

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 31 July 2019 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Cwmbran Community Council, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY

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

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

Absent Councillors RhM Bennett, JS Davenne, N Hopkins, LG Johnston, F Jones, M Johnston and RD Kemp

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

CL19/024 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors RhM Bennett (illness), JS Davenne (work commitments), N Hopkins (Work Commitments) and M Johnston (personal).

CL19/025 Announcements

The Chairman announced that he had attended the following events:

- Blaenavon Heritage Day 29 June 2019
- LLARCS Summer Fun Day 30 June 2019
- Windrush Celebration 30 June 2019
- Schools Eco Quiz: Tour of Knauf Insulation 2 July 2019
- Cwmbran High School Awards 4 July 2019
- Friends of Pontnewydd Park & Village Litter Pick 6 July 2019
- Borough Blues Festival 6 July 2019
- St Gabriel's Strawberry Tea 6 July 2019
- Photo call highlighting the Council's commitment to Biodiversity 12 July 2019
- Pontypool Party in the Park 13 July 2019
- Royal Welsh Regiment concert & Exhibition Opening 14 July 2019
- Chairman's Bowls Night 15 July 2019
- Maendy Primary School Awards Evening 16 July 2019
- Summer Playscheme Training Session 24 July 2019
- Canal Development Update Meeting 25 July 2019

CL19/026 Vice Chairman's Announcements

The Vice Chairman was not present.

CL19/027 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.

CL19/028 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.

CL19/029 Cwmbran Policing Update

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

Inspector O'Connell described a series of initiatives to engage with stakeholders and address drug use/drug dealing. He also referred to joint working with CCYP.

Issues raised by Members included:

- multi agency working.
- Town Centre initiatives.
- "Designing Out Crime" at Northville Underpass.
- drug use and anti-social behaviour in Northville. (Inspector O'Connell referred to initiatives to target Class A drug use, which were delivering results. He referred to the "Caught and In Court" section of the police website, details of which were subsequently sent to all Members. He encouraged the community to report any incidents of crime. The website also includes an "Inspectors Blog" which was updated monthly and provided a good opportunity to observe highlights of recent police activity locally.
- organised crime affecting allotments (Inspector O'Connell confirmed that investigations were ongoing and referred to proposals to resurrect "Allotment Watch," which could include safety marking of equipment.)

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

CL19/030 Fire & Rescue Update

The Chairman welcomed Station Commander Paul Simmons of South Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

Station Commander Simmons presented an overview of recent incidents and trends in relation to accidental dwelling fires, deliberate fire setting, anti-social behaviour/"Fire Crime" and road traffic incidents. Statistics relating to the number of incidents were generally encouraging though there had been a slight increase in relation to deliberate fire setting and "Fire Crime." The number of unwanted fire signals from commercial premises had decreased but this remained a priority. Station Commander Simmons confirmed that action was being taken to bring about further improvements. He also described how the service was working with other agencies to deal with incidents and referred to recent community events, such as the Cwmbran Big Event and the Emergency Services Open Day in Cwmbran, which provided opportunities to engage with the public. Safety around Water was a key message which the service was currently promoting. Other successful initiatives included joint working to encourage use of seatbelts.

Issues raised by Members included:

- burning of plastics (Station Commander Simmons confirmed that the public should not burn plastic items.)
- praise for measures to encourage safety of pedestrians and cyclists alongside the canal

Resolved that Station Commander Paul Simmons is thanked for his willingness to attend and answer Members' questions.

CL19/031 Council Meeting 26 June 2019

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meetings are confirmed.

(The Chairman signed and initialled the minutes of the above in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 12)

CL19/032 Events & Community Projects Committee 1 July 2019

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ECP19/011 (Summer Playschemes 2019), Members confirmed their wish to visit Playscheme sites on 13 August 2019. The Clerk would circulate details of the transport arrangements etc.

In relation to Minute ECP19/012 (Provisional Programme of Events 2019/20), the Clerk referred to discussions held with Mossfords about the potential to provide a commemorative plaque at the Council House to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Cwmbran as a New Town. He explained the position relating to the need for planning permission if the sign was above a certain size and confirmed that he would continue to examine the potential to erect a plaque.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL19/033 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 1 July 2019

Councillor PJ Cathcart introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CI19/034 Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 3 July 2019

Councillor Manneh introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP19/014 (Parks & Open Spaces/Active Travel), the Clerk confirmed details of the meeting between the external consultants appointed and community councils had been circulated to Members.

In relation to Minute ESP19/016 (Task Force) the Clerk referred to a number of potential opportunities to provide volunteers with an opportunity to gain experience of the work of the Task Force. These included CCYP.

Resolved that

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

- (i) no objections are offered to Planning Lists 1284 and 1285, provided no trees were removed as part of the developments referred to items 6550.

CL19/035 Policy & Finance Committee 8 July 2019

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF19/021(i) (Forthcoming Challenges: Summary of Forthcoming Issues- Website Accessibility Arrangements) the Clerk described arrangements to improve the Council's website. He also agreed to investigate the efficiency of new email addresses introduced for all Members in view of difficulties some Members were experiencing with the addresses

In relation to Minute PF19/021(iii) (Forthcoming Challenges: Summary of Forthcoming Issues – Making Tax Digital), the Clerk described arrangements being put in place to ensure that the Council complied with the new requirements.

In relation to Minute PF19/024 (Greenmeadow Show 8 September 2019), the Clerk confirmed that the Council's support for the Greenmeadow Show would take the form of a donation of prize money. In relation to start times of meetings of the Shadow Board, the Chairman of the committee explained that the meetings were currently in abeyance

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL19/036 Plenary Powers

Resolved that

(1) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, together with the Leader and Deputy Leader be granted plenary powers to respond to any matters requiring decisions to be taken during the summer recess period as no Council Committees or Council Meetings would be held until September.

(2) Ward Members to be notified of any such decisions taken.

(Any matters dealt with under this procedure to be reported to the next Meeting of the Council.)

Signed (*Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council*)