

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 26 July 2017

Present Councillor R Jones (in the Chair). Councillors SWJ Ashley, Rh Bennett, AL Bird, SJ Brooks, JS Davenne, AJ Davies, M Day, M Johnston, F Jones, RD Kemp, KK Manneh, J Rees, M Villars and WJ Walker

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

CL17/028 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors P Cathcart (holiday), N Hopkins (personal) and LG Johnston (holiday),

CL17/029 Chairman's Announcements

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

Our Lady of the Angels School	20 June 2017
Cwmbran High School, celebration of Achievements	6 July 2017
Cwmbran High School "Beauty & the Beast."	12 July 2017
Mayoral Civic Service	16 July 2017
Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales (Electoral Review, Torfaen)	18 July 2017
Pontypool Community Council, Grants Presentation	20 July 2017
Canal Restoration Project & Training	28 July 2017
Emergency Services Day, Cwmbran Centre	14 July 2017

(At the close of the meeting, the Chairman also reminded Members about the arrangements for forthcoming Member visits to Playschemes)

CL17/030 Vice Chairman's Announcements

None. (The Vice Chairman was not present)

CL17/031 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.

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in item CL17/038 (7) below.

CL17/032 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.

CL17/033 Cwmbran Policing Update

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Ian Green of Gwent Police.

Sergeant Green provided an overview of recent incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour on a ward by ward basis. He made particular reference to recent arrests made possible by the use of CCTV, vehicle crime, city centre crime and neighbour disputes. Current priorities included tackling anti-social behaviour at Fairwater shops, Henllys Nature Reserve and Llantarnam. He also reported that the police would patrol school premises during the school holidays.

Sergeant Green was pleased to note that Members were utilising www.gwent.police.uk to contact the police. He encouraged all Members to use the website to raise any matters and explained how to navigate around the site. He also referred to social media platforms which were in place.

Issues raised by Members included:

- the potential for Members to receive feedback on issues raised on-line.
- the positive contribution made to community safety by PCSOs and the pressures facing all emergency services, especially ambulance services.
- praise for the positive police response to unauthorised archery at Llantarnam.

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

CL17/034 Fire & Rescue Update

The Chairman welcomed Station Commander Tony Jackson.

Station Commander Jackson apologised for his absence from recent meetings, explaining that he had been recovering from spinal injury. He advised that he would be handing over Cwmbran Fire Station to a new commander in the very near future. He underlined the importance of the relationship with the Council, in the interest of sharing appropriate information. He would be informing the new commander of this relationship.

Station Commander Jackson referred to the Emergency Services Day at Cwmbran Centre, attended by the Chairman. He highlighted the success of the event and hoped that the Council could consider participating in future similar events. He also drew attention to joint working initiatives across Torfaen. These included visits to areas where there were known to be community safety concerns and addressing issues such as illegal use of off-road vehicles. He also described recent visits to schools to assess the risk of arson in the light of the school holidays.

Issues raised by Members included:

- Playschemes taking place in local schools, which would help ensure a security presence during the holidays.
- the burning of rubbish at allotments. Station Commander Jackson explained the procedures which should be followed.
- the role of the Fire & Rescue Service in relation to materials used in construction, in the light of recent events in London. Station Commander Jackson explained that this was dealt with via Building Control arrangements.

The Chairman wished Station Commander Jackson well in his new position.

Resolved that Station Commander Jackson is thanked for his attendance and willingness to answer questions

CL17/035 Council Meetings 21 June 2017

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute CL17/025 (3) (Policy & Finance Committee 12 June 2017), Members noted the advice from Torfaen County Borough Council in relation to planning permission for street furniture. The advice had been circulated to Members. Any unauthorised development would be investigated by enforcement staff.

Resolved that 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)

CL17/036 Events & Community Projects Committee 30 May 2017

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ECP17/010 (Schools Choral Festivals), the Clerk drew attention to the proposed dates of the Primary Schools Festival. The minutes stated the correct dates, as agreed at the meeting, but the Clerk apologised for an error in the report considered by Members in relation to the dates.

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the dates for the next Primary School Choral Festival are confirmed as Monday 26 March 2018, Tuesday 27 March 2018 and Wednesday 28 March 2018.

CL17/037 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 26 June 2017

Councillor WJ Walker introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute GVO17/007 (New Applications Received), Members noted the following:

- (a) Laurel Green & Laurel Walk OAP Club: Confirmation of the approval of the owners of the shed had been received from the landowners.
- (b) Bobath Children's Therapy Centre: The applicant was unable to collect the cheque on 26 July 2017. A cheque would therefore be posted.
- (c) Trelleach & Talgarth Allotment Association: A copy of the Annual Report was awaited. The Administrative Officer was pursuing this.

Members also considered holding an additional meeting of the committee in the near future in the light of the number of enquiries for grants already received. An additional meeting would also allow cheques to be presented at the Awards Night on 23 November 2017

Resolved that

- (1) subject to the above, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

- (2) an additional meeting of the committee is arranged for 4 September 2017, to follow the meeting of the Events & Community Projects Committee as usual.

