Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 28 March 2018

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

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

CL17/101 Filling of Council Vacancy in Office of Councillor: Upper Cwmbran West Ward

Members considered the response to public notice published in relation to the above.

Resolved that:

(1) the Council formally agree the co-option of Mr David Hartwell Williams of Troed-y-Bryn, Ty Trappa, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran on to the Council following the advertising of the vacancy and subsequent interview of the individual held on 9 March 2018.

(2) Mr Williams is invited to make his declaration of acceptance of office in order for his term of office as a Councillor to take immediate effect.

(3) Mr Williams' contact details and information about the filling of the vacancy is notified to the Returning Officer at Torfaen County Borough Council.

(4) Details of the above are published on the Council's website and in the locality.

(Mr Williams signed his declaration of acceptance at the meeting and attended the meeting. Members welcomed him to the meeting.)

CL17/102 Membership

Members noted that, following an election held on 8 March 2018, Lucy Elizabeth Williams had been elected to the Council (Upper Cwmbran Thornhill Ward). Members welcomed Councillor LE Williams to the meeting.

It was **Resolved** that the information is noted.

CL17/103 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors N Hopkins (School Governor Training) and M Villars (illness).

CL17/104 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that he had attended the following events:

Community Dinner: 9 March 2018
"A Celebration of Cwmbran and its Communities"

(The Chairman paid tribute to the hard work of the Council's staff in delivering this successful event.)

CL17105 Vice Chairman's Announcements

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

Community Dinner: 9 March 2018
"A Celebration of Cwmbran and its Communities"

(Members noted that the Council's Events & Community Projects Committee would consider a report reviewing the success of the event.)

CL17/106 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.

Councillors SJ Brooks, D Hartwell Williams and LE Williams declared a personal interest in Minute CL17/113 (Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 28 February 2018) (ESP17/051 (Environmental Improvements) (Planning Item 6351 below.

Councillors SWJ Ashley declared a personal interest in Minute CL 17/113 (Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 28 February 2018) (Item 6351 on list 1221) below.

CL17/107 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.

CL17/108 Cwmbran Policing Update

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Lee Rees of Gwent Police.

PC Muir outlined the current position in relation to crime & anti-social behaviour in Cwmbran. In particular, he described how statistics were maintained and current issues across Torfaen, such as child sexual exploitation.

Issues raised by Members included preventative work with Social Services. Sergeant Rees gave examples of joint working and other preventative measures which involved the work of PCSOs in the community.

Sergeant Rees advised that a new Inspector would be taking up post shortly. He also referred to the recent visit made by some Members to the Police Control Room. He invited those Members who had yet to visit the Control Room to also visit the site. He also agreed to provide Members with his contact details.

It was **Resolved** that Sergeant Rees is thanked for his attendance.

CL17/109 Fire & Rescue Update

Station Commander Alex Smith was unable to attend.

CL17/110 Council Meeting 14 February 2018

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

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)

CL17/111 Events & Community Projects Committee 19 February 2018

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Members noted that the Chairman had agreed to the cancellation of the meeting of the committee arranged for 3 April 2018. The Clerk reminded members of forthcoming events – the Council would be taking part in the 2018 Big Event on 9 June 2018 and holding its annual event to commemorate Armed Forces Day on 27 June 2018. Finance was in place in relation to both events.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL17/112 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 19 February 2018

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute GVO/027 (b) (New Applications Received: Torfaen Indoor Bowls Club), Members noted the receipt of additional information from the secretary of the club which described changes to the circumstances relating to the purchase of a mat. This included a proposal to purchase a specialist vacuum cleaner in order to maintain the mat at a cost of £1750.

In relation to Minute GVO/027 (c) (New Applications Received: Energize Media CIC, Members noted the work of Energize Media and instructed the Clerk to encourage the applicant to submit a new application.

Resolved that:

(1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed, apart from Minute GVO/027 (b) (New Applications Received: Torfaen Indoor Bowls Club).

(2) a grant of £1750 is awarded to Torfaen Indoor Bowls Club towards the purchase of a specialist vacuum cleaner.

CL17/113 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 28 February 2018

Councillor KK Manneh introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Councillors SJ Brooks, D Hartwell Williams and LE Williams declared a personal interest in Minute ESP17/051 (Environmental Improvements).

Councillors SWJ Ashley and F Jones declared a personal interest in item 6351 on list 1221 below.

In relation to Minute ESP17/051 (Environmental Improvements), the Clerk confirmed that details of the cost of the environmental improvements had been agreed with Blaen Bran Community Woodland (£447.60 Gross).

Resolved that:

(1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

(2) no objection is offered to Planning List 1220.

(3) no objection is offered to Planning List 1221, apart from item 6351.

(4) in relation to item 6351 on list 1221 (Erection of 291 dwellings at Police Training Centre, Greenmeadow Way – including associated works) Members emphasised the importance of preserving local ecological features at this site. Members also referred to the pressures on drainage associated with this site and sought assurances about the flood management measures which would be put in place.

CL17/114 Policy & Finance Committee 12 March 2018

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF17/066 (Statement of Accounts), Members noted that DCK Accounting Solutions were are able to attend on 4 June 2018 to undertake the work. This would require a minor suspension of Standing Orders, which required that a Financial Statement prepared is presented to each Councillor before the end of May. The financial information would be presented to Members as soon as it is available.

In relation to Minute PF17/075 (Council House Matters: Supply of Electricity & Gas) Members noted that British Gas could no longer stand by their offer and had submitted new rates which were less favourable. However, rates had been obtained from Total Gas & Power which compared favourably and preserved the option to use the same supplier for Gas & Electricity, which members had asked for. The Clerk outlined the terms of the offer. Payments would be made by Direct Debit.

The electricity would be a 60-month plan ending on 14 May 2023 and gas would be a 53 months plan aligned to end also on the 14 May 2023.

Resolved that:

(1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

(2) the suspension of Standing Orders as described above is approved.

(3) the terms submitted by Total Gas and Power for the supply of gas and electricity at the Council House are accepted.

CL17/115 Thanks & Appreciation

Letters of thanks were received from the following:

(i) Paul & Mary Davey (Task Force)
(ii) Royal Welsh regimental Association Pontypool Branch (RRW)
(iii) Cwmbran Park Bowls Club (Contribution to Handbook)
(iv) Lorna John (Task Force)

(Following the meeting, grant cheques were presented to the Royal Welsh Regiment, Pontypool Branch and Fairwater Talking Hearts. Minute GVO17/027 refers)

Signed ……

(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)