Minutes of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 6.00pm

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Date to be confirmed.

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 S Ashley, R Bennett, A Bird, L Chaney, J Davenne, C Morgan (Chair), P Seabourne, D Thomas, M Villars & W Walker

(Councillors L Lloyd-Tolman & S Wharton participated in the meeting via remote means)

Also present: Gareth Davies (Clerk), Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk) & PC Richards (Gwent Police)

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

(No public participation session was held at this meeting)

CL24/146 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors F Jones, P Jones, G Lloyd-Tolman, K Manneh & S Morgan

CL24/147 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.

CL24/148 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”.

CL24/149 Chair's Announcements & Vice Chair's Announcements

Members received a report from Councillor C Morgan on the recent meetings and events he had attended including the Primary Schools Choral Festival and the Senior Schools Talent Showcase. All four evenings were well attended and entertaining with a diverse range of talented performances from choirs to a rock band with teaching staff to be commended for going above and beyond classroom duties.

Councillor Morgan informed members of the events he will be attending for VE day on 8 May.

The art exhibition is now open in the Council Chamber displaying the work of the members of the Council House art classes and Councillor Morgan praised the work and talents of the artists.

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

CL24/150 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.

CL24/151 Gwent Police Update/South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

i) Members welcomed PC Richards (Gwent Police) to the meeting.

PC Richards updated members on the recent crime figures for the Cwmbran area with Monday being the busiest day of the week for shop lifting.

Officers currently have an operation along the canal taking action and increasing patrols to tackle anti-social behaviour and drug offences. There is also a dedicated team dealing with off road bike incidents and offences.

Members were concerned with knife crime and recent offences in the area and the officer confirmed that arrests had been made and that Gwent Police were taking a proactive approach to knife crime.

ii) The Clerk updated members on the report received from South Wales Fire & Rescue, concerning fires in Thornhill and detailed the proactive work taking place within schools and working with animals interactive to protect wildlife from fires.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) PC Richards (Gwent Police) is thanked for attending the meeting.

b) the position is noted.

CL24/152 Council Meeting: 26 March 2025

Councillor C Morgan introduced the minutes of the above meetings.

It was **Resolved** that:-

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

CL24/153 Events & Community Projects Committee 31 March 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.

CL24/154 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 31 March 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.

CL24/155 Regeneration & Major Grants Committee 31 March 2025

This meeting was postponed.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the position is noted.

CL24/156 Environmental Sustainability & Planning Committee 9 April 2025

Councillor Ashley introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) Planning Consultation list 1552 no objections.

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

CL24/157 Policy & Finance Committee 14 April 2025

Councillor C Morgan introduced the minutes of the above meeting.

Members discussed item PF24/077 regarding the quotes to renovate the Council House kitchen and the Clerk confirmed that he had still only received one quote for £7000 for the work although several contractors had been contacted to quote for the work. Members proposed to move to suspend the financial regulation and allow the Clerk to proceed. Members approved suspending the financial regulation and proceeding with the quote received.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) Members approved suspending the financial regulation and the Clerk proceeds with the quote received.

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

CL24/158 Annual Report

The Clerk reported to members that he had received 5 ward reports from members and recommended that the annual report includes a rolling program to include a number of ward reports each year, members were asked to send reports to the Clerk within the next week to allow time for the report to be completed ready for the big event.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) ward reports to be submitted to the Clerk in the next week.

b) the position is noted.

CL24/159 Grants Committee Update Report

The Clerk updated members on the recommendations to update the grant funding process, including aiming to focus on Grants to Voluntary Organisations that enhance resilience and for Major Grants and Regeneration recipients to provide a quarterly report to Council with a project completion report at year end including a breakdown of spend.

Grant recipients will also be required to display Cwmbran Community Council's logo to illustrate support and to consent to support being publicised by the Council.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the position is noted.

CL24/160 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.

CL24/161 Budget

Members considered the attached budget reports and the RFO reported to members that he is currently working on the end of the financial year and the initial financial statement should be completed by the end of next week.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the position is noted.

CL24/162 Staffing Update

The Clerk informed members that two members of staff had reduced their hours and a cleaner had now been employed for the Council House.

It was **Resolved** that:-

a) the position is noted.

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