

**MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF PONTYPOOL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2023**

In attendance:

Councillor: Matt Ford# (in the Chair)

and Councillors: Nick Byrne*, Jon Cox#, Anne Gunter#, Jon Horlor*, Lizzie Hunt# Gaynor James#, Jon James#, Nick Jones*, Sue Malson#, Rose Matthews#, Jonathon Martin*, Richard Overton#, Caroline Price*, Bob Rogers*, Jools Rogers*, Nick Simons*

Officers: Mrs Lisa McMail, Clerk#, Ms Jane Wright, Assistant Clerk#

Also in attendance: Vivienne Collings, Welsh Government* (Teams)
Matthew Creed and Rhys Thomas from “Tidy Butt” #
attended in person in Council Chamber

* 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
505.	<u>Questions from the Public</u> There were no questions from the public	
506.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies received from Councillors John Killick	JW
507.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillors Nick Byrne, Jon Horlor, Gaynor James, Jon James, Rose Matthews, Caroline Price, Sue Malson and Nick Simons 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.	JW

508.	<p><u>Cyber Awareness</u></p> <p>The Council welcomed Vivienne Collins (VC) from Welsh Government to give a presentation in relation to Cyber Awareness and Training available. (attached as an appendix to the minutes).</p> <p>The Chair of Policy & Finance asked about insurance covering Cyber attacks. VC stated that she would investigate this and report back.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the information be welcomed, and that VC be thanked for attending the Council and giving an excellent presentation on Cyber Awareness.</p> <p>[Footnote: Pontypool Community Council is insured by Gallagher Insurance against cyber fraud].</p>	JW
509.	<p><u>Wellbeing Partnership with Blaenavon Town Council</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Matthew Creed (MC) and Rhys Thomas (RT) from Tidy Butt. MC informed the meeting that he founded Tidy Butt in 2020 growing it from a private Facebook group for people to share their experiences with issues around mental health to a registered charity presenting well-being talks to schools, business and professional sports organisations. MC informed the meeting that he had his own issues with his mental health in the past and when looking for support in his local area he felt like there wasn't anything that he could resonate with, so decided there and then to start something to share experiences and look for peer to peer support. MC then joined forces with an old teammate and former Welsh Rugby international Rhys Thomas. RT stated that he had his own struggles with mental health and addiction and stated that he wanted to impact on people's lives in a positive way at beginning of his sobriety. (Full presentation attached as an appendix to the minutes).</p> <p>Members informed MC and RT how extremely impressed they were with them both, not only on their excellent presentation and the setting up of the Tidy Butt charity but being able to share their own personal mental health struggles with everyone, with some members opening about their own personal mental health struggles currently and in the past. After listening to their presentation, the Council unanimously agreed to fund the joint Well-being project with Blaenavon Town Council (50% of £4000) at a cost of £2000. It was further agreed to ensure inclusivity that Pontypool Community Council would also fund the well-being session for West Monmouth School at a cost of £2000.</p>	JW CC/LM

	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>(i) that MC and RT be thanked for attending the Council meeting and giving an outstanding presentation on the work of Tidy Butt and what it means to them and others.</p> <p>(ii) that Pontypool Community Council would financially contribute £2000 (50%) of the £4,000 to deliver the full day well-being workshop at both Abersychan and St. Alban's RC High Schools in conjunction with Blaenavon Town Council.</p> <p>(iii) to ensure inclusivity it was further agreed that Pontypool Community Council would pay £2,000 for the full day well-being workshop to be delivered at West Monmouth School.</p>	CC/LM
510.	<p><u>Council Meeting – 29 March 2023 – Minutes</u></p> <p>The Chair of Council moved these minutes. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 March 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>[Councillor N. Simons joined the meeting on Teams at this point]</p>	JW
511.	<p><u>Policy & Finance Committee – 5 April 2023 – Minutes</u></p> <p>The Chair of Policy & Finance moved these minutes. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Policy and Finance meeting held on 5 April 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p>	JW
512	<p><u>Planning & Environment Committee – 12 April 2023 - Minutes</u></p> <p>The Chair of Planning & Environment moved these minutes. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Cllr NW informed the meeting that there is access to some free environmental training from Nature Wise which he and Cllr AG had attended which had been recommended to him. The training had been very good and extremely beneficial, so he would like to extend the invitation to members and staff to take advantage of this training. He believed that staff member CJ had indicated she would be attending the training. There are two sessions which both run over 2 half days.</p> <p>Cllr NW also gave an update on spend in relation to the Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) budget in that the environment group was paying for a Forest Fund Day as part of the Big Green week at a cost of approximately £1200.00.</p>	

