Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Cwmbran Community Council, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY

Present Councillor PJ Cathcart (Chairman). Councillors SWJ Ashley, RhM Bennet, AL Bird, SJ Brooks, JS Davenne, LG Johnston, F Jones, RD Kemp, KK Manneh, LM Ryan, M Villars, WJ Walker, LE Williams and DH Williams

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

CL18/101 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors N Hopkins (personal) and M Johnston (personal)

CL18/102 Announcements

Councillor Cathcart announced that he had attended the following events:

- Primary Schools Choral Festival 26, 27 & 28 March 2019
- Pontypool Community Council Dinner 5 April 2019
- Easter Service at St Gabriel's Church 21 April 2019

CL18/103 Vice Chairman's Announcements

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

- Primary Schools Choral Festival 27 March 2019
- Pontypool Community Council Dinner 5 April 2019
- Draft Curriculum for Wales Engagement Event 7 May 2019

The Vice Chairman also attended the following events:

- Friends of Pontnewydd Park and Village Clean Up 30 March 2019
- Cybercrime Awareness Event 1 April 2019
- Bin Dedication 4 April 2019
- "Know Your Blood Pressure" Event 13 April 2019

CL18/104 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.

CL18/105 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.

CL18/106 Cwmbran Policing Update

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

Inspector O'Connell focussed on Police responsibilities in relation to community events, such as the John Fielding Parade held on 19 January 2019. He advised that the police had no obligation to attend such events and had no responsibility for traffic management at such events. This was a matter for event organisers.

He also referred to arrangements in relation to Remembrance Sunday. Attendance at Remembrance Parades by police forces was resource intensive. Whilst other forces had partially or fully withdrawn from some parades in other parts of the country Inspector O'Connell was not aware of any such conversations that had taken place within Heddlu Gwent Police.

Issues raised by Members included:

- disappointment that the Police had been unable to provide traffic management support at the John Fielding Parade/disappointment that the Council had not received early notification of the arrangements. (Inspector O'Connell reiterated his earlier comments and referred to early discussions held with the organisers of the event about traffic management responsibilities. External support could have been utilised by the event organisers though this was likely to have incurred a fee. These factors had led to the organisers' decision to not proceed with a parade at the event. Inspector O'Connell advised that it was not the role of the Police to liaise with bodies such as the Council about traffic management arrangements. Communication was a matter for the event organiser.)

- discussions held at the Torfaen Event Safety Advisory Group in relation to the John Fielding event. (Inspector O'Connell confirmed that the organisers had attended a meeting of the Group but emphasised that any Traffic Plan produced for the event could not rely on Police support for the reasons indicated above.)

- Police support for the Big Event. (Inspector O'Connell advised that it was not a core function of the Police to ensure public safety at such events. This was a matter for event organisers. The Police usually attended events such as the Big Event from a public engagement perspective and to deal with any crime & disorder issues which might arise.)

- the potential to use volunteers to assist with traffic management at events. (Inspector O'Connell drew attention to the difference between local events such as the John Fielding Event and events associated with Remembrance, which had a higher profile. Lay volunteers could not assist to close roads unless they were an accredited person with the relevant qualifications obtained from the local authority. The local authority also needed to have issued an official road closure. Accredited people could close roads without this prior authorisation.

- Police resources and staff numbers. (Inspector O'Connell explained the resources available and described other pressures and priorities facing the police.)

- the role of Special Constables (Special Constables enjoyed full police powers, uniform and equipment and worked alongside full-time Police Officers and PCSOs.)

Other Issues raised by members included:

- Police response to incidents. (Inspector O'Connell explained the factors which influenced the ability of the Police to attend incidents. These included the nature of the incident and other pressures.)

- praise for the role of the Police in relation to a recent acid attack. (Inspector O'Connell agreed to circulate details.)

- praise for the work of the Heddlu Bach Mini Police Officer scheme in Gwent.

- progress in dealing with organised crime. (Inspector O'Connell agreed to update Members at a future meeting.

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

CL18/107 Fire & Rescue Update

Members noted that Station Commander Paul Simmons of South Wales Fire & Rescue Service was unable to attend the meeting.

The Clerk reported that Station Commander had attended a recent meeting of the Torfaen Event Safety Advisory Group at which the Cwmbran Big Event had been discussed.

Resolved that the position is noted.

CL18/108 Council Meeting 20 March 2019

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that

(1) in relation to Minute CL18/098 (Policy & Finance Committee 4 Match 2019 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IPRW) Annual Report 2019, payment of allowances is be paid as soon as practically possible.

(2) subject to (1) above, 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)

CL18/109 Events & Community Projects Committee 1 April 2019

The Chairman of the Council introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ECP18/048 (Big event 2019), the Clerk presented an oral update on the arrangements for the Big Event. He undertook to provide all Members with a written summary of progress.

In relation to Minute ECP18/049 (Programme of Events 2019) Members noted that the Council had received an acknowledgment in relation to its invitation for HRH the Duke of Wessex to attend the Council's commemorations of Merchant Navy Day.

Resolved that

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

(2) the use of funds identified for “Events” within Earmarked Reserves to help meet the cost of the Cwmbran Big Event 2019. (Minute ECP18/048) is confirmed.

(3) the potential to also use funds are also available within Earmarked for Regeneration Projects to help meet Big Event costs if necessary is noted.

CL18/110 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 10 April 2019

Councillor KK Manneh introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP18/065(3) (Parks & Open Spaces), Members noted that the Clerk had visited the Ty Coch picnic site area with officers of Torfaen County Borough Council to undertake an initial assessment of the progress of the tree planting carried out in 2013. Only three trees had survived. Potential new, replacement species would now be identified. The Clerk referred to the potential to work with the Woodland Trust or Blaen Bran Community Woodland to source replacement plants. Councillor SJ Brooks also undertook to enquire into potential species. Members discussed the important contribution which trees could make to the local environment – including fruit trees - and discussed the potential for planting different types of trees at various sites around Cwmbran. Members identified potential sites.

In relation to Minute ESP18/069(3) (Task Force), Members noted that proposals to further develop the role of the Task Force would be examined following Council confirmation of the committee’s recommendation. Members also noted that Pontypool Community Council would no longer be providing a “Task Force” service within Pontypool.

Resolved that

(1) subject to

(i) the inclusion of the time of the meeting (6.00pm), and

(ii) the correction of the date of “2010” to “2020” in Minute ESP18/066 (Active Travel),

the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

(iii) all members contact the Clerk to provide details of sites within their wards which might prove suitable locations for tree planting by the Council.

(iv) no objection is offered to Planning Lists 1273, 1274 and 1275.

CL18/111 Policy & Finance Committee 15 April 2019

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

Signed …… *(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)*