

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

Present Councillor PJ Cathcart (Chairman). Councillors SWJ Ashley, Rh Bennett, AL Bird, JS Davenne, M Day, M Johnston, F Jones, J Rees, M Villars, DH Williams and LE Williams

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

CL18/052 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors SJ Brooks (personal), N Hopkins (work commitments), KK Manneh (personal) and WJ Walker (sickness)

CL18/053 Announcements

Councillor Cathcart announced that he had attended the following events:

- Pontypool Community Awards Night 11 October 2018
- Torfaen Museum Open Evening 18 October 2018
- RBL Poppy Appeal Launch 20 October 2018
- “Guy Fawkes Photo Shoot” 1 November 2018
(Chairman’s Charity fundraising activity)
- Senior Schools Festival 7 November 2018
- Remembrance Service at Our Lady of the Angels RC Primary School
(The Chairman reported that he had found the service moving and uplifting.)
- Remembrance Sunday Parade 11 November 2018

CL18/054 Vice Chairman’s Announcements

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

- Gwent Police Commissioner’s Community Cohesion Fund Meeting 4 October 2018
- Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre: Suffrage Exhibition 6 October 2018
- RBL Poppy Appeal Launch 20 October 2018
- RBL Remembrance Service 6 November 2018
- Senior Schools Festival 7 November 2018
(The Vice Chairman paid tribute to the hard work of the Council’s staff in staging a successful festival)

CL18/055 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 PJ Cathcart declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 6455 on Planning List 1253 (Minute CL18/062 (7) Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 17 October 2018) below.

Councillor J Rees declared non-prejudicial interests in Minute CL18/061(Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee (Minute GVO 18/016

(d) Co-Star Partnership) and CL18/063 Policy & Finance Committee 22 October 2018 (Request for Financial Assistance: Co Star Partnership)

CL18/056 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.

CL18/057 Cwmbran Policing Update

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Lee Rees of Gwent Police.

Sergeant Rees provided details of recent police activity. These included a public engagement event and activities associated with Remembrance. He also gave an overview of local crime statistics and made particular reference to recent incidents of commercial burglaries.

Issues raised by Members included:

- incidents of car crime in Llantarnam. Sergeant Rees considered that this was unlikely to have been carried out by separate individuals and that the incidents were more likely to have featured a group of individuals working together.
- the way in which the police responded to drink-related road traffic accidents and whether there had been any noticeable increase in drink related crime (including drink-driving.) Sergeant Rees did not consider that there had been a noticeable increase.). He also confirmed that members of the public should contact their local police representatives to obtain any information about specific incidents.
- assaults in Coed Eva; and incidents in Pontnewydd. Sergeant Rees advised that the matters were under investigation. He did not consider that the incidents formed part of a pattern. There was no area of Cwmbran that suffered constant high crime. Crime levels tended to remain static though there were inevitably occasional "spikes" in crime statistics. He noted that some businesses in Pontnewydd were considering the use of CCTV.
- any increases in knife crime locally. Sergeant Rees did not consider that this was a significant problem locally.
- a review of the police's experiences around Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night. These celebrations had generally caused few problems but there had been some anti-social behaviour associated with Hallowe'en.

Sergeant Rees concluded by referring to a recent invitation to Members to visit the Police Control Room. The visit had unfortunately not proceeded due to the unavailability of some Members but he agreed to provide the Clerk with potential dates for such a visit to take place in the New Year. Sergeant Rees considered that a visit to the Control Room would improve Members' understanding of the way in which some of the operational issues referred to above were dealt with.

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

CL18/058 Fire & Rescue Update

The Chairman welcomed Station Commander Andrew Good of South Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

Station Commander Good provided an overview of recent events etc. relating to the work of the Fire & Rescue Service. He advised that Guy Fawkes Night had not proceeded without significant problems and that the Fire & Rescue Service encouraged people to attend organised events. He also described links with other agencies to support homeless people, explaining that homeless people sometimes lit fires to keep warm. He also referred to support provided to the Armed Forces and veterans' communities. Other issues he highlighted included a recent incident where Fire & Rescue staff had been subject to abuse and a forthcoming event to help identify any trends in cases of fires arising from electrical appliances, which would include registration of appliances. Officers would also be giving safety advice to occupiers of hi-rise flats.

Issues raised by Members included:

- collaboration with other agencies to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour & homelessness and issues impacting on homelessness. Station Commander Good outlined some of the ways in which the service dealt with issues such as safeguarding and joint working with other agencies where relevant. He referred to Community Safety Hub meetings held on a fortnightly basis at Pontypool Police Station.

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

(The Clerk encouraged Members to provide him with details of any community safety matters they wished to raise in advance of meetings. These could then be referred to the community safety representatives to improve the quality of information provided to Members.)

CL18/059 Council Meeting 3 October 2018

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

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)

CL18/060 Events & Community Projects Committee 8 October 2018

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that, subject to the deletion of the words "Apologies for absence were also subsequently received from Councillor Rh M Bennett in Minute ECP18/016 (Apologies for Absence), the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL18/061 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 8 October 2018

Councillor PJ Cathcart introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

2018/19

Councillor J Rees declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute CL18/016 (d) (New Applications Received: Co-Star Partnership)

In relation to Minute GVO18/016 (1) (a) (New Applications Received: South Road Allotments) the Clerk reported that the applicant had now completed the appropriate Declaration, enabling the grant to be awarded.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL18/062 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 17 October 2018

Councillor PJ Cathcart Manneh introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Councillor PJ Cathcart declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 6455 on Planning List 1253 (Minute CL18/062 (7) below.

In relation to Minute ESP18/033 (Parks & Open Spaces), the Deputy Leader drew attention to the "Adventure Triangle" and Northville Underpass initiatives.

In relation to Minute ESP18/032 (Weed Control Policies: Torfaen County Borough Council), the Clerk drew attention to a report to Torfaen County Borough Council's Cleaner Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee which had been circulated to Members.

Resolved that:

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) in relation to item 6448 on Planning List 1251, Members discussed the planning history of the site and considered that the proposals constituted an overdevelopment of the site.
- (3) no objection is offered to items 6449 and 6450 on Planning List 1251
- (4) no objection is offered to items 6451 and 6452 on Planning List 1252 Planning List.
- (5) in relation to item 6453 on Planning List 1252, Members asked for clarification of the parking arrangements associated with the proposals.
- (6) no objection is offered to items 6454, 6456, 6457 and 6458 on Planning List 1253.
- (7) In relation to item 6455 on Planning List 1253, Members discussed the planning history of the site and expressed concerns about any loss of parking caused by the proposed development *if* the entrance to the site was on Cromwell Road.

CL18/063 Policy & Finance Committee 22 October 2018

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Councillor J Rees declared an interest in Minute CL18/048 (Request for Financial Assistance).

In relation Minute PF18/ 049 (Rainbow Flag), Members discussed other occasions when flags could be flown by the Council. The Clerk undertook to circulate details of potential dates.

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the Council agrees to fly the Rainbow Flag to celebrate the Pride Cymru Festival.

Signed (*Chair, Cwmbran Community Council*)