

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 29 November 2017**

**Present** Councillor KK Manneh (in the Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, SJ Brooks, PJ Cathcart, M Day, M Johnston, R Jones, M Villars and WJ Walker

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

**ESP17/028 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillor Rh Bennett (personal).

**ESP17/029 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.

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared an Interest Minute ESP17/030 (a) below Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters (item 6304 on list 1207.)

**ESP17/030 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters**

(a) Planning Lists

Members considered outstanding planning lists 1206, 1207 and 1208.

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared an interest in item 6304 on list 1207.

It was **recommended** that no objection is offered in respect of lists 1206, 1207 and 1208, subject to any observations from Ward Members in relation to item 6304 on list 1207. (Members noted that item 6306 on list 1208 was outside the Council's area.)

The Clerk also drew attention to an exhibition at Cwmbran Centre about proposals to develop Gwent Square and Monmouth Square. A planning application would be submitted in the coming weeks. Cwmbran Centre and M&G Real Estate had offered to attend a future meeting of the committee to describe the proposals to Members.

It was **recommended** that representatives of Cwmbran Centre and M&G Real Estate are invited to attend the next meeting of the committee to discuss the proposals in relation to Gwent Square and Monmouth Square.

Members also discussed wider issues associated with planning, highways and environmental matters, including current issues in relation to Himalayan Balsam, Blaenau Gwent & Torfaen Local Nature Partnership and opportunities to put questions to the Executive Member for Environment (Torfaen County Borough Council.)

It was **recommended** that any Members wishing to submit questions to the Executive Member for Environment are requested to report them to this committee in the first instance to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

(b) Planning Decisions of Torfaen County Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that the decisions are noted.

**ESP17/031 Torfaen Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Controls) Consultation.**

Members noted that Torfaen County Borough Council was currently reviewing the controls that applied to the exercising of dogs and clearing up of dog fouling on land within Torfaen. Consultation was taking place on proposals to introduce a single, consolidating Public Spaces Protection Order for dog controls in Torfaen. Comments were invited by 15 December 2017. (Members had been provided with details of the consultation exercise on 15 November 2017) Members considered details of the proposals. Members also noted that issues relating to Dog Control had been discussed by the Safer Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Torfaen County Borough Council.

Issues raised by Members included:

- concerns about dog fouling in children's play areas.
- concerns about how any new Order would be enforced.
- the need to establish land ownership details in order to implement any Order.
- the need to provide more bins (Members noted the lack of bins in the Lowlands & Avondale vicinity as an example.)
- the need for clarification as to whether Dogs on Leads areas were already in place for the parts of Cwmbran Boating Lake and Garn Lakes Local Nature Reserve referred to in the proposals.
- difficulties of waste collection along Cwmbran Drive.
- the need to maintain bins and replace any that were missing.
- the need to clarify the position in relation to notices already displayed about the new order.

Members also expressed their disappointment at the length of notice given to the Council to respond to the consultation exercise.

It was **recommended** that the above comments are forwarded to Torfaen County Borough Council as part of the consultation exercise.

**ESP17/032 Committee Estimates 2018/19**

Members considered draft estimates for the coming year, which included proposals in relation to the Council's Task Force. Members noted that, for 2018/19, all staff costs for the Council's staff would be included within a single budget heading (C01). Details of expenditure were also reported.

It was **recommended** that the estimates are approved, subject to an increase to allow for inflation.

**ESP17/033 Exclusion of the Press & Public**

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed that the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 be exercised.

**ESP17/034 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 recent work of the Task Force.

It was **recommended** that:

- (1) the information is noted.
- (2) a comparison exercise is undertaken to examine the impact of the new pricing structure put in place in relation to the Task Force.

*Signed* .....

*(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)*