

**MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD VIRTUALLY OVER TEAMS ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

**In attendance:**

Councillor: Mrs R. Matthews (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: Councillors Mrs E. Chilcott JP, Miss L. Clarkson Mrs E. Hunt, Mrs G. E. James, K. James, J. Killick, A. Lang, N. Jones, R. Overton, Mrs N. P. Parrish JP, B. Taylor JP, Mrs J. Taylor,

Officers: Mrs R. Tucker, Mrs C. Challenger, Ms J. Wright

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

*[Footnote: Please note that although the meeting recorded due to technical issues it was unable to be accessed].*

The Leader on behalf of the Council congratulated Councillors Miss L. Clarkson, K. James and J. Killick on becoming Torfaen County Borough Councillors.

228. **Questions from the Public**

No questions from the public had been received.

229. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors K. Arthur, B. Rapier, G. Davies, Mrs J. E. Jones.

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

**JW**

230. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Miss L. Clarkson, Mrs G. James, K. James, J. Killick, 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**

231. **Council**

The Council received the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021. These were approved as an accurate record subject to Councillor Miss L. Clarkson's name being included in the list of apologies and the word "this" being inserted before the word should on the last paragraph of minute 194 in relation to Local Voluntary Funding.

In relation to receiving an up-date from Miss OW Youth Project Worker, the Leader stated that when she accepted the invitation, she forgot that she had already arranged to meet with a group of young people from another organisation so she had produced an updated report which had been circulated to members.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 be approved as a true record subject to the amendments being made as outlined above.

JW

[Councillor J. Killick joined the meeting at this point and apologised as he had some technical issues joining].

232. **Policy & Finance**

The Council received the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting be approved as a true record.

JW

233. **Planning & Environment**

The Council received the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The Chair of Events pointed out that under apologies the reasons for members absence had been stated and it had been agreed some time ago that although members apologies be accepted or otherwise for the reasons given, these reasons would be kept private in the office and not disclosed to the public. This was unanimously agreed.

In relation to minute 219 Doggy Bins the Chair of Policy & Finance stated that the information was incorrect in the minutes – the two bins that she had requested to be sited are

on the canal towpath not on the cycle track which is a completely different pathway. She clarified that the two bins she had requested to be sited on the canal towpath are as follows: one on the towpath by the Crown Bridge, the other one to be sited on the canal towpath by the bridge at the bottom of Kemys Street, the Clerk said there was no need for the Council to contact British Waterways.

It was agreed that clarification be sought in relation to the three bins requested by the other ward member and be brought back to June's Planning meeting for clarification.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April be approved subject to the minutes being amended as outlined above.

**AA**

234. **Events**

The Council received the minutes of the Events Committee held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. These were approved subject to Councillor Mrs J. E. Jones being included in the list of apologies. The Finance & Events Manager outlined the circumstances in relation to her apologies and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk send a letter on behalf of the Council to Councillor Mrs Jones.

**RESOLVED:**

(i) that the Events minutes held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 be approved as a true record subject to Councillor Mrs Jones apologies being recorded.

(ii) that a letter be sent to Councillor Mrs J. E. Jones as outlined above.

**RT**

**AA/  
CP**

235. **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.

236. **Governors**

The Council noted that no member had indicated in the memo sent out by the Administration Officer that they would be

interested in the governor vacancy at George Street School. The Deputy Leader stated that it was extremely important that the Community Council was represented, and it was agreed that the Clerk send a memo to ward members in that area to see if they knew of someone who would be interested in taking this role on.

**RESOLVED:** that a memo be sent to ward members as outlined above in relation to the governor vacancy at George Street School.

**RT**

237. **Torfaen Local Development Replacement Plan (TLDRP)**

The Council received a response collated by Mrs RC Events Officer from the memo she sent out to members requesting their views on the above item as agreed at the last Council meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the response be approved and sent to Torfaen in relation to the consultation document and that Mrs RC be thanked in compiling the response.

**RESOLVED:**

(i) that the response in relation to the consultation document on the Torfaen Local Development Replacement Plan be approved and sent to Torfaen.

(ii) that Mrs RC be thanked in compiling the response.

**JW**

**RT**

238. **CCTV**

The Council received a reply from Mr L. Puddy in response to the queries raised at last month's Council meeting in relation to CCTV funding.

After a lengthy discussion it was proposed that the Council make a payment of 50% as a contribution to CCTV funding in the first year but that does not imply that the Council will pay in future years. Members suggested that Mr Puddy also be informed that the Borough Council might want to refer the matter for consideration by the Pontypool Regeneration Partnership if it was unable to pay the other 50% of the CCTV revenue costs. A vote took place in relation to this proposal with 12 members in favour and 1 abstention.

The Clerk stated that she was hoping to set up a Pontypool Regeneration meeting in the next few months.

