

MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2022 AT 6.30 PM

In attendance:

Councillor: Jon James# (In the Chair)

and Councillors: Lynda Clarkson*, Matt Ford#, Anne Gunter*, Gaynor James#, Richard Overton#, Caroline Price*, Nick Simons* and Nathan Warren*

Officers: Richard Gwinnell# (Acting Clerk) and Cindy Challenger* (Projects and Events Manager)

* *Attending remotely via Microsoft Teams*

Attending physically in the Council Chamber

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

| Min No | Subject and Decision | Action |
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| 111. | <u>Apologies for absence</u> Councillors Nick Byrne and Jools Rogers gave apologies for absence. | |
| 112. | <u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillors Lynda Clarkson, Gaynor James, Jon James and Caroline Price 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 members of Pontypool Community Council. Councillor Lynda Clarkson declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in planning application 22/P/0356 (the first application on agenda item 3) as it related to a close neighbour. | JW JW |
| 113. | <u>Planning Applications</u> Councillors Richard Overton and Nick Simons arrived at this point. Members received and considered the list of planning applications on which it was being consulted by Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC). No observations were | |

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| | <p>made on any of the applications.</p> <p>NB Councillor Lynda Clarkson declared a personal interest in application 22/P/0356 as shown in minute 112 and did not take part in considering that application.</p> <p>It was pointed out that application 22/P/0356 was in the Garndiffaith and Varteg ward (not Garndiffaith and Penygarn as listed in the report).</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the observations (or absence of observations as the case may be) as outlined in the appendix to these minutes be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.</p> | <p>CP</p> <p>CP</p> |
| 114. | <p><u>Plenary Powers</u></p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the observations outlined be noted.</p> | |
| 115. | <p><u>Planning Determinations</u></p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the planning determinations as outlined be noted.</p> | |
| 116. | <p><u>Torfaen Play Service: Summer 2022 Provision</u></p> <p>The plans received from the TCBC Play Service Manager, for summer playscheme provision, were welcomed.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the information be noted and welcomed.</p> | |
| 117. | <p><u>Noticeboards</u></p> <p>The Committee received a list of noticeboards owned by the Community Council, prepared by the Projects and Events Manager (P&EM). Members commented (in summary):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all PCC noticeboards should be examined • most were in a poor state of repair and should be repaired or (preferably) replaced • aluminium noticeboards should be purchased; these were more weatherproof and durable • the noticeboard adjacent to Panteg Cemetery should be relocated (to somewhere with more footfall) • all noticeboard locations should also be reviewed • the Wainfelin noticeboard should be relocated too • this was a significant task, as all noticeboards would need to be inspected and most replaced | |

- all members should write to the P&EM with their preferences for noticeboard locations in their wards; members would need to be asked to do this
- some keys had been retained by members who were no longer members of PCC
- the noticeboard at Oxford Street, Griffithstown was unstable, too far back from the road and notices were illegible due to the damaged Perspex screen
- the keys did not work for all the noticeboards
- the noticeboard at Trevethin was not on the list
- notices displayed on the current noticeboards were not legible for people in wheelchairs, who could not read them as they were too high and flat screened
- any new noticeboards should be lower to the floor and slanted at 45 degrees, so that people in wheelchairs could see the notices
- new noticeboards should be made from sustainable materials and old materials recycled sustainably.

The P&EM explained during the debate (in summary):

- she would be inspecting all PCC noticeboards late next week; this could now be prioritised
- most noticeboards were in a poor state of repair and many would be beyond repair
- more funds would be needed in the budget for this purpose
- aluminium noticeboards had been preferred where replacements were needed previously
- relocating noticeboards was a long process, as it would involve applying for planning permission
- new keys would be needed for some noticeboards; one lock had recently been replaced
- many noticeboards were not being used at all
- all noticeboards would be inspected and any urgent remedial works would be arranged as soon as possible after that assessment (e.g. new keys and Perspex replacement)
- members were expected to place notices in their local noticeboards, so several new keys would be issued to members elected in May 2022
- she would update the list and circulate it to all members for comments as soon as possible
- she would report back to the committee in September with further details and options.

RESOLVED: to consider the matter further in September.

CC

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| 118. | <p><u>Play Equipment</u></p> <p>Members commented or questioned in summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pantygasseg residents had applied for funding to replace the play area fencing; what was the latest? • there was very little play equipment provision at Blaendare and Cymynyscoy • the budget contained £39k for play equipment and £5k for maintenance; who was responsible for inspecting, maintaining and replacing equipment? • fencing was not play equipment; any funding for that would have to come from a different budget • it would be good to see TCBC provide more funding • was it mandatory for all play areas to be fenced? • no; many play areas were not fenced • a further report should be submitted in September • the Welsh Government had recently issued guidance on play areas, accessibility etc; this needed to be taken into account • any new materials should be sourced sustainably and old materials recycled appropriately. <p>The P&EM explained in summary that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • she had recently taken over responsibility for play equipment and did not know all the history • the £39k for play equipment included £18k for the wheelchair-accessible roundabout at Pontypool Park • the £5k for maintenance was specifically for that new roundabout, for the next five years • the Pantygasseg residents had asked for funding for fencing, not play equipment; the Council would need to decide whether to fund fencing. <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> to consider the matter further in September.</p> | CC |
| 119. | <p><u>Future speakers/partnership networking</u></p> <p>CC suggested that the Play Service Manager be asked to make a presentation to the September meeting, on the summer playschemes. He normally reported to the Council (not only this committee).</p> <p>LC suggested that the committee ask Steve Williams (TCBC Ecology Team Manager) to report to the committee in September about TCBC's environment and biodiversity policies and approach. PCC may be able to link in to what</p> | |

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| | <p>TCBC was doing, come up with some new projects of its own and spend some of the budget for this purpose.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> to invite Julian Davenne (to present to a Council meeting) and Steve Williams (to present to this committee) on the issues discussed above.</p> | RG |
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Signed by Chair