CL17/038 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 5 July 2017

Councillor KK Manneh introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in item (7) below.

In relation to Minute ESP17/011 (Planning, Highways, Footpaths & Licensing Matters), Members referred to a consultation being undertaken by Torfaen County Borough Council in relation to the Active Travel Integrated Network Map. The Clerk referred to discussions which had taken place with Torfaen County Borough Council about the potential for a presentation about the matter to Members of the Committee. Unfortunately this had not been possible due to officer unavailability. Details of the consultation had therefore recently been circulated direct to Members. Members expressed their concern that the consultation period closed in the near future, indicating that they had not been given adequate opportunity to comment. Members drew attention to the importance of the topic, citing the pressure on the local footpath network from new developments as an example of their concerns. Members asked that enquires be made about extending the period to allow Members to comment or for officers from Torfaen County Borough Council to attend a meeting of the committee. The Clerk agreed to make such enquires. In the meantime he confirmed that he could also collate a composite response if Members provided him with any observations.

In relation to Minute ESP17/012 (Executive Member for Environment: Torfaen County Borough Council), Members reiterated their disappointment at the Executive Member's absence from the meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP17/012 (2) (Executive Member for Environment: Torfaen County Borough Council), the Ward Member also sought further clarification about grounds maintenance at Llantarnam.

In relation to Minute ESP17/014 (iii) (Task Force), the Clerk confirmed the committee's recommendation in relation to the proposed Grades of the staff. Pay would be based on the existing pay for the grade. He apologised for incorrect information reported about the salaries. The proposed SCPs remained as reported however.

Resolved that:

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the Clerk is instructed to investigate opportunities for Members to participate in the consultation in relation to the Active Travel Integrated Network Map, as described above.
- (3) the Clerk, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Majority Group and the Chairman of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee is instructed to contact the Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council to address Members' concerns about the Executive Member's absence from the committee meeting.
- (4) the Clerk to make further enquiries about the arrangements for grass cutting at Llantarnam

- (5) the proposals in relation to the grades of the Task Force staff, as clarified above, are confirmed.
- (6) no objection is offered to Planning List 1190 or 1191. (In relation to item 6252 on list 1191, Members queried the reason for a brick-built structure)
- (7) in relation to item 6258 on list 1192, Members objected to the proposals in view of the loss of green space and the loss of playground facilities associated with the proposed development.

CL17/039 Policy & Finance Committee 10 July 2017

Councillor Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF17/017 (Itemised Schedule of Receipts & Payments (March 2017 and April 2017), Members noted arrangements in place to overcome access problems arising from building work affecting the Playscheme at Llantarnam Primary School

In relation to minute PF17/020 (Annual Report 2016/17, the Clerk outlined minor amendments to the Annual Report, including those matters highlighted in the minutes.

In relation to minute PF17/024 (2) (Fire Safety Risk Assessment), the Clerk referred to forthcoming training being provided to staff in relation to use of fire extinguishers.

In relation to minute PF17/025 (Replacement of Council House Annex), Councillor RD Kemp proposed that the sums of £224,926 and £25,000 are set aside to protect other community assets in need of repair and not utilised on the replacement of the Annex. This was seconded by Councillor J Rees. Following a vote, the proposal was not accepted (2 for, 11 against, two abstentions). Councillor SJ Brooks moved the acceptance of the tender as and the approval of finance to cover associated works and fees as reported. (Overall budget estimate circa £262,000 (nett). This was seconded by Councillor R Jones and, following a vote, was agreed (14 for, 1 against). Members noted that figures reported were nett of VAT.

Resolved that:

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the acceptance of the tender from Wernick Buildings Limited in the sum of £224,926.00 (nett) and the approval of finance to cover associated works and fees is approved. The contract to be signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and witnessed by the Clerk as Proper Officer.

CL17/040 Statement of Accounts 2016/17 and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017

This item was included on the agenda to allow consideration of any observations from the Council's external auditor in relation to the above. The Clerk reported that no observations had yet been received. The Leader of the Majority Group advised that it would be necessary to call a Special Council meeting in order to consider the Auditor's findings in accordance by 30 September 2017

Resolved that the position is noted.

CL17/041 Plenary Powers

Resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, together with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Majority Group, are be granted plenary powers to respond to any matters requiring decisions to be taken during the Summer recess period as no Council Committees or Council Meetings would be held until September.

Any matters dealt with under this procedure will be reported to the next Meeting of the Council.

CL17/041 Thanks & Appreciation

Thanks were received from Cwmbran High School, for the donation of £20 which was be presented alongside the “Services to the Environment Cup” at the “Celebration of Achievement” Evening.

The Leader of the Majority Group reported that a new Headmaster had been appointed at St Albans High School Roman Catholic High School. He also referred to the forthcoming ordination of Deacon Peter McLaren, who had supported the Council in preparing for the Remembrance Sunday Parade in the past.

Resolved that

- (1) the expression of thanks are noted.
- (2) the Council’s congratulations are extended to Peter McLaren.

Signed
(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)