

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

Present Councillor KK Manneh (Chairman), Councillors, SJ Brooks, AL Bird, J Rees, M Villars and DH Williams

Also Councillor PJ Cathcart

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

Absent Councillors RhM Bennett, M Day, LG Johnston, M Johnston, F Jones, LM Ryan and WJ Walker

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

ESP19/009 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors SWJ Ashley (civic duties), Rh Bennett (illness), M Day (holiday) and M Johnston (personal)

ESP19/010 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.

ESP19/011 Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement

The Chairman welcomed the Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council, Councillor Anthony Hunt and the Executive Member for Environment.

Councillor Hunt explained the background to the above arrangements, which introduced a “joined up” approach to Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement across Torfaen from 1 July 2019. He outlined the advantages of the arrangements being brought “in house” and described his ambition to encourage behavioural change in relation to Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement.

The Chairman drew attention to a [Briefing Note](#) which had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

Issues raised by Members included;

- concerns about the number of litter bins at certain locations, including lay bys.
- arrangements to pay costs (fines) incurred.
- any early indications of how successful the scheme had been.
- sponsorship opportunities.
- dog fouling, fly tipping, litter on private land, double yellow lines and parking on the footway.
- Family Fun Day at Oakfield Flower Gardens
- potential opportunities for Cwmbran Community Council to work in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council to raise awareness of the new arrangements or assist in other practical ways such as the provision of litter bins.

The Executive Member responded to the matters raised. She confirmed that

facilities such as litter bins were being mapped and welcomed any information Members could provide about areas where provision was lacking. She offered to meet a ward member on site to discuss his particular concerns about provision in the Pontnewydd area. Provision of litter bins in lay bys was also under consideration.

The Executive Member confirmed that fines incurred could be paid at the Civic Centre. Statistics relating to how successfully the new arrangements were operating could be provided in due course. She confirmed that private sector firms had been approached in relation to potential sponsorship opportunities but so far these approaches had not proved successful. Discussions would continue. She shared Members' concerns about issues such as dog fouling, littering from drivers, pavement parking and fly tipping. She described how the use of cameras was under consideration to help with enforcement. The Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council outlined some of the practical difficulties of using cameras. Parking on pavements remained a matter for the police but Councillor Cross confirmed that Torfaen County Borough Council was examining ways in which this could be tackled, having regard to other police priorities.

In conclusion, Councillor Cross confirmed that Members could raise any other matters with her or via Neighbourhood Services and welcomed the suggestions about ways in which the Council could support some of the initiatives described above. She agreed to attend future meetings where there was an opportunity to discuss matters of strategic importance. She also offered to speak to the Clerk about using communication tools such as the Council's Residents Handbook to raise awareness of matters discussed at the meeting. She also undertook to provide further details of Torfaen County Borough Council's decision to install a free-to-use Refill water station at Pontypool Civic Centre. The Clerk confirmed that social media had already been used to raise awareness of the issues discussed at the meeting.

The Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council thanked Cwmbran Community Council for their role in delivering the Cwmbran Big Event which had been a great success.

It was **recommended** that

- (1) Councillors Hunt and Cross are thanked for their attendance.
- (2) the various matters described above are taken forward as indicated.

ESP19/012 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters

(a) Planning Lists

Members considered outstanding Planning Lists 1281 and 1282

It was **recommended** that no adverse observations are offered in respect of items Planning Lists 1281 and 1282.

(b) Planning Decisions of Torfaen County Borough Council.

Members considered recent Planning Decisions.

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

ESP19/013 Neighbourhood Services

Members agreed that matters relating to Neighbourhood Services had been fully discussed earlier in the meeting. (Minute ESP19/011 refers.)

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

ESP19/014 Parks & Open Spaces/Active Travel

Members considered progress on issues raised at the last meeting. (Minutes ESP19/005 refers)

Members noted that Torfaen County Borough Council had appointed external consultants (Chris Blandford Associates) to prepare a shared green Infrastructure strategy for the Torfaen Public Services Board (PSB).

The consultants had recently met with town & community representatives. Councillor Brooks, who represents town and community councils on the PSB, described the circumstances which had prevented him from attending. The Clerk undertook to circulate information about the meeting to all Members. It was also proposed to provide an update on the strategy at a forthcoming Local Councils in Partnership Committee.

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

ESP19/015 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.

ESP19/016 Task Force

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

The Clerk also reported progress in relation to introducing an “apprenticeship” type scheme for the Task Force. (Minute ESP18/069 refers). He referred to various discussions he had held about how such a scheme could operate. Members discussed potential models for such a scheme, including the potential to include applicants from amongst Looked After Children.

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

Signed
(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)