Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 6.00pm

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 26 March 2025

Venue: The meeting was held remotely and at the Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Present: Councillors: R Bennett (Vice Chair), A Bird, L Chaney, J Davenne, F Jones, P Jones, L Lloyd-Tolman, P Seabourne, D Thomas, M Villars & W Walker

(Councillors S Ashley & S Wharton participated in the meeting via remote means)

Also present: Gareth Davies (Clerk), Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk) & Inspector Lee Stachow (Gwent Police)

Absent: Councillors M Day, L Johnson, G Lloyd-Tolman, K Manneh, C Morgan & S Morgan

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

CL24/110 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors M Day (illness), G Lloyd-Tolman (Work), K Manneh (Work) & C Morgan (illness)

CL24/111 Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they had and give details of the nature of their interest.

There were No Declarations of Interest.

CL24/112 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” or “abstain”.

CL24/113 Chair’s Announcements & Vice Chair’s Announcements

The Clerk to circulate to members the Chair’s report.

Councillor Bennett reported to members that she attended the John Fielding Memorial Service which was very well attended.

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

CL24/114 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.

CL24/115 Gwent Police Update/South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

i) Members received a report from Inspector Lee Stachow (Gwent Police) including the recent crime statistics and figures for the Cwmbran area, with violence without injury remaining the top crime followed by criminal damage.

Operation Tinsel operated throughout December focusing on shoplifting offences in the town centre and retail park, resulting in several arrests.

Inspector Stachow informed members that his officers had been focusing on recent incidents in Henllys and reported that the spike looks to be short lived with residents looking to set up a neighbourhood watch scheme. The Clerk reported that he had been approached by residents of Ty Canol ward who are also interested in the neighbourhood watch scheme.

Councillor Walker informed Inspector Stachow of his concerns with a firework display held at Cwmbran Community Primary School. Inspector Stachow will report back the issues raised to the ESAG group and emergency planning team.

Councillor Ashley was concerned with groups of youths in a new shop in Pontnewydd, Inspector Stachow will pass on the information to local officials to call in at the premises.

Members were also concerned with drug dealing in the Cwmbran area and around schools, Inspector Stachow asked members to report any incidents and teams would be tasked to look at the issue.

ii) No update from South Wales Fire & Rescue Service has been provided.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) Inspector Lee Stachow (Gwent Police) was thanked for attending the meeting.

b) the position is noted.

CL24/116 Council Meeting: 11 December 2024

Councillor R Bennett introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the minutes of the above meetings are approved and actions approved therein.

CL24/117 Events & Community Projects Committee 6 January 2025

Councillor J Davenne introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the minutes of the above meetings are approved and actions approved therein.

CL24/118 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 6 January 2025

Councillor A Bird introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the minutes of the above meetings are approved and actions approved therein.

CL24/119 Regeneration & Major Grants Committee 6 January 2025

The meeting was cancelled.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the position is noted.

CL24/120 Environmental Sustainability & Planning Committee 15 January 2025

Members discussed inviting a TCBC Planning Officer to the next ESP meeting.

Councillor M Villars introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the Clerk contacts TCBC to invite a Planning Officer to attend the next ESP meeting.

b) Planning Consultation list 1539 no objections.

c) the minutes of the above meeting are approved and actions approved therein.

CL24/121 Policy & Finance Committee 20 January 2025

Councillor P Jones introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the minutes of the above meetings are approved and actions approved therein.

CL24/122 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.

CL24/123 Banking Arrangements

Members discussed and approved the request for a payment card for the Events team.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the request for a payment card for the Events team is approved.

b) the position is noted.

CL24/124 Proposed Budget 2025-26

Members received a report from the RFO on the proposed Budget for 2025-2026. Members approved the 2025-26 Budget.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the budget for 2025-26 is approved.

b) The position is noted.

CL24/125 Reserves Policy Update

Members considered the Reserves Policy Update and approved the proposed changes, to include adding a new Community Decarbonisation and Accessibility Fund.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the Reserves Policy Update is approved.

b) The position is noted.

CL24/126 Precept

The Clerk reported to members the proposed precept request for 2025-26 financial year.

The Council members agreed to the precept as follows:-

Total funding required	£898,945.00
Funded by –	
Reserves	£206,078.68
Precept	£692,866.32
Council Tax base	14,037
Band D Equivalent	£49.36

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) The Clerk to inform the precepting authority of the decision.

b) The position is noted.

CL24/127 Staffing Update

Members received a staffing update from the Clerk.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the position is noted.

Signed…… *(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)*