**RESOLVED:** (i) that the Clerk writes to Mr L. Puddy as outlined above in relation to the Council's decision on CCTV funding and would arrange a meeting of the Pontypool Regeneration Partnership Group in the next few months.

RT

239. **Working Party**

The Council agreed to discuss the implications of the new Local Government Election (Wales) Act 2021 and the following members were appointed to the working group: Councillors Miss. L. Clarkson, Mrs E. Hunt, Mrs G. E. James, J. Killick, Mrs R. Matthews and the Clerk.

**RESOLVED:** that the membership of the working party consists of Councillors Miss L. Clarkson, Mrs E. Hunt, Mrs G. E. James, J. Killick, Mrs R. Matthews and the Clerk.

RT/  
RG

240. **Crownbridge**

The Council received an e-mail and a decision letter from Mr M. Horton, Principal Officer for Education in relation to the proposal to expand Crownbridge School.

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

241. **Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw**

The Council received a letter from Mr M. Horton, Principal Officer for Education regarding a proposal to extend the age range of Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw from 11 – 18 to 3 – 18.

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

242. **One Voice Wales/SLCC Event – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The Council received an invitation to a joint One Voice Wales/SLCC Event on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021. It was agreed in the first instance that the Deputy Leader and the Clerk attend the event on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021. It was clarified that it would be an online event at a cost of £45.00 each.

It was further agreed that the Clerk would find out who the guest speakers are at this Event and let members know so that if any other members wished to attend then they could let her know if they wished to be booked on the Event.

**RESOLVED:**

(i) that the Clerk and Deputy Leader be booked on the Joint One Voice Wales/SLCC event on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

(ii) that the Clerk would make enquiries on who the Guest Speakers are and let members know in case they wished to attend the event.

**RT**

**RT**

243. **Pay Phone Removal**

The Council received information via e-mail from Ms P. Weaver, Business Support Officer at Torfaen in relation to the proposed payphone removal. The Vice-Chair of Planning & Environment informed the meeting that she would like to consult with her ward colleagues in relation to this as two out of the five proposed payphone removals are in Abersychan. In addition, she stated that Garndiffaith Millennium Hall had expressed an interest in adopting the old red payphone on Stanley Road, Garndiffaith, some considerable time ago now. Nothing was heard back and Covid came along so she asked if the matter could be investigated regarding what, if any, stage it had proceeded to. It was agreed that the Clerk in consultation with the Vice-Chair of Planning send a reply to Torfaen once she had consulted her ward members on the proposed removal of these payphones and she would investigate further the position in relation to the enquiry by Garndiffaith Millennium Hall of the adoption of the payphone on Stanley Road.

**RESOLVED:** that the action be taken as outlined above.

**RT**

244. **Anti-Racist Wales**

The Council received information forwarded from One Voice Wales about the Welsh Government consultation on a Race Equality Action Plan for Wales. There were two parts to the document, the first being a Community Consultation Engagement Grant Guidance Note for Applicants and the second being the consultation on the Race: Equality Action Plan for Wales. Concern was expressed in relation to the first

part of the document in relation that the information was not sent out until the 13<sup>th</sup> of April and the closing date for grant applications had been the 19<sup>th</sup> April therefore it was agreed that the Deputy Leader in liaison with the Clerk would compile a response to the Welsh Government asking for an extension of the closing date due to the short timescale in relation to when the information was received. In relation to the second part, it was agreed that the Vice-Chair of Planning and the Deputy Leader would converse to produce a response for the Clerk to send to the Welsh Government in relation to this consultation.

**RESOLVED:**

(i) that the Deputy Leader in liaison with the Clerk compile a response to the Welsh Government as outlined above.

(ii) that the Vice-Chair of Planning and Deputy Leader converse to produce a response for the Clerk to send to the Welsh Government.

**Cllr  
JK/  
RT**

**Cllrs  
LC/  
JK**

245. **Working from Home Policy**

The Council received a sample document obtained by Events Officer Mrs RC from the internet, regarding a background that could be used to construct a PCC working from home policy. Members felt that this was a good starting point.

**RESOLVED:** that the sample document obtained by Mrs RC be received and used as a starting point for the Council to produce its own policy.

**RT/  
RG**

246. **Electoral Reform Newsletter**

The Council received the Electoral Reform Newsletter form information sent from One Voice Wales.

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

247. **Reports/Minutes**

The Council received the minutes of the National Executive Committee held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The Deputy Leader had attended the National Executive Committee meeting of One Voice Wales. He pointed to the policy decisions which had been taken at the meeting and the importance of them. He said that, whether decisions had been taken to adopt or reject, all had been unanimously taken. He felt it was important that our members agreed and understood the strength of those decisions.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes be received, and the information relayed by the Deputy Leader be noted.

Chair