

MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH JUNE 2023

In attendance:

Councillor: Jon James (In the Chair)

and Councillors: Nick Byrne, John Cox, Gaynor James, Nick Simons and Nathan Warren

Officers: Mrs L McMail and Mrs A Ambrosen

Other attendees: Ms Henrietta Lucas TCBC and Mr Kelvin Edwards TCBC

* *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
64	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies from Councillors Matt Ford, Anne Gunter and Richard Overton.</p>	
65	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillors Jon James, Gaynor James, Nick Byrne 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.</p>	JW
66	<p><u>Play Equipment</u></p> <p>Members welcomed Ms Henrietta Lucas, Senior Landscape Officer and Mr Kelvin Edwards from Torfaen's Economy Department to discuss opportunities to work together to enhance play equipment provision in the Pontypool area.</p> <p>Mrs Henrietta Lucas produced a Torfaen priority list of Pontypool play areas and she explained that she would be looking to ask the Community Council what their priorities would be with regards to the list. The Committee worked through the list provided.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding anti-social behaviour in certain sites plus requests from members of the public to</p>	

	<p>have a concrete skate park built in Pontypool Park however the costs of building the skate park would be very expensive.</p> <p>Henrietta asked what areas of priority for Pontypool Community Council would be. A Member stated that residents from Pontnewynydd have been requesting a play area. A Member enquired into the cost of purchasing play equipment, Mr Kelvin Edwards explained that it would be anywhere between £50,000 - £150,000 for a decent park. Henrietta explained that if Pontypool Community Council could provide some money for a play area, then this could allow them to apply for funding.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that she would ask the Community Development Officer to enquire about funding available for play equipment and report back.</p> <p>The Chair stated that the Community Council and Torfaen had collaborated in the past and this needed to be restored. He stated that the Community Council had a limited play equipment budget but he proposed that the Community Council co-operated with Torfaen County Borough Council and proposed in principal support for a new fence at Pantygasseg (financial details to be confirmed) plus support in principal the new play area in Pontnewynydd and ask the Community Development Officer to look into funding streams that may be available to help.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Henrietta and Kelvin for attending and stated that the Clerk would be in touch.</p> <p>Recommended i) that the Community Council work in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council and in principal support for a new fence at Pantygasseg (financial details to be confirmed) ii) support in principle the new play area in Pontnewynydd and ask the Community Development Officer to look into funding streams that may be available to help.</p>	<p>LM</p> <p>CJ</p>
67	<p><u>Biodiversity Plan/Working Party</u></p> <p>The Vice Chair gave an update on the Council’s Biodiversity plan. He stated that this week was the start of The Great Big Green Week and the Council had funded Family Forest Fun session in Pontypool Park over the weekend. The Saturday session went ahead but due to no attendees the Sunday session was postponed. The Vice Chair stated what activities were taking place throughout the week. The Vice</p>	

	<p>Chair thanked Mrs A Ambrosen for her involvement with the organising of the Great Big Green Week along with Veronika Brannovich, Kristen Thobroe from Torfaen Borough Council and Bethan Lewis from Head4Arts.</p> <p>The Vice Chair stated that the first Bio-diversity sub committee was due to have it's first meeting in July.</p> <p>The Chair asked if there had been a lot of participation with the events. The Vice Chair stated that unfortunately one session had to be postponed due to low take up but advertising the events needed to be looked at to increase participation.</p> <p>The Leader thanked the Vice Chair.</p>	
68	<p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <p>Members received and considered the list of planning applications on which it was being consulted by Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC).</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the observations stated be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.</p>	CP
69	<p><u>Planning Determinations</u></p> <p>Members received and noted Torfaen County Borough Council planning determinations including reasons for approvals or refusals.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the planning determinations be noted.</p>	CP
70	<p><u>Planning Applications Plenary Powers</u></p> <p>Members noted observations on planning applications which had already been submitted between meetings.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the plenary powers applications be noted</p>	CP
71	<p><u>Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm</u></p> <p>a) Members received the minutes of Mynydd Wind Farm Community Liaison Group meeting. It was agreed to revisit this item.</p> <p>b) Members received a request from Abertillery Town Council in relation to the Wind Farm application. It was agreed that Councillor Jon Cox and Councillor Lyn Clarkson discuss this item and if necessary, attend the informal meeting proposed by Abertillery Town Council.</p>	LM LM

