

Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 12 February 2020 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Cwmbran Community Council, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY

Present Councillor AL Bird, (Chairman). Councillors SWJ Ashley, RM Bennett, JS Davenne, M Day, LG Johnston, F Jones, J Rees, LM Ryan, M Villars, WJ Walker and DH Williams

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

Absent Councillors SJ Brooks, PJ Cathcart, N Hopkins, PM Johnston, RD Kemp, KK Manneh and LE Williams

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

CL19/075 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors SJ Brooks (holiday), PJ Cathcart (illness) N Hopkins (work commitments), PM Johnston (illness), KK Manneh (Court duties) and LE Williams (personal)

CL19/076 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that he had attended the following events:

School Safeguarding Event, Maendy Primary School	7 January 2020
Northville Underpass Steering Group Meeting	9 January 2020
Torfaen Sea Cadets / Royal Marine Cadets Awards Presentation Evening	16 January 2020
Northville Underpass Community Consultation	23 January 2020
Holocaust Memorial Service	24 January 2020
John Fielding Memorial Service	25 January 2020
South Wales Chamber of Commerce – St Dwynwen's Day Charity Dinner	25 January 2020
Congress Theatre Company Executive Board	27 January 2020
Cwmbran Community Council Grants / Community Awards Evening	30 January 2020
Torfaen Museum Trust Executive Board Meeting	31 January 2020
Cwmbran Community Council's School Eco Quiz	6 February 2020
Electoral Reform Society Consolation on Directly Elected Members	7 February 2020

The Chairman paid tribute to the hard work of the Council's staff in organising the Community Awards Evening and Schools Eco Quiz

It was **Resolved** that;

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

CL19/077 Vice Chairman's Announcements

The Vice Chairman had no announcements. He advised that he anticipated being available to support the Council's business more fully in the future due to a change in his working arrangements.

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

CL19/078 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.

CL19/079 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.

CL19/080 Cwmbran Policing Update

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Matt Jones of Gwent Police.

Sergeant Jones explained the arrangements for response times to incidents, which had been raised by a Member. Incidents were categorised as Emergency, Priority, Scheduled or Diarised. Sergeant Jones described the target response times associated with each type of incident.

Issues raised by Members included:

- the implications on response times if minors were involved.
- victim support.
- security measures to deter crime.

Resolved that Sergeant Jones is thanked for his willingness to attend and answer Members' questions.

CL19/081 Cwmbran Fire & Rescue Update

The Chairman welcomed Station Commander Paul Simmons of South Wales Fire & Rescue Service (Cwmbran & Blaenavon Stations). Station Commander Simmons presented statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires and deliberate fires and discussed trends underlying the figures. He also referred to Road Traffic Accidents and instances of unwanted fire alarms. He described joint working initiatives with the police in relation to areas such as encouraging the use of seat belts and safety in the home.

Issues raised by Members included:

- environmental issues.

- reduced numbers of fires.

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

CL19/082 Council Meeting 18 December 2019

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that subject to the addition of the following in relation to Minute CL19/064 (Chairman's Announcements)

"It was **Resolved** that;

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

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 41)

CL19/083 Events & Community Projects Committee 6 January 2020

Councillor M Day introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ECP19/037 (Cwmbran New Town 70 Anniversary Celebrations), the Clerk drew attention to a panoramic photograph of Cwmbran donated by the Chairman of the Council. The photograph was displayed for Members. Members also noted that an entry had been submitted to One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Awards ("Best Heritage Initiative") relating to the Council's contribution to celebrating the anniversary across the community. (An entry had also been submitted in the "Best Community Engagement" category relating to the Cwmbran Big Event 2019. Members noted that the committee would also be considering the format of the Council's stall at the 2020 Big Event on 17 February 2020.)

In relation to Minute ECP19/039 (Provisional Programme of Events), Members discussed potential dates for the next Community Awards & Grants Presentation Evening. Members indicated how successful this event had been in 2020 and also paid tribute to the success of the 2020 Schools Eco Quiz.

Members also considered a proposal to hold a short commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Llandow Air Disaster, during which 7 Cwmbran residents had lost their lives

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the holding of a small commemorative service at the Council house to remember the victims of the Llandow Air Disaster, which occurred on 12 March 1950 when 7 Cwmbran residents lost their lives is confirmed.
- (3) in pursuance of the power conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the

expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, expenditure up to £150 is approved in relation of the above event (Code L10 Remembrance).

CL19/084 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 6 January 2020

Councillor WJ Walker introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

CL19/085 (a) Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee 15 January 2020

Councillor AL Bird introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute ESP19/044 (Planning, Highways & footpaths Matters), the Clerk confirmed that he had attended the workshop held by the Planning Inspectorate and Planning Aid Wales and would report to the next meeting of the committee.

Resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.

(b) Planning Consultations

Resolved that no objections are offered to Planning Lists 1307 and 1308.

CL19/086 Policy & Finance Committee 20 January 2020

Councillor SWJ Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

In relation to Minute PF19/081 (Charter), Members noted that Members' observations had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Local Council's in Partnership Committee. A report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee. The Chairman of the committee echoed concerns about the Charter and consultation.

In relation to Minute PF19/082 (Fire Safety Risk Assessment), the Clerk reported that a revised report had been received from the Council's Health & Safety Consultants following the meeting of the committee. The Clerk explained that the required actions had not changed but that some information had been added in the comment sections. Copies of the revised report were available to Members upon request.

In relation to Minute PF19/088 (Staffing Matters), the Clerk drew attention to revised working arrangements requested by the Administration Officer upon her return to work following maternity absence. (The Administration Officer was not present during consideration of this item.)

Resolved that

- (1) the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the arrangements described in Minute PF19/088 (Staffing Matters) are approved.

CL/19/087 Estimates 2020/21

Members considered the Council's Revenue Estimates and Precept for the forthcoming year. The Clerk explained that details of anticipated year end costs were subject to change as expenditure was incurred.

Members noted that Proposed Fees and Charges were reported to the Council's Policy & Finance Committee on 20 January 2020 (Minute PF19/078 refers.) and that details of Earmarked and General Reserves were reported to the Council's Policy & Finance Committee on 20 January 2020 (Minute PF18/079 refers).

Following a vote the Estimates and Precept were approved unanimously by all Members present.

Resolved that

- (1) The 2019/20 * Estimates are approved.
- (2) The Precept for 2019/20 * is confirmed £650,905 (£650/905/ 13,295 £48.96 Band D equivalent)
- (3) Details of Earmarked and General Reserves are noted and confirmed.

* *Typing error. Should read 2020/21, as per title of Minute and associated report.*

Signed (Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)