

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

In attendance:

Councillor: Jon James# (In the Chair)

and Councillors: Lynda Clarkson*, Dr John Cox#, Anne Gunter*, Gaynor James#, Richard Overton* Nick Simons*

Officers: Mrs L McMail (Clerk)#, Mrs R. Cronin* (Projects and Events Manager), Mrs C. Jones# (Community Development Officer) Ms J. Wright* (Assistant Clerk)

* *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
110.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies from Councillors Nick Byrne, Matt Ford, Caroline Price, Jools Rogers and Nathan Warren	
111.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillors Lynda Clarkson, Gaynor James, Jon James 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
112.	<u>Biodiversity Sub Committee</u> As the Chair of biodiversity was unable to be present and give a verbal update on the Biodiversity Sub Committee it was unanimously agreed to defer this to the September Planning and Environment meeting. <u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that a verbal update be given by the Chair of the Biodiversity Sub Committee at September's Planning & Environment Committee.	

113.	<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
114.	<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
115.	<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
116.	<p><u>Benches</u></p> <p>The Committee was asked to approve/consider the following requests:</p> <p>(a) Supply a bench at both Berry's Corner and Chestnut Close providing they are standardised recycled plastic ones as used in the park. Agreed</p> <p>(b) Replace/refurbish/relocate bench at Maple Road that is low and poorly sited. Agreed. The Chair stated that he had seen the photographs of this; adding that it was sited in a very precarious place. Cllr NW to give an update at Council on best place to locate it.</p> <p>(c) Adding a commemorative plaque to the recently refurbished seat located in the park, in memory of Mrs Ruth Tucker. Agreed, subject to obtaining permission from the relevant department at TCBC.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*:</u> that the requests as outlined above be approved with costs to be reported to the next meeting.</p>	

117.

Play Equipment

The Committee received an e-mail from Henrietta Lucas (HL) in relation to a request from Pantygasseg Community Association asking about funding of fencing. The quote that had been received was for approx. £8000. The Clerk informed the meeting that Claire Pearce Crawford (CPF) is from Pantygasseg Community Association and when HL attended the last meeting the committee had talked about funding the fencing for this project. Ceri Jones (CJ) Community Development Officer informed the meeting that she had met with CPF who had informed her that after an inspection report from Torfaen, there was a piece of equipment that needed repairing at a cost of £200 (replacement of seat covers) CJ stated that there are three separate areas within the Pantygasseg Play area which includes a sports space, a nature garden with picnic benches and the park, it is used and supported very well by families with children who have got special needs/additional needs/home schoolers. It was unanimously agreed that £8,200 be awarded for the funding of the fencing and the play equipment repair.

CJ informed the meeting that in relation to the replacement of play equipment at Pontnewynydd (Clerk clarified it was not Pontypool) the Council know how much the figure would be. The Clerk stated that the figure she had been quoted at the last meeting was up to £150,000 for play equipment. CJ stated that the National Lottery Medium fund which awards grants from £10K to £100K is available to apply for funding if it partners with other agencies and community members is the People and Places medium sized grant. CJ asked if there was a community association within Pontnewynydd that could apply to other trusts for the difference, unfortunately there was not.

CJ stated that there was also a possibility of funding of up to £50,000 being available from the People's Health Trust although there are a few grey areas so she would check this out. Cllr LC recommended looking at match funding, although it might not be achieved in the short term it could be built into our budget plans. It was agreed that CJ would continue to source and apply for funding as outlined above.

Cllr RC informed the meeting that he had attended a Bron Afon open day in his role as a first aider with St. John's Ambulance a while ago; he stated that a number of people

