

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 29 July 2020 at 6.00pm.

Venue: The meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020

Present Councillor AL Bird, (Chairman). Councillors SWJ Ashley, RM Bennett, SJ Brooks, M Day, LG Johnston, PM Johnston, F Jones, RD Kemp, M Villars, WJ Walker, DH Williams and LE Williams.

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council) and Sian Redwood (Acting Administration Officer)

Absent Councillors PJ Cathcart, JS Davenne, KK Manneh, J Rees and LM Ryan

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Members observed a period of silence in tribute to former Councillor TJ Winter, a former Chairman of the Council, who had recently passed away. The Clerk reported details of the funeral arrangements.

CL20/015 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors PJ Cathcart (personal/illness), JS Davenne (work commitments), KK Manneh (personal) and J Rees (work commitments)

CL20/016 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.

Councillors SWJ Ashley, F Jones and R Kemp declared a non-prejudicial interest in item CL20/026 below (Play Provision). They remained in the meeting during the discussions. They would reconsider the nature of the interest matter at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in item CL20/029 below (Grant Application: Pontnewydd Bowling Club) He remained in the meeting during the discussions. He would reconsider the nature of the interest matter at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

CL20/017 Voting

It was **Resolved** that the manner of any voting at this meeting would be by calling each name alphabetically with a response of "for or against":

CL20/018 Chairman's Announcements & Vice Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that he had visited a local resident, Mrs Elizabeth Pittas, on 5 July 2020 to congratulate her on her 100th birthday. He had also

observed the raising of flags at the Council to commemorate Armed Forces Week on 24 June 2020.

The Vice Chairman had not attended any events:

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) the information is noted.
- (2) the Chairman's attendance at the above events is approved.

CL20/019 Public Question Time

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, the opportunity for public questions was included as an item on the agenda for the meeting.

No questions had been submitted.

CL20/020 Cwmbran Policing Update

The Chairman introduced Inspector Aled George who had recently taken over as Geographical Inspector (Torfaen) at Heddlu Gwent Police.

Inspector George outlined his background and his knowledge of the locality. He described some current police priorities and the extent to which Covid-19 had impacted on police activities and levels of crime and anti-social-behaviour. He referred to consultation underway on a proposal to implement a Public spaces Protection Order on the Canal between Bellevue Road and the A4051 in Old Cwmbran. He also referred to the "Your Voice" public consultation exercise, which remained ongoing.

It was **Resolved** that Inspector George is thanked for his attendance

CL20/021 Greenmeadow Ward: Vacancy

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the following Members are appointed to interview candidates to fill the above vacancy by co-option.

Councillors AL Bird, LG Johnston, SWJ Ashley and SJ Brooks

- (2) the use of Earmarked Reserves in relation to costs associated with this vacancy is approved.

CL20/022 Council Meeting: 30 June 2020

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to (Minute CL20/006 (4) (IT Support Arrangements), the Clerk reported that provisional arrangements had been made to migrate services to Orbits and 123 from SRS at the end of August 2020 (28, 29 and 30 August and 1 September 2020). Additional annual costs of £1285.20 had been identified to support Members' email addresses but savings had been identified elsewhere in the project to help offset this.

Members noted that no significant decisions had been taken by the Clerk under delegated powers approved on 6 May 2020.

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) subject to the addition of Councillor WJ Walker to the list of Members absent, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

(The Chairman authenticated the minutes of the above meeting)

- (2) the additional costs in relation to IT Support Arrangements are approved.

- (3) Delegated Powers granted to the Clerk remain in place until the next Council meeting. Under this delegation any reference to a specific statute includes any statutory extension or modification or re-enactment of such statute and any regulations, orders or bylaws made thereunder.

CL20/023 Receipts & Payments April, May & June 2020; Quarterly Financial Monitoring Quarter 1 (April, May & June 2020.)

Members considered the above information, including bank reconciliations. Councillor M Villars had verified the information. Members approved the suspension of Financial Regulations so that such matters could be reported direct to Full Council for the foreseeable future. A detailed Risk Assessment had been prepared in relation to the suspension.

Members noted that it might be necessary to draw down further funds from the Council's Monmouthshire Building Society account to the Council's Co-operative Bank account in the coming months

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) the suspension of Financial Regulations to allow these matters to be reported direct to Council for the foreseeable future is approved.
- (2) the financial information reported is noted.
- (3) the drawing down of any further funds from the Council's Monmouthshire Building Society account to the Council's Co-operative Bank account is approved.

CL20/024 Planning Consultations

There were no outstanding planning matters.

The Clerk undertook to look into the progress of a planning issue raised by a Ward Member for Llantarnam.

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

CL20/025 Covid-19

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the following actions taken since the last meeting are approved:
 - (i) Payment of an additional sum of £8,000 in July 2020 to the Torfaen Covid-19 Relief effort (Minute CL20/006 (3) refers.)

(ii) Publication and distribution of a digital version of the Council's Resident's Handbook.

(2) the payment of £8,000 in August 2020 to the Torfaen Covid-19 Relief effort (Minute CL20/006 (3) refers) is approved, dependant on need and any restrictions still in place. (Minute CL20/006 (3) refers.)

CL20/026 Play Provision

Councillors SWJ Ashley, F Jones and R Kemp declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item. They remained in the meeting during the discussions. They would reconsider the nature of the interest matter at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

Members noted that Play Packs were being distributed from The Council House by Council staff. Strict hygiene conditions were being applied. (Minute CL20/012 refers). The packs had proved popular and social media coverage had helped portray a positive image of the Council.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the information is noted.
- (2) a detailed report is submitted to the Council on the 2020 Play Provision arrangements.

CL20/027 Flying of Flags at the Council House

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the flying of flags on the following occasions is supported.
 - (i) Friday 14 August 2020 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, marking both the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War.
 - (ii) Tuesday 25 August 2020 to commemorate Pride Cymru (Rainbow Flag)
 - (iii) Thursday 3 September 2020: Merchant Navy Day.
- (2) Due to restrictions associated with Coronavirus the public and veterans are not invited to attend the above occasions.

CL20/028 Programme of Events 2020/21

Members noted that current restrictions associated with Coronavirus had put the Council's current programme of events at risk. Scheduled events this year included the Senior Schools Festival (10 October 2020), and Tree Lighting events on 29 November 2020 and 4 December 2020.

Events planned for 2021 included the Schools Eco Quiz (4 February 2021), Community Celebration Dinner (5 March 2021) and Grants & Community Awards Evening (which is proposed for 21 April 2021)

These events would be kept under review as circumstances developed. Members discussed other means by way which events could be held and promoted, such as on-line.

The Council's support for the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade and any flag raising on 11 November 2020 would also remain under review.

It was **Resolved** that further details are reported to the next meeting.

CL20/029 Grant Application: Pontnewydd Bowling Club

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item. He remained in the meeting during the discussions. He would reconsider the nature of the interest matter at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) no action is taken as the applicant received a grant from the Council in 2019 and payment of a grant in 2020 would therefore not meet the Council's criteria for awarding grants, that any grant awarded should not exceed once every two years.
- (2) the Council's existing Grant Application Form is amended to request details of amounts received by applicants as a result of applications to other bodies.

CL20/030 Date of next meeting

Members discussed the potential date for the next Full Council meeting. Members also discussed the arrangements for hosting meetings remotely.

It was Resolved that the next meeting of Full Council is held on 9 September 2020 at 6.00 pm. The meeting to be held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020

Signed (*Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council*)