

**MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD VIRTUALLY OVER TEAMS ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

**In attendance:**

Councillor: Mrs G. James (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: Mrs E. Chilcott, Mrs E. Hunt, G. Davies, J. Killick, N. Jones, R. Overton, Mrs N. P. Parrish, B. Rapier, M. Ford

Guest speaker: Mr Lyndon Puddy

Acting Clerk: Mrs C. Challenger

Officers: Mrs R. Cronin (minute taker)

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

*The Deputy Leader recommended that the Leader be Chair for the meeting, seconded by Cllr Ford.*

137. **Questions from the Public**

No questions from the public had been received.

138. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ms L. Clarkson, Mrs K. Arthur, Mrs J. E. Jones, Mrs J. G Taylor and B Taylor JP and N. Simons.

**RESOLVED:** that the apologies be noted.

**JW**

139. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Mrs G. James, G. Davies, N. Jones, R. Overton 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**

140. **Speaker**

The Chair welcomed Mr Lyndon Puddy, Head of Public Services Support Unit at Torfaen County Borough Council to give a presentation on CCTV Proposal. An email had been circulated prior to the meeting – attached as an appendix to the minutes.

*Councillor Overton joined the meeting at this point.*

**RESOLVED:** (i) that Mr Puddy be thanked for attending the February Council meeting.

(ii) that this item be added to the agenda for the April Policy and Finance meeting.

**CC**

141. **Council**

The Council received the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Councillor N. Jones asked that minute 109 (declarations) be amended to include himself as declaring an interest in any item relating to Torfaen County Borough Council.

Councillor Mrs N Parrish asked that minute 116, be amended to state, “to interview the applicants” rather than “to interview the co-opted people”.

Councillor Killick gave an update on minute 119 – The Clerk had returned to work on a phased return (reduced hours). The Finance & Events Manager would continue as Acting Clerk during this period on a proportion of the Clerk’s rate of pay.

**RESOLVED:** (i) that minute 109 (declarations) be amended to include Cllr N. Jones as declaring an interest in any item relating to Torfaen County Borough Council;

(ii) that minute 116, fourth paragraph be amended to state “to interview the applicants” rather than “to interview the co-opted people”.

(iii) that once minute 109 and 116 are amended the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 be confirmed as a true record;

(iv) that the Clerk returns on a phased return for one month and the Finance & Events

**RC**

**RC**

Manager continues to cover the Clerk for this period as outlined above.

142. **Policy & Finance**

The Council received the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

Councillor Mrs E Chilcott asked that minute 126 be amended to include the Act for the LVF relating to Cllr G. James purchase of a lime tree.

**RESOLVED:**

(i) that minute 126 be amended to include the Act for the LVF.

(ii) that once minute 126 is amended that the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

**RC**

143. **Planning and Environment**

The Council received the minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Councillor Mrs N. Parrish asked that for planning it is stated that the statement no observations is recorded rather than no objections and for ongoing planning application responses.

**RESOLVED:** that the planning applications statement be amended to state no observations in future rather than no objections.

**AA/  
CP**

144. **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**

145. **Vacancy – New Inn Lower Ward**

Councillor Killick requested that the information from One Voice Wales be advertised on the website and Social Media, but that the sentence before closing date is not included. “The Council is committed to achieving a balanced composition of Councillors that reflects the community of the New Inn Lower ward”. This sentence is difficult to understand and balanced composition could mean many things.

Councillor N Jones supports the process, but it should be noted that residents of New Inn did support Councillor Mills and he was of a particular politician persuasion, so the residents have already voted for who they wanted to be represented by. It was also suggested that 10<sup>th</sup> March closing date be extended to ensure it could be advertised for a reasonable time and then brought to the April Council.

Councillor Killick agreed with timeline.  
Councillor Overton in agreement with Councillor N Jones comments.

**RESOLVED:** that the information from One Voice Wales be advertised on the website and social media – ensuring that the sentence “The Council is committed to achieving a balanced composition of Councillors that reflects the community of the New Inn Lower ward” is excluded. And that the deadline be changed to 10<sup>th</sup> April.

**AA/  
CC**

146. **Torfaen Replacement Development Plan**

Councillor Killick requested that a direct response be given to Torfaen County Borough Council in regard to Pontypool Community Council being actively engaged in decisions and the enactment of the plan. PCC to comment on things after a decision had been made. In regard to the local development plan Cllr Killick was pleased with the presentation received at a previous meeting stating that Pontypool Regeneration and Pontypool Community Council would be involved. Councillor Killick would like a response to go back to Torfaen stating that Pontypool Community Council welcome the opportunity to be involved before any decisions are made.

Regarding the Gypsy and Traveller land and accommodation, Councillor Killick welcomes that Pontypool Community Council would be involved and would like to state that PCC should be involved in the decision of where this land would be. Cllr Killick stated that Gypsy and Travellers should not be corralled into one small section of the Borough.

Councillor N. Jones supports that any consultation should take place with any parties before decisions are made and supports a direct response to Torfaen and Welsh Government stating this. Councillor N Jones raised a point regarding Page 30 and the deadline for the initial consultation being extended from 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan to midnight 26<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed that this be placed Council in March, so that a response could be constructed and sent by 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**RESOLVED:** that the Torfaen replacement development plan be added as an agenda item on 24<sup>th</sup> March Full Council

CC

147. **Expansion of Crownbridge School**

*Councillor M Ford declared an interest in this item as an employee of the school.*

Councillor Killick raised concerns that even though Pontypool Community Council are asked to comment, it was after the decisions had been made, in particular to the use of the Coleg Gwent Campus.

Councillor N. Jones asked for some clarification as to the sites that Crownbridge school uses currently and whether specialised schooling is needed North of the Borough.

Councillor Ford confirmed that the other site was Penygarn Primary school with year 1 and year 2 Crownbridge pupils residing there.

Expansion is very much needed at the Croesyceiliog site, as there are a lot of children who are out of county, costing the borough huge amounts of money. The expansion would be money saving and would help the children's well-being for not having to travel.

Councillor Ford agreed that the Croesyceiliog site expansion was not tied on to specialised schooling needed in the north

of the borough, but that it should be discussed at a further date.

Councillor N Jones also favoured expansion of the Croesyceiliog site and expanding the provision in the north of the county. Councillor Killick welcomed the expansion for the school but deeply regrets the cost and impact to the children and parents to go outside of the borough, and that it is now for only an extra 50 places.

**RESOLVED:** that the statement be sent to Torfaen County Borough Council as a response “Pontypool Community Council welcomes the expansion for Crownbridge school but deeply regrets that it is now only for an extra 50 places”.

CC

148. **Minutes Gwent Valleys Area Committee**

Councillor Killick stated that the Healthy Blaenavon officer and project was paid by the Borough and the health board and Blaenavon was chosen to take part, but could this be something that Pontypool Community Council could do? Councillor Killick suggested inviting people from Blaenavon Town Council to discuss the possibility that something similar could be done by Pontypool Community Council.

**RESOLVED:** that a further discussion take place with members of Blaenavon Town Council.

CC

149. **Save a Life Cymru Community CPR Champions**

Councillor Killick stated that perhaps information could be shared on the PCC website and Social Media.  
Agreed by Chair and Council

**RESOLVED:** that information relating to Save a Life Cymru be added to the website and social media.

150. **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.**

151. **Youth Project**

**RESOLVED**: that the information be received.

Chair