cabinet (Torfaen County Borough Council) would be required.

In relation to Minute ESP17/006 (Provisional Programme of Events), Members noted a request from Cwmbran High School for a donation from the Council to be presented alongside the "Services to the Environment Cup." Members noted that this was an annual contribution and that funds for Awards & Contributions were in place (code N07).

In relation to Minute ESP17/008 (Task Force), Members indicated that they wished to consider the impact of recent changes to the operation of the Task Force on income levels etc.

**Resolved that:**

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) a contribution of £20 to Cwmbran High School, as described above, is confirmed.
- (3) a report is submitted to the next meeting of the committee outlining the impact of recent changes to the charges and operation of the Task Force.
- (4) no objection is offered to Planning Lists 1187.

**CL17/025 Policy & Finance Committee 12 June 2017**

Councillor Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

The Clerk updated Members on progress in relation to the Replacement of the Council House Annex (Minute PF17/007).

In relation to Minute PF17/009 (Vacancies on School Governing Bodies), Members noted that Councillor Hopkins was interested in taking up the vacancies at Blenheim Road and Coed Eva Schools.

In relation to Minute PF17/010 (Community Awards), Councillor Ashley encouraged all Members to support the awards and submit nominations.

In relation to Minute PF17/014 (Community Notice Boards), Members noted that some local Members wished to retain keys for the boards. The Clerk also reported details of potential costs for installing a board at Sandybrook Farm but these were still being examined. Members also discussed certain items of street furniture which had been installed at certain locations recently. Members sought clarification as to whether planning permission was required for such works.

**Resolved that:**

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) Councillor Hopkins is appointed to the Governing Body of Blenheim Road and Coed Eva Schools.
- (3) the Clerk is instructed to enquire as to whether planning permission is required for street furniture.

**CL17/026 Statement of Accounts 2016/17 and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017**

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 1 June 2017.

The Accounts had also been discussed in detail at a meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee of 12 June 2017.

Members noted that the 2015/16 had been restated as a result of last year's audit. All Members had been provided with a reconciliation.

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.

**CL17/027 Letters of Thanks & Appreciation**

Thanks were received from the Trustees of Torfaen Museum Trust (core funding) and Mrs C Campbell (Task Force).

Members also noted the positive feedback arising from the Council's participation at the Big Event 2017.

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

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