

MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD VIRTUALLY OVER TEAMS ON
WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY 2021

In attendance:

Councillor: Mrs R. Matthews (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: Mrs G. James, Miss L. Clarkson, N. Jones, J. Killick, R. Overton, Mrs N. P. Parrish, B. Rapier.

Acting Clerk: Mrs C. Challenger

Officers: Mrs R. Cronin (minute taker)

The meeting was recorded for minute taking purposes as agreed by Members.

107. **Questions from the Public**

No questions from the public had been received.

108. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs E. Chilcott, Mrs E. Hunt, K. James, Mrs K. Arthur, M. Ford, Mrs J. E. Jones, Mrs J. G Taylor and B Taylor JP, N. Simons.

RESOLVED: that the apologies be noted.

JW

109. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Mrs G. James, R. Overton, N. Jones and Mrs N. P. Parrish declared an interest on any item on the agenda relating to Torfaen County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: that the declarations of interest be recorded.

JW

110. **Council Meeting**

The Council received the minutes of the Full Council Annual meeting held on the 16th December 2020. Councillor Killick asked that minute 75 be amended, in relation to TVA applying for a lottery bid but not that it had been accepted.

The Acting Clerk gave an update on minute 78 – LGPS Advisor - stating that she had written to HR but to date no response had been received.

RESOLVED: (i) that minute 75 be amended to state “TVA had put in a lottery bid earlier in the Year.”

(ii) that once minute 75 is amended the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 16th December 2020 be confirmed as a true record.

CC

111. **Policy & Finance**

Members received the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting held on the 6th January 2021. These were approved as a true record.

The Acting Clerk asked if Councillor Killick could give an update on minute 97 – Community Hall Grants, in reference to the Panteg House grant. A detailed statement was submitted by Panteg House which stated that the hall would be lacking funds of £6633 by the end of the financial year. Of this £3041 was for utility bills.

Councillor Killick proposed that a grant of £3041 be granted to Panteg House to cover the utility bills.

The Acting Clerk displayed a statement of accounts of which, included expected income and expenditure to 31 March 2021 received from Panteg House – confirming the details of the utility bills.

Councillor N Jones asked for clarification on whether Panteg House was a privately owned hall. Councillor N Parrish confirmed that the hall was bought by the Community to use for the community the hall and is

run by the committee members on a voluntary basis therefore not a profitable business.

It was also confirmed that should the hall receive a lottery fund grant it would need to be used for specific purposes which would not cover the utility bills but for the refurbishment of the hall.

Both Councillor Killick and Councillor N Jones confirmed that it was important that halls be supported during these times to ensure that they do not run out of money.

Councillor Killick proposed that the grant of £3041 be issued and that a letter be sent to the organisation to state that the grant must be used to pay for the utility bills.

Councillor Mrs G James seconded the motion.

All approved by vote.

Councillor Miss L Clarkson asked whether the other Community halls that have responded so far have been informed of their eligibility to the grant.

The Acting Clerk confirmed that this would happen after the Council meeting held on 27th January.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting held on the 6th January 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

(ii) that a grant of £3041 be issued to Panteg House and a letter written to state that the grant must be used for the utility bill payments.

CC

CC

112. **Speaker**

The Chair welcomed Mr David Leech, Head of Economy and Skills at Torfaen County Borough Council to give a presentation on the Torfaen Economy and Skills Strategy (setting the scene).

(Report attached as an appendix to the minutes).

RESOLVED: that Mr Leech be thanked for attending the January Council meeting.

113. **Events**

The Council received the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on the 20th January 2021.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Events meeting held on the 20th January 2021 be approved as a true record.

114. **Grants Working Group**

The Council received the minutes of the Grants Working Group meeting held on the 19th January 2021.

Councillor J Killick proposed that the new criteria and forms be sent out as hard copies to all members for approval.

Councillor J Killick confirmed that section 9 – School Environmental Grants was in red as it would be discussed further at the next Planning and Environment meeting.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the minutes of the Grants Working Group meeting held on the 19th January 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

(ii) that hard copies of the Grants Criteria and forms be sent out to all members

(iii) that School Environmental Grants be added to the agenda and discussed at the next Planning and Environment meeting to be held on 10th February 2021

CC/CP

CC

Footnote

All Councillors with email addresses have recently received the criteria and forms via email.

115. **Planning Applications**

Members received and considered Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Applications.

RESOLVED: that observations as outlined on the attached list be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.

AA/CP

116. **Vacancy – New Inn Lower Ward**

Councillor Mrs G James stated that she had the name of a member of the public for the position – Stephanie Westmeckett.

Councillor N Jones stated that he also had a name of someone interested in this vacancy and that he would forward it to the Acting Clerk.

There was a discussion as to the process if two members of the public were interested in the position.

Councillor Mrs N Parrish stated that when co-opting anyone can apply, if more than 1 then a panel is set up to interview the applicants.

The Acting Clerk confirmed that she would clarify the process regulations with the monitoring officer at Torfaen County Borough Council.

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the Acting Clerk clarify the regulations with the Monitoring Officer at Torfaen County Borough Council.

CC

(ii) that Councillor N Jones confirm the name of the interested person to the Acting Clerk.

(iii) that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

**Councillor
N Jones**

CC

117. **Amazing Tree**

The Amazing Tree report was received and approved.

Free Trees

Councillor Mrs G James stated that in principle, the idea was great, but Torfaen Council would need to be contacted to confirm where the trees could be planted.

There was a further discussion on the planting of the trees. It was suggested that in order to plant the trees volunteers would need to be sourced and therefore this would need to be ascertained before applying for the free trees.

Councillor Miss L Clarkson commented that during these times, volunteers to plant trees could be an issue as most volunteer groups could be shielding. It could be an idea for next winter/spring.

Councillor Mrs N Parrish stated that Cwmbran Community Council were planting trees and they could be asked how and what they have done so that we have the information for next year.

The Acting Clerk commented that there is the Community Woods as a potential site for the trees with Councillor Miss L Clarkson stating that there is plenty of room on the British, but the volunteers are the issue at present.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the Amazing tree report be noted

(ii) that Free Trees from The Woodland Trust be looked at again in the Winter/Spring

(iii) that areas of land suitable for tree planting be recognised and Torfaen contacted for advice.

Footnote

Information received last year from David Collins (Clerk to Cwmbran Community Council)

At the moment we have just ordered 70 trees from the woodland trust – these were all given out to local schools, Blaen Bran Woods, LNR etc. they did their own planting. Some are planted at our site.

We are hoping for more ambitious plans soon – meeting of key parties to follow.

Information from Woodland Trust website

*We have two delivery periods per year, one in March and the other in November. We are currently taking applications for trees to be delivered in **MARCH 2021**.*

118.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

119. **Establishment Committee**

The Council received the minutes of the Establishment meeting held on 6th January 2021. There were agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Establishment Committee held on the 6 January 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

120. **Local Government Seminar**

It was agreed that the Acting Clerk attend a virtual all-day seminar on 16 March 2021 on Local Council Recovery and Income Generation Forum

RESOLVED: that the Acting Clerk attend the virtual all-day seminar (Local Council Recovery and Income Generation Forum) on 16th March 2021

CHAIR