

**MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**  
**PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICES**  
**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**In attendance:**

Councillor: Mrs R. Matthews (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: Mrs K. Arthur, Mrs E. Chilcott JP, M. Ford, Mrs E. Hunt, Mrs G. James, N. Jones, J. Killick, R. Mills, Mrs N. Parrish, N. Simons

Officers: Clerk – Mrs R. Tucker and Events Officer - Mrs A. Ambrosen

142. **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the Public.

143. **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors N. Byrne, Miss L. Clarkson, G. Davies, D. K. James, A. Lang R. Overton, B. Taylor JP and Mrs J. Taylor.

**RESOLVED:** that the apologies be noted.

144. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Mrs G. James, 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 Mrs E. Chilcott and Councillor J. Killick declared an interest in item 10 on the agenda relating to a grant on to Cwmffrwdor Primary School.

**RESOLVED:** that the declarations of interest be recorded.

145. **Chairman's Announcements**

**29<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Judging of Photo Competition winner  
Attended by Chair of Council

**10<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

Art Exhibition at Torfaen Museum

**JW**

Attended by Chair of Council

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

Welcome to twinned youth from four countries attending Pontypool Community Council Offices.

Attended by Chair of Council, Leader of Council and Chair of Events

**16<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

Official delegates twinning reception hosted as Pontypool Community Council

Attended by Chair of Council, Leader and Deputy Leader and Vice-Chair of Events

**17<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**AM**

Youth Festival Twinning Conference on provision of mental Health at West Monmouth School

Attended by Chair of Council, Leader and Deputy Leader and Vice-Chair of Events

**PM**

Youth twinning disco at Comrades Club

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

**18<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**PM**

Photoshoot at Pontypool park with shortlisted amazing tree.

Attended by Chair and Leader of Council

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019**

**AM**

Raising the Pride Flag at Cwmbran Community Council

Attended by Chair of Council

**PM**

End of Summer Play scheme awards at Cwmbran at Victory Church, Cwmbran.

Attended by Chair of Council

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

146. **Council meeting**

The Council received the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**RECOMMENDED:**

(i) that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be confirmed as a true record.

147. **Policy & Finance**

Members received the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The Deputy Leader referred to minute 115 financial assistance to churches. He stated that legally the Council is not allowed to give grants to churches including church halls. He proposed that Councillors give money to organisations that they know use the church halls and this money could then be used to pay the rent for the use of the building and that allows the Council to stay within the law.

A member stated that in the past she had given to a project that helps with the upkeep of graveyards and she enquired if that would still be allowed to happen, the Clerk stated that yes it would be and that Councillors could give money to projects regarding the upkeep of church cemeteries.

A member stated that many organisations use church buildings so it could be difficult to know who to allocate the money too plus the maximum amount that any organisation can receive through local voluntary funding is £500.

A member stated that as it is illegal to give to churches the Council must abide by the law and proposed that how members allocate the money must be their choice.

The proposal was moved, seconded and voted on and the members voted to approve the proposal.

**RECOMMENDED:** (i) that the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting be approved as a true record.

(ii) that Councillors give money to organisations that they know use the church halls and this money could then

**CC/AA**

be used to pay the rent for the use of the building.

**All  
Members**

148. **Planning & Environment**

The Council received the minutes of the Planning & Environment meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 which were approved as a true record. The Leader asked members to vote for the amazing tree if they had not already done so. Members present stated that they had voted. The Sebastopol East member asked if her allocation of daffodill bulbs be planted in Panteg Park. She also asked if other members in Griffithstown and Sebastopol to donate some of their allocation of bulbs to the park.

**RECOMMENDED** (i) that the minutes of Planning & Environment Committee be approved as a true record.

(ii) that the Sebastopol East member daffodill bulb allocations be planted in Panteg Park plus the other Griffithstown/Sebastopol members be asked to allocate some of their bulbs to the park.

149. **Events**

Members received the minutes of the Events meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The Clerk referred to min 138 - members were told that the Council had now hired two containers in a storage unit in Cwmbran for the 2019 storage of the Christmas lights. The Clerk explained that this was only for this year and that the unit the Council rents in Pontnewynydd would be cleared in 2020 ready to store the 2020 Christmas lights.

**RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the Events Committee be approved as a true record.

150. **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**

151. **Environmental Grants**

The Clerk informed the meeting that Cwmffrwdoer school had submitted a request for an environmental grant at that point The Deputy Leader left the room having declared an interest as a Governor.

The Clerk explained the details of the request and it was agreed that Cwmffrwdoer would be granted £1000 towards their project and be invited to attend the presentation evening on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

A member asked when schools were contacted to apply for a grant. The Events Officer explained that the schools were contacted in early September. Some Members did not think that the time frame was adequate.

