

MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICES
WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2019

In attendance:

Councillor: Mrs R. Matthews (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: Ms. K. Arthur, Mrs E. Chilcott JP, Miss L. Clarkson, M. Ford, Mrs G. E. James, A. Lang, R. Mills, Mrs N. P. Parrish, N. Simons

Also in attendance: Mrs L. Jones-Williams, Acting Director, Llantarnam Arts Grange

Officer: Ms J. Wright

45. **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the Public.

46. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors N. Byrne, G. Davies, Mrs E. Hunt, D. K. James, Mrs J. E. Jones, N. Jones, R. F. Overton, B. Rapier, B. Taylor JP and Mrs J. Taylor.

RESOLVED: that the apologies be noted.

47. **Declarations of Interest**

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

Councillor R. Overton declared an interest in planning application 19/P/0254 as a parishioner of St. Mary's Church.

RESOLVED: that the declarations of interest be recorded.

JW

48. **Speaker**

The Chair welcomed Ms L. Jones-Williams, Acting Director of Llantarnam Grange Arts to give a presentation on the work of Llantarnam Grange. Report attached as an appendix to the minutes.

RESOLVED: that Ms L. Jones-Williams be thanked for her very comprehensive report on the work of Llantarnam Grange.

49. **Chairman's Announcements**

6th June

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance Awards
Attended by Chair of Council

6th June

Grants Presentation Evening at the Comrades Club
Attended by Chair and Vice-Chair of Council, Leader and Deputy Leader, Chair of Policy & Finance and Chair of Events

11th June

Pontypool Community Council Environmental Quiz at New Inn Primary School
Attended by Chair of Council, Chair of Events and Deputy Leader

14th – 17th June

“A Glimpse of the Empire” in Condexia
Attended by Chair of Council

15th June

50th Annual Plane Air Events at Torfaen Museum
Attended by Leader of Council

26th June

Cwmbran Community Council's Armed Forces Day Ceremony
Attended by Chair of Council

RESOLVED: that the Councillors be thanked for attending the event(s) on behalf of the Council.

50. **Council meeting**

The Council received the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 24th April 2019. The Deputy Leader made reference to minute 26 and reiterated the importance of all members checking the list provided by Torfaen Voluntary Alliance to see if there was a community building in their ward (scout hut, social club, sports club etc) that could be included on the list.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 25th April 2019 be confirmed as a true record.

(ii) that members check the list provided by Torfaen Voluntary Alliance in respect of Community Halls as outlined in minute 26 of the Council minutes.

51. **Policy & Finance**

Members received the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting held on the 5th June 2019.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting be approved as a true record.

52. **Events**

The Council received the minutes of the Events meeting held on the 19th June 2019, which were approved as a true record. As there was not another Events meeting until September it was also unanimously agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Events be awarded plenary powers in relation to any decisions in respect of forthcoming events.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the minutes of Events Committee be approved as a true record.

(ii) that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Events be awarded plenary powers as outlined.

53. **Planning Applications**
- Members received and considered Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Applications.
- RESOLVED:** that observations as outlined be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council. **AA**
54. **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.
- RESOLVED:** that the observations thereon be approved. **AA**
55. **Members' Allowances**
- The Council was asked to determine which members should receive the allowance of £500 for specific responsibilities (minimum of 1 and maximum of 5) as per Determination 46 of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales's report of 2018. The Council agreed to award the same members as the previous year to receive the allowance: Chair and Vice-Chair of Council, Leader and Deputy Leader.
- RESOLVED:** that the following 4 positions be awarded the allowance of £500 for specific responsibilities as per Determination 46 of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales's report of 2019: Chair and Vice-Chair of Council, Leader and Deputy Leader. **CC/
HB**
56. **Outside Representation**
- In respect of outside representation on Cold Barn Farm (now known as Trevethin Activity Centre) and Torfaen Museum it was agreed in the first instance that as there had been no representation for quite some time on Cold Barn Farm the organisation be informed that unfortunately the Council is unable to nominate a representative at this time. It was further agreed that

this item is not to be placed on an agenda again. In respect of Torfaen Museum it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk contacts all members asking if any Councillor would be interested in serving as the Community Council representative on Torfaen Museum before the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED: the Assistant Clerk to contact all members to ascertain if they are interested in being the Community Council representative on Torfaen Museum and to inform Cold Barn Farm as outlined above.

