

**MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF
PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY USING MICROSOFT TEAMS ON
WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2021 AT 6.30PM**

In attendance:

Councillor: Giles Davies (in the Chair)

and Councillors: Elaine Chilcott JP, Lyn Clarkson, Gaynor James, Keith James, Nicholas Jones, John Killick, Jonathon Martin, Richard Overton and Norma Parrish

Officers: Richard Gwinnell (Acting Clerk), Cindy Challenger (Finance & Events Manager) Lisa McMail (Accountant and Jane Wright (Assistant Clerk)

Also in attendance: Lauren Heckler (Youth Support worker)

Min No	Subject and Decision	Action
294.	<p><u>Questions from the Public</u></p> <p>No questions had been received from the public.</p>	
295.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nick Byrne, Matt Ford, Lizzie Hunt, Janet Jones, Adrian Lang, Rose Matthews, Nick Simons, Barry Taylor JP and Jackie Taylor. Katie Jenkins – Electoral Participation Officer at Torfaen County Borough Council</p>	
296.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillors Giles Davies, Gaynor James, Keith James, Nicholas Jones, John Killick, Richard Overton and Norma Parrish declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as they were members of TCBC, as well as being members of Pontypool Community Council.</p>	JW
297.	<p><u>Electoral Participation</u></p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that this item be deferred to a future meeting.</p>	

Youth Project

[Councillor Lynda Clarkson joined the meeting at this point]

The Chair and members welcomed Lauren Heckler, one of the new Youth support workers to the meeting who gave an overview of the work that she is involved with on a Tuesday and Thursday in Pontypool Park with young people including:

- Firepit for cooking outdoors
- Session where they cooked Dahl
- Various sports of which the most popular one was dodgeball which have taken place in both Pontypool and Griffithstown parks

She stated that there were a whole load of other provisions going on within the Pontypool area and gave an example of The Veg Box box at Garndiffaith which encourages positive engagement. Moving forward into the New Year she said she would be seeking out new opportunities to engage with more youth in different locations; one of the opportunities she would looking at was setting up an art project on a Wednesday. She said that OW is very supportive of her and her fellow youth worker as she continually encourages them and gives them enormous support. The Chair and Leader of the Council thanked LH for attending and congratulated the team for all the hard work in relation to the Youth Project. This was echoed by members.

As a point of information Cllr JK informed the meeting that he sits on the Police and Crime Commissioner panel as the nominated representative for TCBC. After the last meeting of this panel, he had a lengthy conversation with the Deputy Police Crime Commissioner who had informed him there is a document out now describing how youth work over the last 10 years has not been really where it should be and has not done what it should have. The report was very much pointing towards working in the way that our Youth Project is at present and he could not be more pleased with what they are doing and the fact that in relation to Welsh Government he could see it becoming to the forefront.

RESOLVED: that the information LH imparted to the meeting on youth provision be noted and the Youth Project be congratulated on the amazing work they are undertaking.

299.

Council Meeting – 24 November 2021 – Minutes

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

[Councillor NJ left the meeting at this point]

300.

Voluntarising the Youth Project

The Council received a comprehensive report on the proposal to voluntarise the Youth Project.

Cllr JK informed Council that the Youth Project could not currently apply for grants or other external funding (e.g. from the National Lottery, the Home Office, the Police and Crime Commissioners' Fund and a range of other grant-giving or funding organisations) as it was not a voluntary/community organisation but part of Pontypool Community Council; so the proposal was to seek Council approval to ask the Youth Project Officer to seek out potential recruits with an interest in forming a new management committee to work with TVA on a potential new community management structure for the Youth project. This could attract external funding and grants in future. The new management committee could meet and decide what form of organisation it wished to be and progress the setting up of the new organisation at that stage, with help from TVA and others.

Council unanimously agreed with recommendations 3.1 – 3.3 of the report.

RESOLVED:

(i) Pontypool Community Council gives consideration to facilitating the development of a Voluntary/Not for Profit Youth Organisation to address the wider needs of young people in the Pontypool community.