	<p>who had attended on the day had asked Officers who worked for Bron Afon if they could replace some play equipment back in the park and they had said they would make enquiries. It was agreed that Bron Afon be contacted to establish their position in relation to this.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) that £8,200 be awarded for the funding of fencing and repair of seat covers as outlined above. (ii) that CJ continue to source and apply for funding that could be available to the Community Council in relation to providing play equipment. (iii) that Bron Afon be contacted to establish their position in relation to the play equipment at Pontnewynydd Park. 	<p>LM/CC</p> <p>CJ</p> <p>LM/JW</p>
118.	<p><u>Canal Strategy: Task & Finish Group</u></p> <p>The Committee received the terms of Reference for the Canal Strategy Task & Finish Group; and nominated Councillor Nathan Warren to be the nominated member to serve on this Task & Finish Group.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) that the terms of reference for the Canal Strategy: Task & Finish Group be noted. (ii) that Councillor Nathan Warren be the Council's nominated representative to serve on this Group. 	<p>Cllr NW</p>
119.	<p><u>Forest Schools</u></p> <p>The Committee received a report from Mrs AA, Events Officer. The purpose of the report was for the Council to consider the provision of Forest School Sessions for 2023. The Clerk stated that unfortunately Mrs Donna Squirrel is unable to take the lessons this year due to taking a permanent teaching post, so Monlife have informed her that an instructor could come and conduct Forest School sessions. This would be at a cost of £250 per instructor, per day for groups up to 12 pupils.</p> <p>Mrs RC, Projects & Events Manager stated that the lessons used to take place at Greenmeadow Community Farm but as that is currently closed that is not an option. It was agreed that this item be deferred to Full Council for Mrs RC to ascertain if the American Gardens would be able to be used as a venue. The Clerk also referred to Hannah Cubie at the Canal who may also be able to accommodate the</p>	

	<p>request.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: that further information be gathered and that this item be deferred to Full Council as outlined above.</p>	RC/ LM
120.	<p><u>Christmas Trees</u></p> <p>The Committee received a report on the siting of Christmas trees from Mrs AA, Projects & Events Officer. Mrs RC stated that Mrs AA had been working closely with Cllr NW on this; she believed the current position is that they are waiting for site visits and assessments to take place with representatives from Torfaen. Cllr LC confirmed this was the case as relayed to the Biodiversity Sub Committee the previous evening.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: that the report and information to date be noted, with an update to be given at the next P & E meeting.</p>	AA
121.	<p><u>Litter/Doggy Bins</u></p> <p>Mrs RC, Projects & Events Manager stated that at present it was quiet on the litter/dog bin front. She was working with Sian Watkins and would hopefully have a list of all the bins that needed some maintenance or replacement, including looking at larger bins instead of smaller ones and would report back to Committee on a month-to-month basis. The only bin that presently needed to be installed was by the Gorsedd stones which was part of the Poetry trail.</p> <p>Cllr LC stated that there is overcrowding of bins in her ward, and it may be worth looking at removing some and relocating them, also referring to vandalism. The Chair stated that he had discussed this with his Vice-Chair as the same problem seemed to be happening in various wards, they were going to look at an overall restructure of what the Council are doing with the bins and compile an overall plan, not just a straight replacement of bins. Cllr LC stated that she has suggestions for some of the areas in her wards which she would be happy to share.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: that the information as outlined be received noting that Litter/Doggy Bins was work in progress, with updates to be given at each P & E meeting.</p>	RC/AA MW

122.	<p><u>Notice Boards</u></p> <p>Mrs RC informed the meeting that Sian Watkins team came and collected another notice board from the Unit last week and that one is going to be situated at St. Mary's Drive/Greenway Drive, Griffithstown, the previous board had to be removed a little while ago because of damage so this would be installed shortly dependent on weather.</p> <p>The other one in Griffithstown would be the relocation of the notice board from Hill Street/Oxford Street to outside the Panteg surgery. RC confirmed that the Councillors of the Griffithstown wards had agreed for that one to be resited, so she was just waiting for a reply from Torfaen to see if she needed to apply for planning permission to site that one outside the surgery.</p> <p>Finally, RC stated that at the last meeting there was an error in the information she gave, she had stated that a Notice Board had been sited at Station Road, but it had been sited at Stafford Road, so she just wanted to clear that up for the minutes.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the current position as outlined by the Projects & Events Manager in relation to notice boards be received and noted.</p>	RC
123.	<p><u>Committee Budget</u></p> <p>Members received the budget and reserves within its remit and the spend to date.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the information be noted.</p>	

* This is a recommendation to the Council. The Council will make the final decision at a future meeting.

Signed by Chair

