

**MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2023**

**In attendance:**

Councillor: Nick Byrne#(In the Chair)

and Councillors: Jon James, Lyn Clarkson\*, Gaynor James#, Richard Overton\*, Caroline Price\* Nathan Warren#

Also in attendance: Councillor Jon Cox\*  
Representatives from Welsh Water

Officers: Mrs L McMail# (Clerk) Mrs R Cronin\* (Projects and Events Manager) and Mrs A Ambrosen# (Projects and Events Officer)

\* *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
492.	<b><u>Apologies for absence</u></b>  Councillor Sue Malson and Anne Gunter gave apologies for absence.	
493.	<b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b>  Councillors Nick Byrne, Lyn Clarkson, Gaynor James, Jon James, Caroline Price declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (Torfaen County Borough Council) as they were members of Torfaen County Borough Council, as well as members of Pontypool Community Council.	JW
494.	<b><u>Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water</u></b>  The Chair welcomed representatives from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to update Members on a project that will help improve the water quality within the Afon Lwyd and reduce impact of pollution from our Combined Storm Overflow (CSO) located on Pont-y-felin Lane (NP4 0QF). (Presentation attached as an appendix to the minutes)	

	<p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> that the Welsh Water representatives be thanked for attending the meeting.</p>	
495.	<p><b><u>Afon Lwyd River</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received notice of a pre planning application in relation to the Afon Lwyd River to improve water quality on land at Pont-y-felin, Pontypool.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> that the notice be received.</p>	LM
496.	<p><b><u>Biodiversity Plan/ Working Group</u></b></p> <p>Cllr NW gave a verbal update on the Biodiversity Plan. Councillor Nathan Warren updated members on the Biodiversity Plan, he explained that Big Green Week was taking place from 10<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> June and the Council would be funding a weekend of Forest Fun Sessions for families and also be trying to arrange a Council litter pick in which all members would be invited to participate.</p> <p>Councillor Warren stated that a Climate Summit would be happening soon and that it was £120 to attend. Councillor Warren stated that he could not attend the summit all day and was looking for other members to attend so that the day could be split between them. Members would be asked if they wished to attend.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> (i) that the update be noted.  (ii) that Members be asked to participate in a Council litter pick in June (date to be confirmed).  (iii) that Members be asked if they wished to participate in a Climate Summit at a cost of £120 per person.</p>	AA LM
497.	<p><b><u>Planning Applications</u></b></p> <p>Members received and considered the list of planning applications on which it was being consulted by Torfaen County Borough Council (Torfaen County Borough Council).</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> 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>	CP

498.	<p><b><u>Planning Determinations</u></b></p> <p>Members received and noted Torfaen County Borough Council planning determinations including reasons for approvals or refusals.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> that the planning determinations as outlined be noted.</p>	CP
499.	<p><b><u>Planning Applications: Plenary Powers</u></b></p> <p>Members received the list of observations made on planning applications between meetings, under plenary powers.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> that the observations as outlined be noted</p>	CP
500.	<p><b><u>School Environmental Grants</u></b></p> <p>The Committee was asked to approve awarding a school environmental grant to West Monmouth School in line with the previous applications submitted now that their paperwork had been received. It was agreed that £1160 be awarded to West Monmouth School.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed a thank you letter from St. Alban's in relation to the school environmental grant awarded. Mrs A Ambrosen stated that other thank you letters had been received but after the agenda paperwork for the Committee had been sent out.</p> <p>Councillor Nathan Warren stated that the schools would be contacted to arrange for Members to visit and see how their projects are progressing.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> (i) that West Mon be awarded an Environmental Grant of £1160. (ii) that the schools be contacted in June to arrange a visit from Members to see how their projects are progressing.</p>	CC AA
501.	<p><b><u>Doggy Bins</u></b></p> <p>Mrs R Cronin explained that she had received two pieces of information from Street Scene which was a list of bins owned by the Community Council and also an email that had been received from a resident who belongs to Neighbourhood Watch in New Inn.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that she felt that it was a priority to upgrade some of the bins but also have a map which states</p>	



	<p>the rest of the Council's noticeboards once the weather improves.</p> <p>The Vice Chair explained that the New Inn residents had asked for two new noticeboards to be installed in New Inn; one by the new park that had been installed and one by New Inn Primary School on Golf Road.</p> <p>The Vice Chair asked if this could be considered by the Committee.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that the remainder of the unused budget for notice boards (£4k) could be placed into an Earmarked Reserve and allocated into next years budget starting in April to cover the cost of future noticeboards. All agreed.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> (i) that the updated be noted. (ii) that two noticeboards be considered for New Inn</p>	RC
503.	<p><b><u>Play Equipment</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received an updated from Henrietta Lucas at Torfaen County Borough Council on play provision at Pontnewynydd as requested from the last meeting. It was suggested a representative attend a future meeting to work together with regards to play equipment projects and finding priorities. Members agreed to invite Ms Lucas to a future meeting.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> (i) that the information be noted. (i) that Henrietta Lucas TCBC be invited to a future meeting.</p>	LM
504.	<p><b><u>Committee Budget</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received the budget (and reserves) within its remit and the spend to date.</p> <p>The Clerk suggested that: A balance on Community Noticeboards (£4k) can be transferred to an Earmarked Reserve.</p> <p>Playground Equipment budget of (£16k) had not been spent in the year and this could be transferred to the earmarked reserve. Councillor Warren stated that if match funding could be requested from Torfaen County Borough Council on Play equipment it could possible help towards providing play provision in Pontnewynydd.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> that the information be received and the spend to date be noted.</p>	CC LM

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Signed by Chair .....