

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 16 January 2019

Present Councillors KK Manneh (in the Chair) SWJ Ashley, Rh Bennett, AL Bird, SJ Brooks, M Johnston, F Jones, LM Ryan, M Villars & WJ Walker

Also Clare Facey (Administration Officer)

ESP18/043 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors PJ Cathcart (illness), M Day (illness) and J Rees (personal).

ESP18/044 Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have and sign the Interests Sheet to give details of the nature of the interest.

ESP18/045 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning Lists

Members considered outstanding planning List 1259.

It was **recommended** that no objections are offered in respect of list 1259, apart from item 6476, whereby members wished to express concerns over the possibility of increased anti-social behaviour, taking into consideration any late night opening hours.

(b) Planning Decisions of Torfaen County Borough Council.

Members considered the Planning Decisions.

It was **recommended** that the planning decisions are noted.

(c) Publicity and Consultation Before Applying for Planning Permission - Schedule 1 Article 4, (4) Schedule 1B/1C Articles 2C & 2D – Land at Ty Coch, Llantarnam, Cwmbran, NP44 7AJ – Asbri Planning

It was noted that Ward Councillors had recently submitted their observations which were supported by the Council.

It was **recommended** that the above is noted.

(d) Notice of Footpath Closures, Woodland Walks, through to Llantarnam Abbey

Members noted their disappointment in the closure of the above footpaths due to vandalism. Members felt that the footpaths were a great asset to the Llantarnam Ward, being the only place to walk in the area. Members were concerned that if the footpaths were to remain closed it would be a great loss to the community.

Concern was also expressed by Members by the lack of communication, as notices were only received by Members after the footpaths had been closed. Members indicated their wish to receive the notices before the actual closures had taken place in future as prior knowledge of this particular footpath being closed would have been of great help.

There was also disappointment from the Ward Councillors as organisations, such as LARCS had been affected by the footpath closures. LARCS had been prevented from being able to access the 23 bird boxes which they had been maintaining, in readiness for the new nesting season. Other organisations had also been affected.

It was **recommended** that a letter is sent to Fiona Ford at Torfaen County Borough Council informing her of Members' concerns.

ESP18/046 Neighbourhood Services

No questions were submitted to Neighbourhood Services.

ESP18/047 Weed Control Policies: Torfaen County Borough Council

The Committee had recently considered matters relating to weed control and Members were advised that these matters were currently under review by Torfaen County Borough Council. The next meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Meeting is taking place on 23rd January 2019.

Members discussed the use of various weed control products, the indiscriminate use of weed killer and the implications for domestic gardeners.

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

ESP18/048 Parks & Open Spaces

Last year Members received a detailed update on various initiatives of Torfaen County Borough Council in relation to open spaces and other projects.

At the last committee meeting Members asked that regular forums be set up every three months. However, it has not been possible to arrange a forum due to Andrew Neville leaving Torfaen County Borough Council.

Members were informed that Andrew Osbourne has taken over from Andrew Neville.

It was **recommended** that Andrew Osbourne is invited to a future meeting of the Committee, once all the information had been collated.

ESP18/049 Committee Estimates 2019/20

Members considered proposed estimates for the Committee for the coming year. Members also considered a summary of expenditure for previous years.

Members noted that N10 had merged with N05. Members asked that N06 is removed from the Estimates table, as the Primary Schools Floral Competition is no longer taking place.

It was **recommended** that the estimates are approved as follows:

N05	Environmental/New Projects	£3,000
N07	Awards & Contributions	£350
N09	Primary Schools Eco Quiz	£750
Total		£4,100

ESP18/050 Exclusion of the Press & Public

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed that the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 be exercised.

ESP18/051 Task Force

Members considered performance information about the recent work of the Task Force.

It was **recommended** that: the information is noted.

Signed
(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)