

**Summary of Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 9 September 2020 at 7.00pm.**

**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, PJ Cathcart, JS Davenne, M Day, J Rees, WJ Walker and DH Williams.

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

**Absent** Councillors LG Johnston, M Johnston, F Jones, KK Manneh, L Ryan, M Villars and LE Williams

(Councillor RD Kemp attended but left before the commencement of the meeting.)

*(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)*

**CL20/031 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors M Johnston (sickness), F Jones (personal), KK Manneh (personal), L Ryan (personal), M Villars (personal) and LE Williams (personal)

**CL20/032 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.

**CL20/033 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":

**CL20/034 Chairman's Announcements & Vice Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced that he had attended the following events

Flag Raising to commemorate VJ Day at the Council House	14 August 2020
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Flag Raising to commemorate Pride Cymru at the Council House	25 August 2020
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Institute of Welsh Affairs Consultation re Towns' & Cities' response to Covid-19	1 September 2020
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Flag Raising to commemorate Merchant Navy Day at the Council House	3 September 2020
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It was **Resolved** that:

(1) the information is noted.

(2) the Chairman's attendance at the above events is approved.

**CL20/035 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.

**CL20/036 Council Meeting: 29 July 2020**

In relation to Minute CL20/020 (Cwmbran Policing Update), the Clerk referred to concerns about racial abuse in the St Dials ward from a Ward Member. The concerns would be referred to the Police.

In relation to Minute CL20/021 (Greenmeadow Ward Vacancy) the Clerk updated Members on arrangements to co-opt a Member to fill the vacancy.

Members noted that no significant decisions had been taken by the Clerk under delegated powers approved on 6 May 2020, apart from the action described in Minute CL20/044 (Staffing Matters/NJC Pay Agreement) below.

In relation to Minute CL19/089(a) (6 May 2020) (Membership) Members noted that Councillor M Johnston had been present at the remote meeting held on 29 July 2020 and that the extension of the six-month period for attending a meeting would not be required.

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) subject to the addition of Councillor RD Kemp to the list of Members appointed to interview candidates in relation to the Greenmeadow Ward Vacancy, the minutes of the above meeting are confirmed.
- (2) the extension of the six-month period for attending a meeting in relation to Councillor M Johnston is not required.
- (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.

**CL20/037 Planning Consultations**

Members noted that details of recent applications had been circulated in the usual way.

The Chairman updated Members in relation to observations submitted about the proposed redevelopment of the Bus Depot for Lidl Foodstore.

It was **Resolved** that Members provide any observations to the Clerk in respect of Planning Lists 1332, 1333 and 1334

**CL20/038 Flying of Flags at the Council House**

Members noted that the Owain Glyndŵr *banner* would be flown at the Council House on Owain Glyndŵr's *Day* (16 September 2020).

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

**CL20/039 Programme of Events 2020/21**

Members noted current restrictions associated with Coronavirus had put the Council's current programme of events at risk. Members considered forthcoming events.

An act of remembrance was expected to take place in Pontnewydd on Remembrance Sunday 2020. A wreath would be laid at the clock tower (Council House) on 11 November 2020 by the Chairman of the Council. Additional large-scale Event Poppies could be purchased to help commemorate Remembrance via a donation of £3.50 per poppy to the Royal British Legion. It was not anticipated that a parade would take place.

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) the Senior Schools Festival due to take place on 10 October 2020 is cancelled.
- (2) arrangements relating to Remembrance Sunday are kept under review.
- (3) Christmas Trees are installed and illuminated as usual but the format of the tree lighting events on 29 November 2020 and 4 December 2020 is kept under review, including the potential to highlight the events across social media rather than encourage attendance by the public.
- (4) events currently planned for 2021 are kept under review (Schools Eco Quiz 4 February 2021, Community Celebration Dinner 5 March 2021 and Grants & Community Awards Evening 21 April 2021)
- (5) 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 £2,000 is approved in relation of the commemoration of Remembrance Sunday (Code L10 Remembrance), to include the costs of hiring a PA system (if required), Event Poppies and any other associated expenditure.

**CL20/040 City Trees**

The Clerk referred to discussions with Torfaen County Borough Council and "Trees for Cities" about potential sites for tree planting. Sites previously identified by Members for tree planting had featured in these discussions.

Informal, initial feedback from Torfaen County Borough Council had indicated that it might be difficult to find enough land to create a woodland of the scale that Trees for Cities were looking to fund in the Cwmbran area. Other potential funding sources could be available.

Further discussions were taking place. In the meantime, Members were invited to suggest suitable sites for planting groups of trees or individual trees.

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) further discussions are held with Torfaen County Borough Council about potential sources of funding to assist with tree planting.
- (2) Members are encouraged to suggest potential sites where trees could be planted.
- (3) expenditure is authorised under s111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**CL20/041 Defibrillator**

Members noted that the Council had been invited to fund the installation of a defibrillator at Cwmbran Boating Lake. The anticipated cost would be in the region of £1500, Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council had expressed an interest in collaborating with the Council in relation to costs. There would be minimal electricity costs and the consent of the landowner would be required.

The cost of installation could be met from within funds for Regeneration Projects (Local Government Act 2000 s2 (Power of Well-being))

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the proposal is supported in principle, using powers available to support Well-being (Local Government Act 2000 s2 (Power of Well-being)).
- (2) the Clerk is instructed to continue discussions with Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council, including the installation of the defibrillator by a suitable contractor.

**CL20/042 Date of next meeting**

It was **Resolved** that the next meeting is held remotely on 28 September 2020 at 6.00 pm:

**CL20/043 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was **Resolved** that the following matters 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.

**CL20/044 Staffing Matters/ NJC Pay Agreement 2020/21**

Members considered a report on arrangements to replace the Council's Clerical Officer who had handed in her notice. Members agreed that there was no immediate pressure to fill the post, given that many events and meetings were not currently being held. In the short term, Members agreed that two existing part time Members of staff could work additional time to accommodate the absence. The situation would be kept under review.

Members noted that the Task Force had resumed the gardening service, selecting jobs carefully to ensure the safety of all concerned. It was unlikely that decorating would resume soon due to current restrictions. This would be kept under review. The Caretaker/Cleaner had continued to keep the building clean and safe during lockdown.

Members also noted that agreement had been reached between the National Employers and the NJC Trade Union side on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2020 and other matters. The rates of pay would apply to all staff

It was **Resolved** that

- (1) the above arrangements are confirmed.
- (2) the Council notes that agreement has been reached at NJC level for 2.75% pay increase for staff.
- (3) the Council confirms that this 2.75% increase applies to all staff.