(ii) The Full-time youth worker is asked to research the possibility of:

- Setting up a voluntary/not for profit youth organisation through consultation with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance.
- Seeking interest from people who live, work or are active in the Pontypool community who might consider being involved in forming a Management Committee/Trustee Board.

(iii) The Full-time youth worker is asked to report back on the two actions in 3.2 as and when information is available.

301. **Planning Applications**

Members received and considered Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Applications.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the observations (or absence of observations, as the case may be) outlined in the appendix attached to these minutes be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.

(ii) that the Acting Clerk chase up if a response had been received from the Developers in relation to planning application 21/P/0945.

**AA
CP**

JW

302. **Plenary Powers**

Members received planning application observations made under plenary powers.

RESOLVED: that observations as outlined be approved.

**AA
CP**

303. **Planning Determinations**

Members received and noted Torfaen County Borough Council planning determinations including reasons for approvals or refusals.

RESOLVED: that the planning determinations be noted.

**AA
CP**

304. **Protecting Communities: We don't buy Crime**

Council received further information on the above Gwent Police initiative following on from the last meeting. The Acting Clerk informed members that according to Torfaen's latest figures the number of dwellings in the Pontypool area was 17,015 and as the Police were suggesting that 75% of the area be signed up to Smartwater packs costing £9.95 per property this would mean a total cost to the Council of £127,482.39.

RESOLVED: that the Acting Clerk writes back to Heddlu Gwent Police explaining that while the council think it is an excellent initiative it would not be feasible for the Community Council to help meet the cost of the scheme.

RG

[LH left the meeting at this point]

305. **All Wales Play Opportunities Grant**

The Acting Clerk stated that the Community Council had been very successful in being awarded £21,415 from the All Wales Opportunities Grant (including £5000 for maintenance costs) for the purchase and installation of an inclusive roundabout which had already been approved at at previous planning meeting. He stated that this was fantastic news and although they had not got to the installation stage this was a significant milestone.

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RESOLVED: members welcomed the information relayed by the Acting Clerk on a successful bid for a grant for play equipment.

[Councillor NJ returned the meeting at this point]

306. **Governance and Financial Management – a self-assessment toolkit**

The Acting Clerk informed the Council that attached to the agenda on this item was a small number of sample pages from the Governance and Financial Management – a self-assessment toolkit (produced in partnership with One Voice Wales, SLCC and Welsh Government) which Pontypool is helping to pilot. Pontypool community Council is one of 50 authorities who have volunteered to take part in the piloting stage. (As a point of information, the Acting Clerk stated there was 735 community and town council in Wales)

He stated that this is a new toolkit which is going to be incredibly helpful to town and community councils in relation to what policies need to be put in place and how to govern properly moving forward. He stated that as the Council had already set up a Governance Working Group,

they would be able to go through the 84-page document in finer detail to report back to the authors and Council. Once all 50 authorities have replied to the relevant stakeholders they will combine all feedback received to refine the toolkit before it is released to the sector next year. It was agreed that a Councillor be nominated at the next Governance working group to attend future focus meetings with the Acting Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted and that the Governance Working party choose a Councillor to attend the focus groups with the Acting Clerk.

RG

307. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - 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.

NB: The Chair re-ordered the remaining agenda items at this point to take account of the Acting Clerk leaving the meeting shortly.

308. **Draft Budget 2022/2023**

The Council received the proposed budget, which had been discussed and adjusted at the informal meeting of all members held on 30 November 2021, along with the notes of that meeting.

RESOLVED: that the proposed budget be accepted without amendment and referred to the Policy and Finance Committee for further consideration in January.

309. **Council Meeting - 24 November 2021 – Confidential Minutes**

RESOLVED: that the confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

The Acting Clerk declared a personal interest in the following items of business and left the meeting at this point.

310. **Establishment Committee 1 December 2021 – confidential minutes**

RESOLVED:

(i) that the confidential minutes of the Establishment Committee held on 1 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

(ii) that Council notes that the recommendations were no longer appropriate following advice the Chair of Establishment had received from HR at Torfaen and the Council's Internal Auditor which he had relayed at the Establishment Committee prior to Council.

Signed by Chair