

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 5 June 2019 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Cwmbran Community Council, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY

Present Councillors SWJ Ashley, RhM Bennett, AL Bird, SJ Brooks, F Jones, LG Johnston, LM Ryan, M Villars, WJ Walker and DH Williams.

Also Councillor PJ Cathcart.

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council) and Clare Facey (Administrative Officer)

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that Councillor AL Bird (Chairman of the Council) take the chair for the meeting.

(Councillor AL Bird in the Chair)

ESP19/001 Appointment of Committee Chair and Membership

Members noted that, at a meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on 15 May 2019, Councillor KK Manneh was appointed Chair of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20. Councillor M Johnston was appointed as Vice Chair. Membership of the committee was also approved at the Council meeting referred to.

Terms of Reference for the Committee were also agreed at the above meeting. Members were also appointed to outside bodies. Members who attended a meeting of bodies associated with the work of this committee should report back to this committee.

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

ESP19/002 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were submitted from Councillors M Johnston (personal) and KK Manneh (work commitments) **

ESP19/003 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.

ESP19/004 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning Lists

Members considered outstanding Planning Lists 1277 and 1278

It was **recommended** that no objection is offered in respect of Planning List 1277 and 1278.

(b) Planning Decisions of Torfaen County Borough Council.

Members considered recent Planning Decisions.

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

ESP19/005 Parks & Open Spaces/Active Travel

Members considered progress on issues raised at the last meeting.
(Minutes ESP18/065 & 066 refer)

Members noted that Chris Blandford Associates had been appointed to undertake mapping of all the green space strategically. This could be used to focus down at the local level to provide Ward based maps. Once the consultant had finished the mapping, ward maps would be provided for Community Councils to influence in terms of future priorities. The consultants would be meeting representatives from all the Community Councils, so that local priorities could be considered.

The consultants would prepare a shared green Infrastructure strategy for the Torfaen Public Services Board which would examine how all publicly owned green space (including water bodies) in Torfaen was managed for multiple benefits (economy, training/volunteering, health & well-being, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, amenity, community development etc.). The consultants brief included working with representatives from the Public Service Board (PSB) organisations, and other stakeholders on the way they currently managed land, and to develop suitable approaches for the future in line with the Well-being Plan and legislative priorities.

Information had also been requested from Torfaen County Borough Council regarding Public Rights of Way maps. In the meantime, a link to the Active Travel Route Maps had been provided.

Members discussed other issues affecting accessibility, such as the potential to “map” the location of dropped kerbs

It was **recommended** that

- (1) the information is noted.
- (2) the issue of dropped kerbs is referred to the forthcoming meeting of the Local Councils in Partnership committee (13 June 2019)

ESP19/006 Neighbourhood Services

Members had been asked to provide advance notice of any matters they wished to raise with the Executive Members (Torfaen County Borough Council).

The Clerk reported that the Chairman of the Council had asked the Executive Members to comment on the question of electric vehicles and the potential to introduce local charging points, with the vicinity of Cwmbran Community Council as a possible location. The Executive Members had confirmed that this was being examined regionally and a full reply would be sent as soon as possible.

Members also discussed forthcoming changes to parking enforcement. The Clerk advised that the Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council had agreed to attend the next meeting of this committee to discuss the matter. Members discussed scrutiny of the new arrangements which had been undertaken at Torfaen County Borough Council

It was **recommended** that

- (1) the above information position is noted.
- (2) the Clerk is instructed to request a Briefing Paper from the Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council about the changes to parking enforcement in advance of 1 July 2019.

ESP19/007 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.

ESP19/008 Task Force

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

Members also noted that the forthcoming Cwmbran Big Event would provide an opportunity to promote the work of the Task Force. Other issues raised by Members included the potential to broaden the range of work undertaken by the Task Force and progress in relation to the introduction of an “apprentice” or similar opportunity. The Clerk described progress in relation to these matters. Members considered that further discussion should follow the approval of the Council’s forthcoming Annual Report.

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

Signed
(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)