

**MINUTES OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL PLANNING &
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICES
WEDNESDAY 15th JANUARY 2020**

In attendance:

Councillor: Mrs G. E. James (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: Councillor Mrs L Clarkson, J Killick and Mrs R Matthews.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs E Chilcott, Mrs J. E. Jones, N. Simons and Mrs J. Taylor

Officers: Ms J. Wright, Mrs A. Ambrosen (minute taker)

254.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor Mrs G. E. James declared an interest in any item on the agenda relating to Torfaen County Borough Council</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the declarations of interest be recorded.</p>	JW
255.	<p><u>Keep Wales Tidy</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Mr Thomas Board from Keep Wales Tidy to the meeting to give a presentation on litter hubs. Presentation attached as an appendix to the minutes.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that an item be placed on January Full Council to recommend that the Community Council office become a litter hub that the local community can access equipment from.</p>	RT/JW
256.	<p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <p>Members received and considered Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Applications.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that observations as outlined be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.</p>	CP/AA

257.	<p><u>Plenary Powers</u></p> <p>Members received planning observations made in conjunction with the Clerk.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the Plenary Powers observations be noted.</p>	CP/AA
258.	<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>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the planning determinations be noted.</p>	CP/AA
259.	<p><u>BT Public Call Box Removals</u></p> <p>The Committee received letters from the BT Payphone Planning Officer and Ofcom in relation to BT Public Call Box Removals. The Assistant Clerk read out an e-mail from Mrs R.C. Events Officer in respect of a gentleman who had rang the Council asking for support in respect of writing to BT asking them not to remove the payphone box on Newport Road due to him phoning the United States on a frequent basis. The ward member for Garndiffaith also said that there would be serious concerns if the payphone at Stanley Road was removed. It was agreed in the first instance that as the 90 day consultation period ends on the 2nd March 2020 that this be placed as an item on Full Council in order that the ward member for Garndiffaith could consult residents of her community and obtain more information and that Mrs R.C. contact the gentleman and ask him to contact his ward members and supply them with more detailed information in order that a more comprehensive reply can be put together once the relevant facts have been received.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> (i) that this item be placed on January Full Council in order that the ward member for Garndiffaith can consult residents of her community and obtain more information. (ii) Mrs R.C contact the gentleman asking him to contact his ward members and supply them with more detailed information in order that a more comprehensive reply can be put</p>	<p>RT/JW</p> <p>RC</p>

	<p>together once the relevant facts have been received.</p>	
260.	<p><u>Environmental (Wales) Act 2016 – s.6 duty</u></p> <p>The Committee was asked to consider and approve the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems duty report 2019.</p> <p>The Committee were told that the report was compiled mainly by Mrs R.C. - Events Officer with guidance from the Clerk.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader stated that the report was very good and that the Clerk and Events Officer should be thanked for producing the report.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> (i) that the report be approved. (ii) that Mrs RC and the Clerk be thanked for producing a very good report.</p>	
261.	<p><u>Environmental Planning Champion</u></p> <p>The Committee was asked to nominate members to serve as the Environmental and Well-Being Champions for the Council. As there was no information in respect of what both these roles entailed it was agreed that this item be placed on Full Council to ascertain more information.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that this item be placed on Full Council to ascertain more information.</p>	JW/RC
262.	<p><u>Doggy/Litter Bins</u></p> <p>The Committee received an e-mail from Ms L. Ash, Torfaen's Business Support Officer requesting a doggy bin at the end of Abersychan Rugby Club pitch. The Vice-Chair of Planning stated that while she did not have a problem with this request she made the point that members were still waiting for the siting of doggy/litter bins in their wards that they had requested last year. It was agreed that this item be placed on the next Planning & Environment Committee in order that the Clerk can put a comprehensive report together on the present position in respect of doggy/litter bins and that a letter be sent to Ms. Ash to say that her request will be considered at next month's Planning & Environment meeting.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> (i) that this item be placed on the next Planning & Environment</p>	

