

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on

Wednesday 1 August 2018

Present Councillor PJ Cathcart (Chairman). Councillors AL Bird, SJ Brooks, J Davenne, LG Johnston, M Johnston, KK Manneh, L Ryan, M Villars, WJ Walker, DH Williams and L Williams

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

CL18/023 Membership

Members noted that, following an election held on 19 July 2018, Lynda Ryan had been elected to the Council (Lowlands & Avondale Ward).

Resolved that

- (1) the position is noted.
- (2) Councillor Ryan is appointed to sit on the Environment, Sustainability and Planning Committee, Events and Community Projects Committee and Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee.

CL18/024 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors SWJ Ashley (sick), Rh Bennett (sick), M Day (hospital), N Hopkins (work commitments) and J Rees (work commitments)

CL18/025 Announcements

Councillor Cathcart announced that he had attended the following events:

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| • New Task Force Van "Photo Opportunity." | 22 June 2018 |
| • Armed Forces Day | 27 June 2018 |
| • "Raising Awareness of Town & Community Councils" | 6 July 2018 |
| • Emergency Services Event | 6 July 2018 |
| • Pontypool Poet of the Year | 9 July 2018 |
| • Blessing of the Standards, Royal British Legion (Holy Trinity Church) | 23 July 2018 |

CL18/026 Vice Chairman's Announcements

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

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| • New Task Force Van "Photo Opportunity." | 22 June 2018 |
| • Armed Forces Day | 27 June 2018 |
| • Blaenavon Heritage Day | 30 June 2018 |
| • Bevan NHS 70 th Year Celebration | 1 July 2018 |
| • Cwmbran High School Awards Evening | 5 July 2018 |
| • "Raising Awareness of Town & Community Councils" | 6 July 2018 |
| • Emergency Services Event | 6 July 2018 |
| • Pontypool Party in the Park | 14 July 2018 |
| • Borough Blues Festival | 14 July 2018 |
| • Maendy Primary School Awards Evening | 17 July 2018 |
| • Blessing of the Standards, Royal British Legion | 23 July 2018 |

- (Holy Trinity Church)
- Remembrance Sunday Planning Meeting 24 July 2018
 - S4C Business Awards 27 July 2018

(the Vice Chairman also attended the Grants Presentation Evening at Pontypool Community Council on 19 July 2018)

CL18/027 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.

CL18/028 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.

CL18/029 Cwmbran Policing Update

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Philip O'Connell of Gwent Police.

Inspector O'Connell referred to the list of events attended by the Chairman and Chairman of the Council (see above) and highlighted the importance which Gwent Police also attached to attending community events in order to help build community relations.

He also described the role of Gwent Police in relation to the work of the Torfaen Public Service Board (PSB) and the contribution made to strategic, multi-agency working by initiatives such as The Hub at Pontypool, other projects which empowered the community and a regeneration pilot project in Blaenavon.

Issues raised by Members included:

- the priorities of Gwent Police moving forward. (Inspector O'Connell explained that priorities included dealing with domestic crime/vulnerability and organised crime. Proactive work around seizure of criminal assets and tackling drug related crime had had a positive impact.)
- the relationship of the PSB with the CPS and Probation Service. (There was limited involvement for such agencies but (Inspector O'Connell explained how Gwent Police focussed on issues which impacted most on the community. Better reporting methods were also impacting on the recording of domestic violence.)
- Blaenavon Regeneration Project (Inspector O'Connell referred to joint working across the Gwent Police area to share Best Practice in addressing issues such as rough sleepers.
- Grassland fires in urban locations. (Inspector O'Connell explained how incidents were mapped on a regular basis and that this informed the controls which the police put in place. He also discussed the extent to which grass fires were once a summertime problem but the popularity of

events around Halloween and Bonfire Night had added to the situation. He also referred to partnerships with the Fire Service and initiatives such as Fire Breaks and Controlled Burns to help manage their impact. The emergency services also worked with local farmers to manage the problem.

