

MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICES
WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2018

In attendance:

Councillor M. Ford (In the Chair)

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

Miss C. Takel – Chair of Youth Council

Officers in attendance: Ms J. Wright, Mrs C. Hillier (Minutes)

The Chair welcomed Miss Caitlin Takel, Chair of Pontypool Youth Council, stating how great it is to have a member of the Youth Council sitting on Council.

272 **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the Public.

273 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms L. Clarkson, G. Davies, Mrs J. E. Jones, A. Lang and B. Rapier.

RESOLVED: that the apologies be noted.

274 **Declarations of Interest**

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

Councillor J. Killick declared a financial interest in Item 9 as a Governor of West Monmouth School.

RESOLVED: that the declarations of interest be recorded.

JW

275 **Chairman's Announcements**

24 November 2018

Opening of Winter Art Exhibition at Torfaen Museum
Attended by Chair and Vice-Chair of Council, Leader and Deputy Leader and Chair of Policy & Finance.

24 November

Christmas Cavalcade

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

1 December 2018

Parkinson's UK first Christmas Extravaganza at the Log Cabin.

Attended by Vice Chair of Council.

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

276 **Full Council**

Members received and considered the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21 November 2018.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 21 November 2018 be confirmed as a true record.

277 **Planning Applications**

Members received and considered planning applications.

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

AA

278 **Plenary Powers**

The Committee was asked to confirm observations made on planning applications by the Clerk to the Council in conjunction with the Chair of Planning under plenary powers.

RECOMMENDED: that the observations there-on be approved.

AA

279 **Youth Council**

It was noted by Council that Miss C. Takel and Miss L. Grindlay are the two Youth Councillors who have been co-opted to attend future Council meetings and the Chair thanked Miss Takel for attending her first one.

The Council further received the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on the 7th November 2018.

The Assistant Clerk gave a verbal update to the Council on the present position in respect of the Youth Council and read out a press release she had put together for member's approval. It was unanimously agreed that the press release be approved.

RESOLVED: (i) that the meeting note the co-option of Miss C. Takel and Miss L. Grindlay as the two Youth Councillors to attend future Council meetings.

(ii) that the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on the 7th November 2018 be approved.

(iii) that the Assistant Clerk sends a press release on the recruitment of new Youth Council members to the Free Press as agreed by Council.

JW

280 **Youth Festival Working Party**

Members received and considered the minutes of the Youth Festival Working Party meeting held on 14th November 2018.

Members noted that the Deputy Leader and two Youth Council members had visited West Mon School on 4th

December 2018 one of which was Miss Takel to look at the accommodation and facilities available for the Youth Festival in August 2019 as agreed at the Youth Festival working party meeting.

The Deputy Leader declared an interest as a governor on West Monmouth School and therefore left the room while this item was discussed.

Miss Takel informed the meeting that she and Miss Grindlay felt that the shower facilities at West Monmouth School were sited quite away from the accommodation block and if there was adverse weather this would pose a problem. She also added that she and Miss Grindlay felt that the shower facilities were unsuitable.

The Assistant Clerk informed the meeting that if the Council hold the venue at a school then detailed risk assessments in compliance with all health and safety legislation would need to be produced as well as risk assessments for all activities that take place.

In view of this the Assistant Clerk instructed the Events Officer to make enquiries with Amelia Trust Farm in Barry and Gilwern Outdoor Activity Centre in Gilwern which the Chair of Council had mentioned at the working party meeting and the maximum Amelia Farm could accommodate was 23 persons. On making enquiries with Gilwern Outdoor Activity Centre they are able to provide without any activities bed, breakfast, packed lunch and an evening meal for 40 people (4 Youth Support Leaders would be accommodated free of charge) over a 4 night/5 day period for a cost of £5824.00 (Packed Lunch and Evening meal are optional although have been included in the price dependent on itinerary) or £8,472.00 for a 6 night/5 day

A member asked if using the Centre at Gilwern would incur additional travel costs. The Assistant Clerk felt with the Council's approval that the length of the Youth Festival/Conference could be shortened to 4 nights/5 days to have a fuller programme and to keep down on costs, also Gilwern is only 9 miles away from Pontypool whereas Hilston park is 26 miles so she could not see there being additional costs especially if the council agreed to a 5 day instead of 7 day stay.

The Assistant Clerk added that Gilwern is fully compliant with all Health and Safety legislation particularly in respect safety of young people, and use of accommodation at Gilwern would not prevent the Council from utilising the school facilities at West Monmouth in respect of holding the conference at the theatre there subject to the school's agreement.

Members considered the proposals and unanimously agreed that the best option is for Gilwern Outdoor Activity Centre for the shorter period of 4 nights/5 days. It was noted that a draft itinerary of the Event in respect of transport/activities/events with full costings will be taken to the next Youth Festival Working party for consideration.

[The Deputy Leader returned to the room].

RESOLVED: (i) that the Minutes of the Youth Festival Working Party meeting held on the 14th November 2018 be approved.

(ii) that members approve the use of the Gwent Outdoor Activity Centre, Gilwern for accommodation for the Youth Festival 2019 as outlined above.

281 **Chair's Concert**

The Chairman requested that this item be deferred to the Events meeting in January so that he and the Chair of Events could get together over the Christmas period when they both had more time to bring some ideas together for his concert. This was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that the item on the Chair's Concert be deferred to the January Events meeting.

CEH

282 **Future Scenarios for Torfaen**

The meeting received the invitation to a workshop on Future Scenarios for Torfaen being organised on behalf of the Torfaen Public Services Board. The Deputy Leader stressed the importance of attending and the council unanimously agreed for him to attend. The

Chair invited any other members who wished to attend the workshop to inform the Assistant Clerk.

- RESOLVED:** (i) that members approve the nomination of the Deputy Leader to attend the workshop on Future Scenarios for Torfaen.
- (ii) that any other members who wish to attend the workshop inform the Assistant Clerk.

283 **Reports/Minutes - Welfare Reform Project Group (Torfaen Public Services Board)**

Members received and considered the minutes of the Welfare Reform Project Group (Torfaen Public Services Board) meeting 16 July 2018.

The Deputy Leader raised an issue in respect of the comment at minute no. 3.1 by the Head of Revenue & Benefits, Torfaen County Borough Council, Credit Update that “from an administrative point of view things have settled down”. The member stated that this is certainly not the view of the organisations providing help to people trying to receive Universal Credit of which there were still immense problems.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Welfare Reform Project Group meeting held on the 16th July 2018 and members subsequent comments of be noted.

284 **Suspension of Standing Orders**

Although no further business was on the agenda, a member proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to discuss the imminent closure of the Pontypool Police Station front desk which was closing on the 2nd January. Members voted on the proposal with 12 members for and 2 against.

A member proposed that the Council write to the Gwent Police Commissioner and the Chief Constable regarding the concerns of members on the decision to close the front desk at Pontypool Police Station. This was seconded. Members voted on the proposal with 11 members for and 3 against.

RESOLVED: that members approve the proposal to write to the Gwent Police Commissioner and the Chief Constable informing them of the concerns raised about the closure of the front desk at Pontypool Police Station.

JW

Chair of Council