

**MINUTES OF POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN
COUNCIL CHAMBER, PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Wednesday 5th February 2020**

In attendance:

Councillor: Mrs N. P. Parrish (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: J. Killick, Ms K. Arthur, Miss L. Clarkson,
Mrs E. Hunt, Mrs G. E. James, A. Lang, R. Overton

Officers: Mrs R. Tucker, Ms J. Wright

293. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors G. Davies and B. Taylor JP

RECOMMENDED: that the apologies be recorded.

294. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Mrs G. E. James, R. Overton and Mrs N. P. Parrish declared an interest in any item relating to Torfaen County Borough Council.

RECOMMENDED: that the declarations of interest as outlined above be recorded.

JW

295. **Schedule of Receipts and Payments**

The Committee received the schedule of receipts and payments for November and December 2019.

RECOMMENDED: that the schedule of Receipts & Payments for November and December 2019 be approved and the information duly noted.

296. **Financial Budget Comparison (Monitoring Report)**

The Committee received and considered the financial budget comparison report to the end of December 2019.

RECOMMENDED: that the financial budget

comparison report to the end of December 2019
be approved.

297. **Local Voluntary Funding**

Local Voluntary Funding was confirmed as follows subject to all the appropriate checks being completed by the Finance Officer.

Cllr N. Simons

Pontypool and District Schools RFU under 11's -
£500.00

Tranch Ladies AFC - £200.00

Wainfelin and Pentranth Community Hall - £200.00

Aneurin Bevan Court Residents Association - £200.00

Pontypool Rugby Football Club - £500.00

s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
1976

Hope GB - £500.00

Charities Act 2003, s.79

Cllr G. Davies

Talywain and District WI - £150.00

Talywain O.A.P. Club - £100.00

Cwmavon Village Hall - £650.00 (Project)

s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
1976

Cllr N. Byrne

Cwmavon Village Hall - £650.00 (Project)

Cllr Ms. K. Arthur

Talywain OAP Club - £300.00

Garndiffaith Millennium Hall - £225.00

Garndiffaith Bowls Club - £250.00

Fairfield United AFC - £300.00

1st Garndiffaith Scouts Association

Varteg Hall - £150.00

Friends of the British - £250.00

s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
1976

Friends of Garnteg School - £250.00

S137/Local Gov Act (Power of Well Being) 2000

Cllr B. Taylor JP
Diane Jolly Stitchers - £400.00
Local Government Act 1972, s.145

Cllr Mrs E. Chilcott JP
Parkinson's Torfaen - £150.00
Charities Act 2003, s.79

Cwmffrwdor Primary School - £300.00
S137/Local Gov Act (Power of Well Being) 2000

Cllr R. Mills
Pontypool Chess Club - £200.00
New Inn AFC - £200.00
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
1976

New Inn Stroke Association - £300.00
Charities Act 2003 s.79

Cllr Mrs G. E. James
Torfaen Male Choir - £200.00
4th Gwent Boys Brigade - £500.00
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
1976

Cllr Mrs R. Matthews
Woodlands Field Neighbourhood Learning Centre -
£150.00
Woodlands Camera Club - £100.00
Pontypool Park Friends - £200.00
S137/Local Gov Act (Power of Well Being) 2000

Trac 2 - £250.00
Parkinson's - £50.00
All Creatures Great and Small - £200.00
Charities Act 2003 s.79

RECOMMENDED: that the Local Voluntary
Funding grants as listed above be approved
subject to the LVF forms referred to being
signed by members.

CC

298. **The Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund**

The Committee received information in relation to the Greater
Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Triennial Actuarial valuation as

at 31st March 2019 stating that Pontypool Community Council's contribution rate applicable from 1st April 2020 has decreased from 20.00% plus £14,000 to 19.40% plus £7,000.

RECOMMENDED: that the information from Torfaen's Pensions Manager be noted and the annual amount payable to the Pension Fund be amended accordingly.

299. **Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre**

The Committee received a financial request from Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre. It was unanimously agreed that a financial donation of £500.00 be awarded as this is the only facility of its kind within the Torfaen area that offers this kind of service as outlined in the letter submitted to the Council.

RECOMMENDED: that £500.00 be awarded to Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre.

CC
/AA

s137/Local Gov Act (Power of Well Being) 2000

300. **Congress Theatre**

The Committee received an e-mail from the Manager of the Congress Theatre asking for funding. It was agreed that a Grant application form be sent to the Manager asking him to fill in the application as well as providing a statement of their accounts which is a prerequisite of the application form in order that it can be further considered at the next Policy & Finance Committee.

RECOMMENDED: that the amended Grant application form be sent to the Congress Theatre as outlined above.

CC
CP/
RT

301. **TCBC Operational Costs**

The Committee received an e-mail from Torfaen County Borough Council regarding the proposed increase in professional fees services provided by Torfaen County Borough Council. The Clerk informed the meeting that Torfaen provide maintenance related services to Pontypool Community Council in respect of plumbing repairs, new lights etc and TCBC would now be applying an 8% fee on to the cost of any work that they carry out on the Council's behalf. It was agreed that the Council approve the 8% fee in the first instance with TCBC

professional fees being reviewed annually. It was further agreed that the Finance Manager produces a breakdown of all maintenance costs paid over the last year to the next Policy & Finance meeting.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that the Council approve the 8% fee on maintenance related services as outlined above.

(ii) that Torfaen professional fees be reviewed annually.

(iii) that the Finance Manager produces a breakdown of maintenance costs carried out within the last year to be presented to the next Policy & Finance meeting.

CC

RT

CC

302. **PA System**

The Committee was asked to consider quotations for purchasing a PA system to be used at Council events. Members felt that the quotes were not very expensive, with an example being that if a PA system was to be used for Party in the Park it was important that the Committee understood the relevant information in relation to speaker power and distance of the PA system before a decision could be reached. It was therefore agreed that this item be deferred to the next Policy & Finance meeting for more information about the range of PA systems available in order that a more comprehensive report can be put together; a list of the events that it would service is also required.

RECOMMENDED: that the item on a PA system be deferred to the next Policy & Finance meeting with details of the range of the speakers and whether they would be suitable for various types of events.

AA

303. **Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales**

The Committee received a thank you letter from Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales for the Council's financial

RECOMMENDED: that the thank you letter be welcomed.

304. **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.

305. **Selection of Internal Auditor**

RECOMMENDED: that Mr H O’Sullivan be appointed on the conditions as outlined above.

RT

306. **Bad Debt**

RECOMMENDED: that the Committee writes off the total debt of £65.00 with the Council having no future involvement with the organisation.

CC
LM

Chair of Policy & Finance