

**QUICK NOTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF PONTYPOOL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2023**

NB: Full minutes will be published in due course

In attendance:

Councillor: Matt Ford# (in the Chair)

and Councillors: Nick Byrne*, Jon Cox#, Anne Gunter#, Jon Horlor*, Lizzie Hunt# Gaynor James#, Jon James#, Nick Jones*, Sue Malson#, Rose Matthews#, Jonathon Martin*, Richard Overton#, Caroline Price*, Bob Rogers*, Jools Rogers*, Nick Simons*

Officers: Mrs Lisa McMail, Clerk#, Ms Jane Wright, Assistant Clerk#

Also in attendance: Vivienne Collings, Welsh Government*
Matthew Creed and Rhys Thomas from “Tidy Butt” #

* Attending remotely via Microsoft Teams

Attending physically in the Council Chamber

The meeting was recorded for minute taking purposes as agreed by Members.

Min. no.	Subject and decision	Action
505.	<u>Questions from the Public</u> There were no questions from the public	
506.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies received from Councillors John Killick	JW
507.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillors Nick Byrne, Jon Horlor, Gaynor James, Jon James, Rose Matthews, Caroline Price, Sue Malson and Nick Simons declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as they were members of TCBC, as well as being members of Pontypool Community Council.	JW

508.	<p><u>Cyber Awareness</u></p> <p>The Council welcomed Vivienne Collins (VC) from Welsh Government to give a presentation in relation to Cyber Awareness and Training available. (attached as an appendix to the minutes).</p> <p>The Chair of Policy & Finance asked about insurance covering Cyber attacks. VC stated that she would investigate this and report back.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the information be welcomed, and that VC be thanked for attending the Council and giving an excellent presentation on Cyber Awareness.</p> <p>[Footnote: Pontypool Community Council is insured by Gallagher Insurance against cyber fraud.</p>	
509.	<p><u>Wellbeing Partnership with Blaenavon Town Council</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Matthew Creed (MC) and Rhys Thomas (RT) from Tidy Butt. MC informed the meeting that he founded Tidy Butt in 2020 growing it from a private Facebook group for people to share their experiences with issues around mental health to a registered charity presenting well-being talks to schools, business and professional sports organisations.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>(i) that MC and RT be thanked for attending the Council meeting and giving an outstanding presentation on the work of Tidy Butt and what it means to them and others.</p> <p>(ii) that Pontypool Community Council would financially contribute £2000 (50%) of the £4,000 to deliver the full day well-being workshop at both Abersychan and St. Alban's RC High Schools in conjunction with Blaenavon Town Council.</p> <p>(iii) to ensure inclusivity it was further agreed that Pontypool Community Council would pay £2,000 for the full day well-being workshop to be delivered at West Monmouth School.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>CC/LM</p> <p>JW/CC</p>
510.	<p><u>Council Meeting – 29 March 2023 – Minutes</u></p> <p>The Chair of Council moved these minutes. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 March 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>[Councillor N. Simons joined the meeting on Teams at this point]</p>	<p>JW</p>

511.	<p><u>Policy & Finance Committee – 5 April 2023 – Minutes</u></p> <p>The Chair of Policy & Finance moved these minutes. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Policy and Finance meeting held on 5 April 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p>	JW
512	<p><u>Planning & Environment Committee – 12 April 2023 - Minutes</u></p> <p>The Chair of Planning & Environment moved these minutes. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Cllr NW informed the meeting that there is access to some free environmental training from Nature Wise which he and Cllr AG had attended which had been recommended to him. The training had been very good and extremely beneficial, so he would like to extend the invitation to members and staff to take advantage of this training. He believed that staff member CJ had indicated she would be attending the training, there are two sessions which are both run over 2 half days.</p> <p>Cllr NW also gave an update on spend in relation to the Biodiversity Working Group budget in that the environment group was paying for a Forest Fund Day as part of the Big Green week at a cost of approximately £1200.00.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) that the minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on 12 April 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair. (ii) that the update from Cllr NW in relation of free training and the spend to date of £1200 for the Forest Fund Day in relation to the Biodiversity working group budget be noted. 	JW NW/AA/ CC
513.	<p><u>Vacancy at Sebastopol West</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the Elections Manager at Torfaen County Borough Council be informed that there is a vacancy in Sebastopol West due to non-compliance of member.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the Elections Manager at Torfaen be informed of the vacancy as outlined above to advertise the vacancy.</p>	LM
514.	<p><u>Governor Vacancy – New Inn Primary School</u></p>	

