

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 14 February 2018

Present Councillor R Jones (in the Chair). Councillors, Rh Bennett, AL Bird, SJ Brooks, PJ Cathcart, JS Davenne, M Day, LG Johnston, M Johnston, F Jones, RD Kemp, KK Manneh, MJ Villars and WJ Walker

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

CL17/086 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors N Hopkins (personal) and J Rees (work commitments)

Apologies for Absence were also subsequently submitted by Councillor SWJ Ashley

CL17/087 Chairman's Announcements

None

CL17/088 Vice Chairman's Announcements

The Vice Chairman announced that he had attended the following events.

Holocaust Memorial Day Service 26 January 2018

CL17/089 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.

CL17/090 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.

CL17/091 Cwmbran Policing Update

The Chairman welcomed PC 3 Bob Muir of Gwent Police.

PC Muir outlined the current position in relation to crime & anti-social behaviour in Cwmbran. In particular, he described measures which had been put in place at key locations and the allocation of responsibilities amongst PCSOs to deal with issues such as doorstep crime, youth engagement and social media.

In the absence of any issues raised by Members, the Chairman thanked PC Muir for his attendance.

It was **Resolved** that PC Muir is thanked for his attendance.

CL17/092 Fire & Rescue Update

Station Commander Alex Smith was unable to attend.

CL17/093 Council Meeting 3 January 2018

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute CL17/077, the Clerk to the Council confirmed that the issues raised by Members had been taken up with the Fire & Rescue Service.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meetings are confirmed.

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

CL17/094 Events & Community Projects Committee 8 January 2018

Councillor Rh Bennett introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ECP17/031 (Christmas Entertainment Programme 2107) the Clerk drew attention to invoice 812449 for the provision of Christmas Lighting at the Council House. Members noted that this would be met from within available funds for Public Christmas Trees & Carol services (Code L09.) The Clerk drew attention to the provisional estimates for the coming year, which amended the title of this code to include the provision of lights.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL17/095 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 17 January 2018

Councillor KK Manneh introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP17/039 (c) (Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters: Pre Application Consultation), Members noted the response to the committee's observations in relation to item (ii) (Construction of a new Police Headquarters, multi-storey car park, landscaping and associated works: Gwent Police.) received from Asbri Planning Ltd. Members reiterated their concerns about overall traffic pressures in the vicinity of the site. The Clerk undertook to circulate the response from Asbri.

In relation to Minute ESP17/039 (e) (Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters: Proposed diversion of Public Footpath Nos 6 (Part), 7 (Part) and 8 at Wrens Nest Farm, Pontnewydd), Members also noted information referred to by the Clerk to the Council about the temporary prohibition of pedestrians on public footpaths affected by the installation of the new water main from Cwmyrnyscoy Road to Upper Cwmbran.

In relation to Minute ESP17/042 (Schools Eco Quiz: 8 February 2018), the Chairman of the Council praised the performance of the participating schools. He expressed his disappointment that only four Members had attended. The Leader of the Majority Group praised the contribution of Mr Andrew Meaney, who had undertaken the role of "quizmaster" skilfully.

Resolved that:

- (1) subject to the correction Minute ESP17/037 to refer to Cwmbran Centre and not Cwmbran Shopping, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

- (2) no objection is offered to Planning List 1214 (Members noted that observations had already been provided in relation to the development referred to in application 17/P/0548/FUL item 6329 on list 1214).
- (3) no objection is offered to the Pre Application Consultation in relation to the construction of 26 no. Class C3 dwellings and 6 no. Class C3 supported living units with access, car parking, landscaping and ancillary works on land at the junction of Llantarnam Road and Court Road, subject to clarification of the arrangements for tree preservation.

CL17/096 Policy & Finance Committee 22 January 2018

Councillor Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF17/060 (Council House Matters), Members noted that a new intruder alarm had now been installed.

In relation to Minute PF17/060 (Council House Matters), Members also noted advice submitted by Councillor Hopkins in relation to aspects of the Council's electricity supply.

Resolved that:

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) consideration of the renewal of the Council's electricity supply is deferred to allow further investigation into the potential to secure gas and electricity from the same supplier and any business advantages which might stem from such an arrangement.

CL17/097 Membership: Upper Cwmbran Thornhill Ward

(Minute CL17/084 refers.)

Members noted that, following publication of the Notice of Vacancy on 8 January 2018, ten electors had submitted a written request for an election in this ward. An election would therefore take place on 8 March 2018.

Resolved that the position is noted.

C17/098 Membership: Upper Cwmbran West Ward

(Minute CL17/084 refers.)

Members noted that, following publication of the Notice of Vacancy on 8 January 2018, no request for an election had been submitted. The Council must therefore fill the vacancy by co-option. Before this was undertaken however, public notice had to be given. Arrangements were in hand to comply with this. Members emphasised the need to take this forward as a priority.

If the vacant seat is not filled at this meeting, it should remain a matter of business until the seat has been filled through the chosen co-option process.

Resolved that the Council note that the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

CL17/099 Estimates 2018/19

Members considered the Council's Estimates for the forthcoming year and Precept. This followed consideration by relevant Council committees.

Members considered details of estimated and actual expenditure for previous years and information regarding the Council's Reserves. This allowed Members to look beyond the year for which the budget is set and think about long term, substantial commitments. Details of proposed Fees and Charges were reported to the Council's Policy & Finance Committee on 22 January 2018 (Minute CL17/096 above refers.)

Particular issues noted by Members included the following:

- Staffing Salaries & On- Costs (C01). Members acknowledged the unpredictable nature of staffing costs, which could be affected by matters outside the Council's control.
- Stationery, Copying & Printing (H03). Members supported the increase in this allocation to meet costs for translating documents into Welsh. The Clerk described some of the business advantages in ensuring a Welsh language service and referred to recent advice in relation to Welsh language provision.
- Forthcoming legislative changes (Reserves.) The Leader of the Majority Group drew Members' attention to forthcoming changes in areas such as Data Protection. He also highlighted some measures which were under consideration to improve data handling, such as the provision of generic e-mail addresses for all Members.
- Asset Replacement/Council House Redevelopment (Reserves) Members underlined their wish to meet as much of the cost of the recent redevelopment in the current financial year, from within Earmarked Reserves.

Following a vote the Estimates and Precept were approved by 12 votes to 1.

Resolved that

- (1) the 2018/19 Estimates and Precept for 2018/19 are approved.
- (2) the Council's spending for 2018/19 is set at £597,085.00 to be made up as follows:

Precept	£597,085.00
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- (3) Details of Earmarked and General Reserves are noted and confirmed.

CL17/100 Thanks & Appreciation

None

Signed
(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)