

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 19 December 2018

Present Councillor PJ Cathcart (Chairman). Councillors SWJ Ashley, AL Bird, SJ Brooks, N Hopkins, M Johnston, KK Manneh, LM Ryan, M Villars, WJ Walker, DH Williams and LE Williams

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Members stood in silence in tribute to the brother of Councillor LE Williams, who had recently passed away.

CL18/064 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Rh M Bennett (personal), JS Davenne (work commitments), M Day (sickness), F Jones (personal) and J Rees (work commitments),

CL18/065 Announcements

Councillor Cathcart announced that he had attended the following events:

- St John's Church, Newport - Baroque Singers 18 November 2018
- Evening with Lord Lieutenant of Gwent 21 November 2018
- Council Christmas Tree Lighting Services 30 November 2018 & 6 December 2018
- St Gabriel's Church Advent Service 2 December 2018
- Croesyceiliog & Llanyravon Community Council Grants Presentation Evening 12 December 2018

The Chairman had also attended Cwmbran Community Council's Community Award and Grant Presentation Evening on 22 November 2018

CL18/066 Vice Chairman's Announcements

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

- Evening with Lord Lieutenant of Gwent 21 November 2018
- Cwmbran Community Council Community Awards & Grant Presentation Evening 22 November 2018
- Friends of Pontnewydd Park, Pick and Plant Session 24 November 2018
- Northville Underpass Steering Group 29 November 2018
- Council Christmas Tree Lighting Services 30 November 2018 & 6 December 2018
- Torfaen Play Service Volunteer Awards 3 December 2018
- Pontnewydd Canal Drop in Event 6 December 2018
- Christmas Remembrance Service, Hope Methodist Church 11 December 2018
- Torfaen Museum Trust 14 December 2018

(The Vice Chairman paid tribute to the hard work of the Council's staff in staging some of the above events)

CL18/067 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 SWJ Ashley, AL Bird and PJ Cathcart declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 6474 on Planning List 1258 (Minute CL18/074 (4) Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 28 November 2018) below.

CL18/068 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.

CL18/069 Cwmbran Policing Update

No representative of Gwent Police was able to attend.

(The Clerk reported that Sergeant Lee Rees, was due to commence an Inspector's role on the 18 December 2018 and would no longer be working in Torfaen. Sergeant Rees had apologised if his replacement was not in place in time to attend the meeting.)

Resolved that the position is noted.

CL18/070 Fire & Rescue Update

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

Station Commander Good provided an overview of recent matters relating to the work of the Fire & Rescue Service. He described a period of relative stability and success and paid tribute to the proactive support received from Torfaen County Borough Council. He made particular reference to circumstances relating to road traffic incidents, explaining that most incidents took place at low speed or near existing hazards, such as in the vicinity of junctions. Gwent Safety Forum had identified an increase in road traffic accidents and work would be put in place to combat this. In answer to a question from a Member he explained that there were few "hot spots" in Cwmbran and that incidents of road traffic accidents were fairly generally spread across Cwmbran.

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

CL18/071 Council Meeting 14 November 2018

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that, subject to the deletion of the word "Manneh" where it appears in Minute CL18/062 (Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 17 October 2018) 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)

CL18/072 Events & Community Projects Committee 8 October 2018

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

In relation to Minute ECP18/027 (Provisional Programme of Events), Members sought clarification on the circumstances relating to the decision not to hold a parade as part of the John Williams (Fielding) Act of Remembrance on 19 January 2019. The Clerk reported that, following concerns expressed by some Members, he had contacted the Chief Constable to express disappointment that there would be no parade taking place as part of the event. He also explained that he had suggested that representatives of Gwent Police might be able to explain the position at the meeting but they had been unable to attend (Minute CL19/069 above refers.)

The Clerk summarised advice received from the Chief Superintendent of Gwent Police which confirmed that, whilst officers would attend as long as operational commitments allowed, it was not possible for the police to be written into any traffic management plans for the event. The advice also referred to the potential for Torfaen County Borough Council to assist with providing advice in relation to marshals. The Clerk undertook to circulate the full Police advice to Members.

Members expressed their disappointment at the circumstances surrounding the decision not to hold a parade for the above event. Members were disappointed at the position taken by the police and instructed the Clerk to make representations to the MP, Police Commissioner and local members of the House of Lords about the circumstances. Members also instructed the Clerk to contact Torfaen County Borough Council to clarify when Torfaen County Borough Council were made aware of the circumstances.

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the Clerk is instructed to take forward the Council's concerns relating to the John Williams (Fielding) Act of Remembrance on 19 January 2019 as described above.

CL18/073 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 19 November 2018

Councillor WJ Walker introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that, subject to the correct spelling of Councillor M Johnston's name in the list of Members present, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL18/074 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 28 November 2018

Councillor M Johnston introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Councillors SWJ Ashley, AL Bird and PJ Cathcart declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 6474 on Planning List 1258 (Minute CL18/074 (4) below.)

Resolved that

- (1) subject to the correct spelling of Councillor M Johnston's name in the list of Members present, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

- (2) no objection is offered to items, 6465, 6466, 6468, 6469 and 6470 on Planning List 1257.
- (3) in relation to item 6467 on Planning List 125, a Ward Member considered that the proposals contained insufficient detail about replacement trees. (The Leader of the Council elaborated on the extent to which replacement trees would be provided.)
- (4) no objection is offered to the items on Planning List 1258

CL18/075 Policy & Finance Committee 3 December 2018

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF18/061 (5) ("Council House" Matters: Update), the Clerk reported that, in relation to the acquisition of a secure Infra-Red Hearing Aid Induction Loop system, a quotation had been obtained based upon ex demo equipment but with a 12 month warranty. A quotation had also been requested based upon new equipment. Members considered that new equipment would be preferable to "ex demo."

In relation to Minute PF18/061 (6) ("Council House" Matters: Update) the Clerk also reported details of the officers nominated as points of contact in relation to the Intruder Alarm. One of the contact officers would be contacted following a single activation of the alarm and the police were also contacted in the event of a confirmed activation (for example, a second activation) of the system. There was no direct link to the Fire & Rescue service from the fire alarms.

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the Clerk is instructed to proceed with the acquisition of an Infra Red Secure Hearing Assistance System based on new equipment rather than "ex demo" equipment.

Signed (*Chair, Cwmbran Community Council*)