	<p>Committee in order that the Clerk can put a comprehensive report together on the present position in respect of doggy/litter bins. (ii) that a letter be sent to Ms. Ash to say that her request will be considered at next month's Planning & Environment meeting</p>	<p>RT JW</p>
263.	<p><u>Feedback from Party in the Park</u></p> <p>The Committee received a list of feedback issues from members of the public who attended Party in the Park of which the majority related to environmental matters. The Committee went through the list one by one to ascertain which suggestions the Community Council could address. The following suggestions were highlighted as issues that the Community Council could address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More dog/litter bins – The Community Council are currently looking at sites for dog/litter bins in conjunction with Torfaen County Borough Council. • A litter bin be sited on Sunnybank Road – it was recommended that the ward member for that area be contacted to suggest an appropriate site where the bin could be located on Sunnybank Road. • Keeping Noticeboards up to date – all members and staff who are responsible for noticeboards have been asked to keep them updated. • Track down Penygarn Hill is not accessible for prams and wheelchairs – Torfaen County Borough Council are upgrading this footpath in the near future. • More play equipment/facilities in parks – It was stated that money is currently budgeted for play equipment and that grants could be applied for to help with funding new equipment. It was recommended that an item be placed on a future meeting to ask members what play areas need addressing in members' wards. • More social media/website updates on what the Council is doing – A member stated that navigation of the website is too complicated. A discussion took place regarding the company hosting the website plus new regulations coming into force regarding the accessibility of websites. It was recommended that an item be placed on Full Council detailing the current position in respect of the Council's website. • More things for teenagers to do – the Community Council is in the process of addressing this. 	<p>RC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the Town Centre/tidy it up – the Community Council is in the process of supporting this. • Greater variety of shops in Pontypool/reduce business rates – The Leader stated the business rates are set on the size of the premises and that the Welsh Assembly are currently working on reducing business rates. • More effective policing – although the Community Council could not directly improve this they could recommended that more meetings take place between the police and the Community Council. <p>RECOMMENDED: (i) that the Ward Member for Sebastopol East be contacted to suggest an appropriate site along Sunnybank Road for a litter bin. (ii) that an item on litter/doggy bin sites be placed on the February Planning and Environment Committee Agenda. (iii) that an item be placed on a future Planning & Environment meeting in respect of play equipment. (iv) that an item be placed on Full Council regarding improving the website. (v) that the police be contacted to ask for regular update meetings with the Community Council.</p> <p>[Footnote: In liaison with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning there will be an item on Play equipment at the next Planning & Environment meeting].</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>RT</p> <p>JW</p> <p>JW/AA</p> <p>RT</p>
264.	<p><u>Tree Award</u></p> <p>Members considered how to spend the £1000 prize money awarded for the tree of the year competition.</p> <p>Reference was made to a report produced by an Officer at Torfaen County Borough after a meeting that the Vice-Chair of Planning and the Events had attended in December. Concern was expressed in going down the route outlined in the report as members felt that this could be precarious.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed that in the first instance that the £1000.00 award money be used to purchase an interpretation board/plaque and to this effect the Events Officer Ms R.C produce a comprehensive report outlining the proposed project including full costings. Members felt</p>	

	<p>any remaining funds could be utilised by obtaining specialist advice from the Woodlands Trust. There was some confusion in respect of match funding and money be putting aside in future years so it was recommended that the Assistant Clerk establish the exact position with the Finance Manager and Accountant.</p> <p>Members were made aware of two deadlines that were set in order to claim the money:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Woodland trust are told by 1st February 2020 how the money would be spent. • Tree works/activities should be completed by no later than July 2020. <p>It was recommended that the Assistant Clerk contact the Woodland Trust to ask for a possible extension on the deadline of the 1st February in order that a more comprehensive and detailed report can be produced.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDED: (i) that an interpretation board/plaque be purchased and sited at the tree for educational and environmental purposes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(ii) that the Assistant Clerk establishes the position in respect of funding as outlined above.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(iii) that the Assistant Clerk contacts the Woodland Trust to ask for a possible extension on the deadline of the 1st February.</p> <p>[Footnote: (i) The Finance Manager has stated that it was agreed at budget that £1000.00 be match funded for this year only.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(ii) The Woodlands Trust has given the Community Council an extension to the 1st March 2020.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(iii) Mrs R. C. will be providing a comprehensive report to go to the next Planning & Environment Committee in respect of the Interpretation Board/Plaque along with full costings.</p>	<p>CC/ LM</p> <p>JW</p> <p>RC</p>
265.	<p><u>Temporary Prohibition of Pedestrians</u></p> <p>The Committee received information on Pontypool (Abersychan) Community: Public Footpath NO's 3, 4, and 5 (Part) & 6 request for a temporary prohibition of pedestrians between Penygarn and Trevethin, Pontypool. The Deputy Leader stated that he thought that this was used as a safe route to school for children in the area and he had safety concerns if the footpath would be closed</p>	

	<p>during term time. It was recommended that Torfaen County Borough Council be contacted to find out if the route is a safe route to school and what provisions Torfaen have put in place for children using the route to get to school. The findings can then be brought to Full Council.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that Torfaen County Borough Council be contacted to find out if the route is a safe route to school and what provisions Torfaen have put in place for children using the route to get to school and as soon as a reply has been received to place it as agenda item.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair of Planning & Environment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JW</p>
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