	<p>Recommended a) that the Council revisit this item in the future.</p> <p>b) that Councillor Jon Cox and Councillor Lyn Clarkson discuss this item and if necessary, attend the informal meeting proposed by Abertillery Town Council.</p>	
72	<p><u>Doggy Bins</u></p> <p>Members received a verbal update from the Clerk.</p> <p>The Clerk updated the Committee that a new bin had been requested in Pontypool Park at the Gorsedd Stones and that will be installed soon.</p> <p>Mrs Sian Watkins from TCBC is currently devising a maintenance list of all current bins the Community Council own to start a replacement programme.</p> <p>The Chair stated that the Vice Chair had suggested looking at current locations of bins as some are too close together and if possible once bins had been replaced/maintained maybe the Council could look at relocating some bins to an area to be more efficient. The Vice Chair asked the Clerk for a list of Bron Afon bins as well as TCBC bins.</p> <p>Recommended: i) that the Community Council look at relocating some bins to increase their efficiency. ii) that Mrs Sian Watkins be asked for a list of bins that Bron Afon own as well as TCBC owned bins.</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>RC</p>
73	<p><u>Noticeboards</u></p> <p>Members received a verbal update from the Clerk.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that in the Pontymoile ward – Station Road noticeboard had been installed. The Committee needed to elect a new keyholder. A discussion took place and the Committee recommended that the Clerk contact the appropriate Councillor for that ward. The Chair requested that the noticeboards be kept updated.</p> <p>The Clerk updated the Committee on the relocation of the noticeboard in Griffithstown East to the bottom of Kemys Street she explained that there may be a need for planning permission to be sought and Mrs Sian Watkins was looking into this, and Clerk will update members at next meeting.</p> <p>Griffithstown West – Noticeboard at top of St. Mary’s Street the Clerk stated that the confirmation of the location of the noticeboard is required. Mrs A Ambrosen to update Mrs R</p>	

	<p>Cronin on the exact location of the noticeboard.</p> <p>Cwmynyscoy – still pending.</p> <p>The Clerk also explained that the maintenance by Mr Groves of the noticeboards was progressing well.</p> <p>The Clerk sought members approval for the following requests for new noticeboards: Pantygasseg – the current noticeboard is damaged, and all agreed to replace this noticeboard. New noticeboard request for Berry Close in New Inn – all members agreed to install a new noticeboard in this ward.</p> <p>Recommended: i) Station Road new keyholder be contacted/ the Griffithstown Councillors to discuss this. ii) Griffithstown East – The Clerk report back to next meeting any updates on the need for a planning application to re site the noticeboard. iii) Griffithstown West- that Mrs A Ambrosen update Mrs R Cronin on the exact location of the noticeboard on St. Mary’s Street. iv) that a replacement noticeboard be purchased for the Pantygasseg ward. v) that a new noticeboard be looked at for Berry Close, New Inn.</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>RC</p> <p>AA/RC</p> <p>RC</p> <p>RC</p>
74	<p><u>Committee Budget</u></p> <p>Members received the budget and reserves within its remit and the spend to date.</p> <p>The Clerk updated members that the figures showing were for April only and no spend had been made to date.</p> <p>The Chair stated that £50,000 in Earmarked Reserves would not go far when it comes to purchasing play equipment. The Clerk stated that the Committee could always look at the general reserves the Council is holding for future play ground plans. All agreed.</p> <p>Recommended: that the information be noted.</p>	<p>LM</p>
75	<p><u>Training relevant to the Planning Committee</u></p> <p>Members were informed of the following training opportunities: a) SLCC – Planning Summit (online) 5 July 2023</p>	<p>LM</p>

	<p>b) Planning Aid Wales – Planning Basics (online)</p> <p>Members are asked to contact the Clerk if they wish to attend these courses.</p>	
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- * This is a recommendation to the Council. The Council will make the final decision at a future meeting.

Signed by Chair