

MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICES
WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2018

In attendance:

Councillor M. Ford (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: K. J. Arthur, N. Byrne, Mrs E. Chilcott JP, D. K. James, Mrs G. E. James, N. Jones, J. Killick, Mrs R. Matthews, Mrs N. P. Parrish, B. Rapier, N. Simons.

Officers in attendance: Mrs C. Challenger, Mrs C. Hillier (Minutes)

248 **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the Public.

249 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms L. Clarkson, Mrs E. Hunt, Mrs J. E. Jones, R. Mills, R. F. Overton.

RESOLVED: that the apologies be noted.

250 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Mrs G. E. James, N. Jones, and Mrs N. P. Parrish declared an interest on any item on the agenda relating to Torfaen County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: that the declarations of interest be recorded.

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251 **Speaker**

The Chair welcomed Mr Julian Davenne, Play Service Manager, Torfaen Play and Short Breaks Service. (Report attached)

RESOLVED: that Mr Davenne be thanked for attending the November meeting of the Council.

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Chairman's Announcements

18 October 2018

Open Evening of Torfaen Museum

Attended by Leader, Deputy Leader, Vice-Chair of Council, Chair of Policy & Finance

10 November 2018

Garndiffaith Gleemen Annual Remembrance Concert at Garndiffaith Millennium Hall

Attended by Chairman and Consort

11 October 2018

Remembrance Parade at Civic Centre and Memorial Gates as well as other Remembrance Services throughout Pontypool

Attended Chair and Vice Chair of Council, Leader and Deputy Leader and other Members throughout the Pontypool wards.

RESOLVED: that the Chair and Members be thanked for attending the listed events.

253

Full Council

Members received and considered the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 17 October 2018

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 17 October 2018 be confirmed as a true record.

254

Policy & Finance

The Council received Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 31 October 2018.

Councillor N. Byrne requested the Minutes be amended to show that he had given apologies to the meeting.

Councillor Mrs N. P. Parrish thanked the Deputy Leader for his services in Chairing the meeting which she was unable to attend due to illness.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee 31 October 2018 be approved subject to the appropriate amendment being made.

255 **Planning & Environment**

The Council received Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held 7 November 2018.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting 7 November 2018 be approved.

256 **Events**

The Council received the Minutes of the Events Committee meeting held 14 November 2018.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Events Committee meeting 14 November 2018 be approved.

257 **Planning Applications**

Members received and considered planning applications.

RESOLVED: that no observations were received for submission to Torfaen County Borough Council.

258 **Abersychan Christmas Tree**

The Council received an update by the Finance Manager on the status of the request made at October Council for a Christmas Tree in Abersychan. Members noted that the Officer had contacted SSE who had confirmed that the site needed to be assessed to ascertain whether the location had a feeder pillar or access to the electricity supply. Therefore this year the installation of a tree will not go ahead. This matter will be discussed by Members at Budget Day on 28 November 2018.

The Chair proposed that the Abersychan Christmas Tree must be included in the 2019 Christmas Tree plan and considered by the Events Committee in order to ensure fairness for every Ward. A Member requested that all Members be informed prior to the inclusion of this item on the February Events Committee agenda.

RESOLVED: (i) that the meeting note the observations of the Finance Manager.

(ii) that the Abersychan Christmas Tree be added to the 2019 plan and be considered at Budget Day 28.11.18.

(iii) that Members be informed prior to the inclusion of this item on the Events Committee agenda.

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259 **Eisteddfod**

The meeting received the minutes of the Eisteddfod Working Party meeting held 13 November 2018 and considered the adoption of the Urdd Model of allocating set pieces to schools.

The Chair stated that he did not agree with the adoption of the Urdd model and he proposed an amendment that all schools be judged together. Members agreed that this would be a fair way forward and approved the proposed amendment.

RESOLVED: that Members approve the proposed amendment that all schools be judged together.

260 **Ti'r Pentwys Appeal**

Members received and considered a letter received from SLR Consulting Limited regarding the Ti'r Pentwys Appeal. The following objections and questions were raised by the local Ward Member:

1. The Closing date for comments has meant that Pontypool Community Council has not been able to fully review the large amounts of information in the time scales given. However, it is noted that the 3rd Supplementary Environmental Statement is very late in its presentation when considering that the Public Enquiry starts in January 2019 and the closing date for all case documents is 15th December 2018.
2. To the knowledge of the Acting Clerk, this is the first time direct contact has been made to the Community Council regarding this major application. This is noted by the Community Council.

3. With reference to the provision of alternative common land – is it equivalent in its amenity value to that lost by the road alterations and new road across the Common?
The land proposed is immediately bordered by the working area of the proposed quarry so will be negatively impacted by ongoing quarrying and traffic movements and it is not an area currently used by local residents for their enjoyment, which is the case for the areas proposed too be lost.
4. The road improvements proposed will have a negative visual impact on the unique environment and attractiveness of Uplands Common Land. Note: Changes of the Common have not previously been brought the attention of Pontypool Community Council for comment.
5. All HGV traffic movements going via Pontypool along the A472 and A4042 will have a traffic impact in an area with a poor safety record which is a cause for concern – Has this been fully re-evaluated within the proposal and a community consultation undertaken?