A discussion took place regarding time frames for schools to apply and time frames regarding receiving the money.

It was proposed that the three schools that were contacted in September be told that they have until the end of November to submit an application to the Council and if any applications are received then they would be placed on the December Full Council agenda for consideration. The proposal was voted on and all members agreed. The Deputy Leader re-entered the meeting.

**RECOMMENDED:** (i) that Cwmffrwdoer School be awarded £1000 towards their environmental project and be invited to receive the award at the presentation evening on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**AA**

(ii) that the three schools that were contacted in September be told that they have until the end of November to submit an application to the Council and if any applications are received then they would be placed on the December Full Council agenda for consideration.

**AA**

152. **Governors**

The Council was asked to consider again nominations for the following School Governing Bodies:

Penygarn Community  
George Street  
Ysgol Panteg

**RT**

A discussion took place and the following was recommended:

Penygarn Community – A member for the Trevethin Ward stated that he knew of a resident who would like to represent the Council on the Penygarn Governing Body until such time that a Council Member would like to become a governor at the school. The Clerk asked the member to give her the details of the person. All agreed.

George Street – The Clerk explained that the current Member who is on the Governing Body had been written to asking if they still wanted to be a Governor at the school but no reply had been received. The Ward Member was asked if he would enquire with local residents to see if they would be willing to represent the Council as a Governor until such time that a Council Member would like to become a governor at the school.

Ysgol Panteg – The Clerk explained that she would be interested in representing the Council on the Governing Body until such time that a Council Member would like to become a governor at the school. All agreed.

A Member stated that it is very important for Council members to fill the Governor positions either with a Council member or a Council representative.

**RESOLVED:** (i) Penygarn - that the member for the Trevethin Ward give the Clerk details of a resident who would like to represent the Council on the Penygarn Governing Body until such time that a Council Member would like to become a governor at the school.

**RT**

(ii) George Street - that the Ward member enquires with local residents to see if they would be willing to represent the Council as a Governor until such time that a Council Member would like to become a governor at the school.

(iii) Ysgol Panteg – that the Clerk represent the Council as a Governor until such time that a Council Member would like to become a governor at the school.

**RT**

153. **Charter**

Members were asked to approve the redrafted Charter between the Community Council and Torfaen County Borough Council.

Members agreed to approve the redrafted Charter.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council approve the redrafted Charter.

154. **One Voice Wales Conference and AGM**

Members were asked to nominate a member(s) to attend the One Voice Wales Conference and AGM on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

A discussion took place and Councillor J. Killick was nominated to attend the One Voice Wales Conference and AGM.

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor J. Killick attend the One Voice Wales Conference and AGM.

**JW**

155. **Our Valleys, Our Communities, Our Stations**

The Council received information from One Voice Wales in respect of dates and venues. Members were asked to complete the survey.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be received.

156.

**Carnegie UK**

Members received information from the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales in respect of the Carnegie UK Trust.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be received

157.

**Digital mechanisms**

Members received an e-mail from Mrs T. Gilmartin-Ward, One Voice Wales in respect of digital mechanisms. The Deputy Leader stated that our sector needed to use digital mechanisms but he was not sure if we could. He would report to next Council

**RESOLVED:** (i) that the information be received  
(ii) that the Deputy Leader report to the next Full Council meeting if Pontypool were well represented.

158. **Reports/Minutes**

Members received the minutes of the Local Councils Partnership Committee held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

The Deputy Leader referred to page 72, point 5 – Community halls mapping exercise and the support the Council wanted to give to Community buildings.

The Deputy Leader explained that meetings would be held as follows:

7<sup>th</sup> October – 6pm – 8pm – Blaenavon Workingmens Hall

16<sup>th</sup> October – 6pm -8pm – New Panteg

17<sup>th</sup> October – 1pm – 3pm - Mount Pleasant

He explained that the meetings would be about what the needs are for those buildings and he encouraged members to attend the meetings plus he would be encouraging the people who run the buildings to also attend. A member asked the Clerk to email the dates, times and venues to all Councillors.

The Clerk was asked to invite Andrew Osbourne from Torfaen County Borough Council to attend a future Council meeting to explain Green Infrastructure to all members.

A member enquired as to when the agenda for the Local Councils Partnership Committee were distributed and mentioned the current lack of time Members had to view what was on the agenda for the meetings. The Deputy Leader agreed and stated that the information should be sent out at least three weeks before the meeting in order for time to be given to Councillors to submit any comments to the representatives. It was recommended that the Clerk contact the Local Councils Partnership Committee and request that the agenda be sent out three weeks before the meeting date and then email the dates and times to all members.

**RECOMMENDED:** (i) that the Clerk was invite Andrew Osbourne from Torfaen County Borough Council to attend a future Council meeting.

**RT**

Chair