

**Summary of the Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 12 May 2021 at 6.00 pm.**

**Venue: The meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021**

**Present** Councillor AL Bird, (Chairman). Councillors SWJ Ashley, RhM Bennett, SJ Brooks, LJ Chaney, JS Davenne, M Day, PM Johnston, F Jones, RD Kemp, KK Manneh, LM Ryan, M Villars, WJ Walker and DH Williams, LE Williams

Also, David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

**Absent** Councillors LG Johnston and J Rees

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

**1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was accepted from Councillor J Rees (work commitments).

(An apology for absence was also subsequently submitted by Councillor LG Johnston – work commitments)

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors SWJ Ashley, F Jones and R Kemp declared a non-prejudicial interest in the item below re Joint Working with Torfaen County Borough Council.

**3. 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.”

**4. Chairman’s Announcements & Vice Chairman’s Announcements**

The Chairman of the Council announced that he had attended the following:

On-line events associated with Post-Covid economic Recovery.	Various dates.
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Flying of Flags at half-mast at the Council House in tribute to HRH Prince Phillip	9 April 2021
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The Vice Chairman of the Council was not present.

It was **Resolved** that:

(1) the information is noted.

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

**5. Public Questions**

No questions had been submitted.

## 6. Membership: Lowlands & Avondale Ward

It was **Resolved** that the Council:

- (1) formally agrees the co-option of Susan Morgan on to the Council following the advertising of the vacancy and subsequent interview of the individual held on 29 April 2021.
- (2) invites Susan Morgan to make her declaration of acceptance of office before the next Council meeting.
- (3) agrees that Susan Morgan's contact details and information about the filling of the vacancy is notified to the Returning Officer at Torfaen County Borough Council.
- (4) agrees that details of the above are published on the Council's website and in the locality.

## 7. Gwent Police Update/ South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Update

Members welcomed Inspector Aled George of Gwent Police who discussed current police matters,

Members noted that a representative of South Wales Fire & Rescue Service was unable to join the meeting. The Clerk circulated a response to issues which had been raised by a Member.

It was **Resolved** that Inspector George is thanked for his participation and his willingness to answer questions.

## 8. Council Meeting 24 March 2021

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) subject to the amendment of the word ("**recommended**" to "**Resolved**" in Minute CL20/179 (Exclusion of the Press & Public) the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 are confirmed.
- (2) Delegated Powers granted to the Clerk remain in place until the next Council meeting. (Note: 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 there under.)

## 9. Receipts & Payments March 2021

Members considered Itemised Schedules of Receipts & Payments (and bank Reconciliations for March 2021. Members noted minor adjustments to the information reported by the Clerk.

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 information is noted.

#### **10. Quarterly Financial Monitor; Quarter 4 January, February, March 2021**

Members considered quarterly financial monitoring information which indicated expenditure against budget. The information included explanations of material variances, where appropriate. Members noted minor adjustments to the information reported by the Clerk.

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

#### **11. Transfer of Funds**

In accordance with existing Financial Regulations, the sum of £100,000 had been transferred from the Council's Monmouthshire Building Society Account to its Co-operative Bank Account. This transfer took effect on 10 May 2021. A similar transfer would take place on 30 May 2021.

It was **Resolved** that the transfer of funds is noted.

#### **12. Outstanding Debts: Invoices 1055 and 1098**

It was **Resolved** that the above debts are written off as part of the preparation of the Council's end of year accounts.

#### **13. Reserves**

It was **Resolved** that any balance on the following Budget Headings is also transferred to Earmarked Reserves for the appropriate cost headings.

K01	Grants & Contributions
L	Events & Community Projects Committee
N05	Environmental Projects/New Projects

#### **14. Audit Arrangements 2020/21**

Members considered a report following an interim, internal audit of the Council's financial arrangements 2020/21 and details of revised external audit arrangements.

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) the arrangements for carrying out the Interim Audit are confirmed.
- (2) the report of the Council's Internal Auditor is noted.
- (3) details of external audit arrangements are noted.

#### **15. Planning Consultations**

Members considered details of recent planning applications from Torfaen County Borough Council, which had been circulated separately. No objections were offered to item 6192 on Planning List 1363 and Planning List 1364.

It was **Resolved** that Members forward any observations on outstanding applications to the Clerk so that any response can be submitted.

## 16. Coronavirus Update

Members noted that the relaxation of current restrictions associated with Coronavirus were unlikely to impact on the Council's working arrangements. Council meetings would continue take place remotely.

It was **Resolved** that the arrangements are confirmed.

## 17. 2021 Events

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) the Council fly appropriate flags to commemorate Armed Forces Day (23 June 2021), VJ Day (15 August 2021), Pride Cymru (24 August 2021), Merchant Navy Day (3 September 2021) and Owain Glyndwr's Day (16 September 2021) in accordance with any restrictions relating to Covid-19 which may be in force at the time.
- (2) the operating model for delivery of the 2021 Big Event is approved, provided Covid-19 related restrictions and conditions allow.
- (3) Financial Regulations, Standing Orders & Standing Orders Relating to Contracts are suspended for all aspects of the Virtual Big Event project (including budgetary control), should this prove necessary.
- (4) a further report on the Virtual Big Event (18 September 2021) is submitted to the next Council meeting.

## 18. Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Members considered an application from RPD of Gwent (Retired Police Dogs.) Members voted on whether to award a grant, reject the application or request further information.

It was **Resolved** that consideration is deferred for further **information** .

## 19. School Governor Vacancy: Woodlands Community Primary School

It was **Resolved** that Victoria Rogers is appointed as a Community Governor to Woodlands Community Primary School.

## 20. Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Welsh Government was currently consulting on issues arising from the above Act.

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) Members forward any observations in relation to the above consultation exercise to the Clerk so that any response can be submitted.
- (2) the Clerk continue to prepare for the implementation of the above act and report progress to Members.

## 21. Annual Report 2020/21

It was Resolved that the Annual Report is approved.

## **22. Joint Working with Torfaen County Borough Council**

Councillors SWJ Ashley, F Jones and R Kemp declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as described above. .

The Clerk referred to discussions about potential areas where the Council could increase its engagement with Torfaen County Borough Council to add value to some work, notably within the Neighbourhoods, Planning and Public Protection service area.

It was **Resolved** that:

- (1) the position is noted.
- (2) the Executive Member for Environment is invited to attend a future meeting of the Environment, Sustainability and Planning Committee.

## **23. Community Venues Lottery Funding**

Members had previously considered a report on an application made to Welsh Government on behalf of the Local Councils in Partnership Committee (LCP) to support the recruitment of a community development post in partnership with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance, utilising lottery funding. (Minute CL20/117 refers.). Members agreed to the provision of £2500 pa for three years commencing in 2021/22

TVA had advised that they had received a decision from the National Lottery not to approve the community venue application.

It was **Resolved** that Members confirm the financial contribution, provided additional, external funds are in place.

## **24. Date of Next Meetings**

It was **Resolved** that the next (ordinary) meeting is held on 23 June 2021 at 6.00 p.m. The meeting to take place remotely.

## **25 Exclusion of the Press & Public**

Due to the confidential nature of the business the remaining matters were considered in private.

*Formal minutes of the above meeting will follow. These will be subject to confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held remotely on 23 June 2021.*