57. **Final Accounts**

Members received and considered the final accounts, the Annual Return and the Internal Audit Report for 2018/2019.

RESOLVED: (i) that the Council approves the final accounts 2018/2019.
(ii) that the Council approves the Annual Return 2018/2019
(iii) that the Council approve the Internal Audit Report 2018/2019

58. **Christmas Trees/Lights**

Members received a report on Christmas Trees & Lights and the costs of erecting a Christmas tree in Abersychan. The Vice-Chair of Events proposed that as there are two Christmas trees in Trevethin, one of which is sited at Pleasant Court with very little footfall that this tree could be resited at Abersychan subject to the Clerk contacting all appropriate parties for agreement. A member made reference to the residents at Pleasant Court and it was agreed to contact them to see if they would be willing to buy their own tree the Council would pay for the siting of it.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk take action as outlined above.

Clerk's Footnote:

- (i) the residents of Pleasant Court had originally requested a tree
- (ii) the major cost is the 'dressing of the tree with lights

- (iii) the cost of the tree itself is the least cost
- (iv) this item needs further discussion at the Events Committee.

59. **One Voice Wales**

Torfaen Replacement Local Development Workshops

The Council received information in relation to two workshops being held on the 4th and 17th July 2019 in respect of the Torfaen Replacement Local Development Plan. The Vice-Chair of Planning informed members how important it is to attend workshops covering this subject.

One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference

It was agreed that the Deputy Leader and the Clerk attend the One Voice Wales' Innovative Practice Conference to be held on the 10th July at the Royal Welsh Showground and the two places be booked to this effect.

Basic On-Line Learning

Members received an e-mail from Mr L. Cadwallader, Chief Executive of One Voice Wales to say that One Voice Wales has now 7 on-line basis learning modules available on its website for use by all Councillors in Wales. The subject areas they cover are Code of Conduct, Council as an Employer, Diversity and Inclusion, Health and Safety, Induction, Local Government Finance, Understanding the Law. The on-line materials are intended to supplement the face to face training which One Voice Wales currently offers and Councillors can access One Voice Wales on-line basis on-line learning modules from the following web-link:

[http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk/OVWeb/basiconline training-7451 .aspx](http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk/OVWeb/basiconline%20training-7451.aspx)

The Vice-Chair of Events proposed that an evening(s) could be set aside where all Councillors could be invited to the Council Chamber in order that an in-house training session(s) can be undertaken with the Overhead Projector

Amazing Tree in Pontypool

The Council received information from Mr R. Francis, at the Woodland Trust via One Voice Wales that the Council may wish to nominate an amazing tree in Pontypool to put on the map for which there is a £1000.00 tree care grant available.

The Vice-Chair of Planning proposed that Mr S. Williams, Torfaen's Ecologist Officer be contacted to see if he knew of any amazing tree(s) in the Community that could be put on the map not to lose this incredible opportunity. The Council unanimously agreed to this and it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk contacts Mr Williams as agreed informing him that the closing date for entries is the 19th July 2019.

RESOLVED: that a letter be sent to Torfaen's Ecologist Officer as outlined above.

60. **Proposed meeting regarding Shared Green Infrastructure Strategy**

The Council received information in relation to a meeting being held on the 2nd July 2019 regarding Shared Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Vice-Chair of Planning & Environment had stated she would be attending, however stressed the importance of all members attending this important subject matter.

The Deputy Leader stated that he would also be in attendance. The Vice-Chair of Events proposed that a letter be sent to Torfaen County Borough Council asking them to consider holding an additional meeting/workshop in the evening on important matters such as this as it is extremely difficult for members who work full time to attend day time meetings who are unable to get the time of work thus missing vital information.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted and that a letter be sent to Torfaen as outlined above.

JW

61. **Real Schule**

The Council received a request from the Real Schule in Bretten to visit the Civic Centre on the 19th July 2019 and be greeted by the Chair of Council and provided with light refreshments. All members unanimously agreed with this.

RESOLVED: that the Chair of Council meets and greets the Real Schule at the Civic

Centre on the 19th July 2019 and light refreshments provided.

62.

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.

63.

Events Committee

Members received minutes 45 and 46 of the Events Committee held on the 19th June 2019.

RESOLVED: that minutes 45 and 46 of the Events meeting be approved as a true record.

Chair