Inspector O'Connell concluded by reminding Members that, whilst Gwent Police recognised Members' role as community leaders, it was important that issues raised by Members focussed on the wider well-being of the community rather than the operational aspects of individual incidents.

Resolved that Inspector O'Connell is thanked for his attendance and willingness to answer questions.

CL18/030 Fire & Rescue Update

No representative of the Fire & Rescue Service was able to attend. Members noted an apology for absence from Dewi Jones, GM Operations at South Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

CL18/031 Council Meeting 20 June 2018

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute CL18/017 (Fire & Rescue Update), Members agreed to also seek advice from South Wales Fire & Rescue about controls over grassland fires.

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meetings are confirmed.
- (2) the Clerk is instructed to seek advice from South Wales Fire & Rescue about controls over grassland fires.

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

CL18/032 Events & Community Projects Committee 25 June 2018

Councillor SJ Brooks introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL18/033 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 25 June 2018

Councillor WJ Walker introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute GVO18/006 (b) (New Applications Received), Members noted that a request to support the provision of IT equipment had also been part of the application. The Clerk confirmed that he had discussed the application with the applicant to encourage a new application, as recommended by the committee. The Clerk had also spoken to the applicant about the application described in Minute GVO18/006 (7).

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

(Following this item, cheques were presented to grant recipients in accordance with the recommendations of the Grants to Voluntary Organisations of 25 June 2018)

CL18/034 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 4 July 2018

Councillor KK Manneh introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP18/014 (Neighbourhood Services Matters), Councillor WJ Walker highlighted the following matters:

- Concerns that hedges had been trimmed during July by Torfaen County Borough Council and the threat that this posed to nesting birds.
- Sheep and horses grazing at Llwyn Celyn cemetery.
- Customer care issues at the boating lake. (Dog warden)

In relation to Minute ESP18/014 (Neighbourhood Services Matters), the Clerk confirmed that information in relation to parks and open spaces was awaited from Torfaen County Borough Council.

Resolved that:

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the above matters are referred to Torfaen County Borough Council.
- (3) no objection is offered to Planning Lists 1236, 1237 and 1238.

CL18/035 Policy & Finance Committee 9 July 2018

Councillor AL Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF18/021 (Computerised Accounts), the Clerk explained that recent staff sickness absence had delayed progress but that enquiries had resumed. He referred to proposals to visit Pontypool Community Council to view the accounting software which was in use there.

In relation to Minute PF18/023 (Food Poverty Provision: Summer Playschemes), Members noted recent media coverage which highlighted the issue of food poverty during school holidays. The Clerk highlighted the explanations set out in the minutes relating to some aspects of the Food Poverty initiative. He also reported additional information in relation to issues raised by Members at the committee meeting, as follows:

- Pontypool Community Council was contributing £2,000 to this initiative.
- Advice received from the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) confirmed that Activity Sessions were outside the scope of CIW registration.
- The selection of schools chosen to deliver Activity Session reflected Welsh Government criteria.
- Various publicity initiatives had been put in place to highlight the support given to the Playschemes by the Council, including the Chairman of the Council's participation in a promotional video. Arrangements had also been made for Members to visit Playscheme sites on 9 August 2018. Members were also invited to the Victory Church on 24 August 2018 to celebrate the success of this year's Playschemes. These activities would provide further

opportunities to highlight the success of the council's partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council.

In relation to Minute PF18/026 (Staffing Matters), Members noted the arrangements to fill a current vacancy due to maternity leave. The Clerk also described other potential opportunities to utilise volunteers to help with staffing arrangements.

Resolved that,

- (1) subject to the addition of Councillor M Johnston to the details of Members who had submitted an apology for absence, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the arrangements to fill a current vacancy due to maternity leave are confirmed.

CL18/036 Dates of Meetings

Members considered a schedule of dates of forthcoming meetings.

Resolved that the dates of meetings are approved.

CL18/037 Plenary Powers

Resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, together with the Leader and Deputy Leader 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 to be reported to the next Meeting of the Council.)

Signed (*Chair, Cwmbran Community Council*)