	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>(i) that the minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on 12 April 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>(ii) that the update from Cllr NW in relation to free training and the BWG spend to date be welcomed and noted.</p>	JW NW/AA
513.	<p><u>Vacancy at Sebastopol West</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the Elections Manager at Torfaen County Borough Council be informed that there is a vacancy in Sebastopol West due to non-compliance of member.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the Elections Manager at Torfaen be informed of the vacancy as outlined above to advertise the vacancy.</p>	LM
514.	<p><u>Governor Vacancy – New Inn Primary School</u></p> <p>The Council was asked to nominate a governor representative to serve on New Inn Primary School as Councillor JM the present nominated Council representative had been unable to attend any governor meetings at the school due to his work commitments clashing with them.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Councillor Nick Byrne be nominated as the governor representative to serve on New Inn Primary School and Governor Support to be informed to this effect.</p>	JW
515.	<p><u>King Charles III Coronation – 6 May 2023</u></p> <p>The Council received a report on an update on minute 439 from the March Events meeting in relation to King Charles II Coronation.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the Council agree to provide the indoor screen and speaker system in Pontypool market on Saturday 6 May for the Kings Coronation at a cost of £640.00</p>	RC
516.	<p><u>CCTV</u></p> <p>The Council received an e-mail from Mr Lyndon Puddy (LP) on CCTV funding which had been deferred from the Policy & Finance meeting. The Chair of Police & Finance Cllr EH stated that she would be concerned if the CCTV was terminated as stated in the e-mail, adding that if the Council was going to consider paying towards the costs of CCTV then they would need to have more decision-making powers, in relation to where all the cameras are,</p>	

	<p>what state of repair the cameras are in, who checks the CCTV.</p> <p>The point was made that the Council has only ever agreed to consider funding on a year-to-year basis so it should not have been assumed the Council would pay this year. The Chair stated that there was a lot more questions that needed to be answered before the Council could decide and it was therefore unanimously agreed that Mr Lyndon Puddy be invited to the June Council meeting to answer members question(s) in relation to CCTV.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Mr Lyndon Puddy be invited to the June Council meeting as outlined above.</p>	<p>JW/ LM</p>
<p>517.</p>	<p><u>Myfanwy Haycock Poetry Trail</u></p> <p>The Clerk informed members that she had an extremely productive meeting that day with Jenni Crane and many of the stakeholders involved in the Myfanwy Haycock Poetry Trail project including the App Developers and Fitzpatrick Woolmer who are supplying the markers, there was also canal representation and Sian Watkins from Torfaen Street Scene who had given permission for the markers in the park to be sited and who had been very supportive.</p> <p>In relation to costing(s) the Clerk stated that there were now two elements to the Poetry Trail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) initial project that the Council was going to support had an original budget of £12,000 but the costs are now likely to come in at around £17,000. (ii) there is now going to be a launch of the Poetry Trail on Saturday 22nd July with approximate costs being £2,000 <p>The Council would be looking at around the £20,000 mark as a budget rather than the original £12,000 therefore the Clerk was seeking Council approval.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the budget for the Myfanwy Haycock Poetry Trail be increased to £20,000.</p>	<p>LM/CC</p>
<p>518.</p>	<p><u>Draft Canal Strategy & Action Plan</u></p> <p>The Council received a briefing report from Alice Rees (AR), Canal Co-ordinator at Torfaen County Borough Council. The Leader stated that she had a meeting with AR last week who had given an excellent presentation and the plan was now out for public consultation.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Council write back to AR informing her that Pontypool Community Council welcome any improvement(s) to the Canal infrastructure over the next 10 years as it is extremely</p>	

	<p>important to us as a Council, not just the history but as an attraction for people to go along and see the canal boats, take in nature and improve people's general well-being.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that AR be informed of the Council's comments as outlined above in relation to this consultation.</p>	JW
519.	<p><u>Waste Consultation</u></p> <p>The Leader informed the meeting that this consultation had been closed last week. Although the consultation had been stopped members felt it was important that feedback be given and asked that the Council feedback to KJ that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) we expect our children to learn how to recycle in schools, but schools are charged to have their recycling removed, therefore it is not a good advert for children watching caretakers and staff just throwing their waste into general waste so we would like to propose that schools are not charged for recycling their waste. (ii) It would also be extremely beneficial if more recycling bins could be sited along with the waste bins throughout Pontypool including those bins provided by Pontypool Community Council. (iii) Recycling bins be provided in schools otherwise schools must fund them from their budgets which are already overstretched. <p>RESOLVED: that KJ be informed of the Council's comments as outlined above in relation to this consultation.</p>	JW/ LM
520.	<p><u>Policies proposed for adoption</u></p> <p>The Council proposed the following policies for adoption. These documents went to the Policy & Finance Committee on 5th April and were amended/approved/noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Annual Investment Strategy (b) Fixed Asset Register Policy (c) Harassment and Bullying Policy <p>The Chair of Policy & Finance informed the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) that the Annual Investment Strategy is very similar to how it was previously, the only difference is that in relation to the Council's Investment Objectives a number 4 has been added to state ethical, so the Council can show they are being ethical with other people's money as well as its own. 	

	<p>(ii) Fixed Asset Register Policy is very similar to how it was previously.</p> <p>(iii) The Harassment and Bullying Policy had come straight from One Voice Wales, who have stated that it is very important that the Council does not change the wording, so they know the Council's policy if they ever needed to take advice from them in the future.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u>: that the above polices be approved for adoption.</p>	<p>LM/JW</p>
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------

Signed by the Chair