The meeting approved the proposal that a letter stating the Council's observations be sent to the Planning Inspectorate Wales.

RESOLVED: that a letter stating the Council's observations be sent to the Planning Inspectorate Wales.

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Ysgol Bryn Onnen

Members were advised by the Chair that the Community Council vacancy on the Governing Body of Ysgol Bryn Onnen had already been filled following the Chair of the Governing Body's invitation Blaenavon Town Council. The Chair proposed that in the first instance, Councillor G. Davies, Abersychan & Cwmavon Ward, be asked if he would be interested in being included on the Governing Body.

RESOLVED: that the Assistant Clerk ask Councillor G. Davies if he has an interest in being included on the Governing Body.

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262 **Intergenerational Event in Newport**

The meeting received and noted the information regarding the Launch of the Intergenerational Strategy in Newport on 20 December 2018, received from Ms S. Browne, Partnerships & Policy Manager, Torfaen County Borough Council.

RESOLVED: that Members note the information received.

263 **One Voice Wales Larger Local Council Committee**

- (i) Members received and noted a report from the Deputy Leader regarding the attendance by him and the Assistant Clerk at the Larger Local Council's Committee held at Llandrindod Wells on 17 October 2018.

The Deputy Leader informed Members that he and the Assistant Clerk had found the meeting to be extremely useful and in particular the following items>

- The information regarding the necessity to update the Community Council's insurance policies to include cyber liability.
- Interesting discussion regarding Community and Borough Councils working together.

Members noted that Deputy Leader and the Assistant Clerk subsequently attended a TCALC meeting held at Cwmbran Community Council offices. At the meeting it was proposed that the Borough Council and Community Councils work together to support Community Halls by contacting them to ascertain their needs and how we can jointly assist either financially or with advice on developing packs regarding funding applications.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Leader for the report and the useful information contained therein.

RESOLVED: (i) that the contents of the report be received and noted.

(ii) that the Community Council contact Community Halls in their area to ascertain their needs how we could assist either financially or with advice

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on developing packs regarding funding applications.

- (ii) Members received and noted the information relating to Understanding Welsh Places received from the Institute of Welsh Affairs. The Deputy Leader informed the meeting that the data based website will hold masses of specialist information and the organisation will be looking to the Community Council to provide them with relevant information.

The Deputy Leader advised the meeting that it had not always been the practice of the Council to allow staff members to attend all meetings of the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee and he recommended that due to the importance of these informative meetings staff be permitted to attend future meetings. Members approved the recommendation.

RESOLVED: (i) that Members note the information relating to Understanding Welsh Places received from the Institute of Welsh Affairs.

(ii) that the recommendation to permit staff to attend future meetings of the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee be approved.

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264 **Innovative Practice & National Awards Conference 2019**

Members received information relating to the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice & National Awards Conference and considered the nomination of a service or event in the 10 categories as outlined.

The Deputy Leader proposed the nomination in the Youth Awards category of the Pontypool Youth Council play “Mental Health”. Members wholeheartedly approved the proposal.

RESOLVED: (i) that Members note the information relating to the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice & National Awards.

(ii) that Members approve the proposal to nominate the Pontypool Youth Council play “Mental Health” to the Youth Awards category.

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265 **Subordinate Legislation Consolidation and Review**

Members received and considered the One Voice Wales response to the Subordinate Legislation Consolidation and Review Consultation.

RESOLVED: that Members note the One Voice Wales response to the Subordinate Legislation Consolidation and Review Consultation.

266 **Review of County Electoral Arrangements for the County Borough of Torfaen**

Members received and noted the submission of the Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales Final Recommendations to the Welsh Government of 9 November 2018.

RESOLVED: that Members receive and note the submission of the Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales Final Recommendations to the Welsh Government of 9 November 2018.

267 **Veterans in Wales**

Members received and considered information received from Welsh Government via One Voice Wales relating to Veterans in Wales.

RESOLVED: that Members note the information received from Welsh Government relating to Veterans in Wales.

268 **Changes to the Public Sector Deposit Fund**

Members received and considered information regarding changes to the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

RESOLVED: that Members note the changes to the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

269 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

270 **Special Council**

The Council received and confirmed the Minutes of the Special Council meeting held 24 October 2018 subject to the addition of Councillor N. Simons apologies to the Minutes

RESOLVED: that Council confirm the Minutes of the Special Council meeting 24 October 2018 subject to the agreed amendment.

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271 **Establishment Committee**

The Council received the Minutes of the Establishment Committee meeting held 31 October 2018. The meeting confirmed the Minutes subject to the following amendments:

- The addition of Councillor N. Byrne's apologies in the Minutes.
- The inclusion of the date of commencement for new staff job descriptions at 1 October 2018.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Establishment Committee meeting 31 October 2018 be confirmed as a true record subject to the appropriate amendments being made.

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Chair of Council

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