	<p>The Council was asked to nominate a governor representative to serve on New Inn Primary School as Councillor JM the present nominated Council representative had been unable to attend any governor meetings at the school due to his work commitments clashing with them.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that Councillor Nick Byrne be nominated as the governor representative to serve on New Inn Primary School and Governor Support to be informed to this effect.</p>	JW
515.	<p><u>King Charles III Coronation – 6 May 2023</u></p> <p>The Council received a report on an update on minute 439 from the March Events meeting in relation to King Charles III Coronation.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Council agree to provide the indoor screen and speaker system in Pontypool market on Saturday 6 May for the Kings Coronation at a cost of £640.00</p>	RC
516.	<p><u>CCTV</u></p> <p>The Council received an e-mail from Mr Lyndon Puddy (LP) on CCTV funding which had been deferred from the Policy & Finance meeting. The Chair of Police & Finance Cllr EH stated that she would be concerned if the CCTV was terminated as stated in the e-mail, adding that if the Council was going to consider paying towards the costs of CCTV, then they would need to have more decision-making powers, in relation to where all the cameras are, what state of repair the cameras are in, who checks the CCTV. Unanimously agreed to invite Mr LP to June’s Council meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that Mr Lyndon Puddy be invited to the June Council meeting as outlined above.</p>	JW/ LM
517.	<p><u>Myfanwy Haycock Poetry Trail</u></p> <p>The Clerk informed members that she had an extremely productive meeting that day with Jenni Crane and many of the stakeholders involved in the Myfanwy Poetry Trail project including the App Developers and Fitzpatrick Woolmer who are supplying the markers, there was also canal representation and Sian Watkins from Torfaen Street Scene who had given permission for the markers in the park to be sited and who had been very supportive.</p> <p>In relation to costing(s) the Clerk stated that there were now two elements to the Poetry Trail:</p>	

	<p>(i) initial project that the Council was going to support had an original budget of £12,000 but the costs are now likely to come in at around £17,000.</p> <p>(ii) there is now going to be a launch of the Poetry Trail on Saturday 22nd July with approximate costs being £2,000</p> <p>The Council would be looking at around the £20,000 mark as a budget rather than the original £12,000 therefore the Clerk was seeking Council approval.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the budget for the Myfanwy Haycock Poetry Trail be increased to £20,000.</p>	LM/CC
518.	<p><u>Draft Canal Strategy & Action Plan</u></p> <p>The Council received a briefing report from Alice Rees (AR), Canal Co-ordinator at Torfaen County Borough Council. The Leader stated that she had a meeting with AR last week who had given an excellent presentation and the plan was now out for public consultation.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Council write back to AR informing her that Pontypool Community Council welcome any improvement(s) to the Canal infrastructure over the next 10 years as it is extremely important to us as a Council, not just the history but as an attraction for people to go along and see the canal boats, take in nature, improve people's general well-being.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that RC be informed of the Council's comments as outlined above in relation to this consultation.</p>	JW
519.	<p><u>Waste Consultation</u></p> <p>The Council received a briefing report from Katie Jenkins, Engagement and Electoral Lead Officer at TCBC on the Waste Strategy Consultation. The Leader informed the meeting that this consultation had now been stopped. Although the consultation had been stopped members felt it was important that feedback be given in relation to members of the public needing to be more educated when it came to recycling. In addition the Council felt very strongly that schools and colleges should not be charged for recycling their waste.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that KJ be informed of the Council's comments as outlined above in relation to this consultation.</p>	JW

520.	<p><u>Policies proposed for adoption</u></p> <p>The Council prosed the following policies for adoption. These documents went to the Policy & Finance Committee on 5th April and were amended/approved/noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Annual Investment Strategy (b) Fixed Asset Register Policy (c) Harassment and Bullying Policy <p><u>RESOLVED</u>: that the above polices be approved for adoption.</p>	LM/JW
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Signed by the Chair

**PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED PONT-Y-PŴL
Declarations of Interest Declared**

MEETING: FULL COUNCIL

DATE: Wednesday 26 April 2023

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Interest Declared</u>	<u>Signed</u>
Councillor Nick Byrne	A personal and non-prejudicial interest in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as a member of TCBC, as well as a member of Pontypool Community Council.	Yes
Councillor Jon Horlor	A personal and non-prejudicial interest in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as a member of TCBC, as well as a member of Pontypool Community Council.	Yes
Councillor Gaynor James	A personal and non-prejudicial interest in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as a member of TCBC, as well as a member of Pontypool Community Council.	Yes
Councillor Jon James	A personal and non-prejudicial interest in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as a member of TCBC, as well as a member of Pontypool Community Council.	Yes
Councillor Rose Matthews	A personal and non-prejudicial interest in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as a member of TCBC, as well as a member of Pontypool Community Council.	Yes
Councillor Caroline Price	A personal and non-prejudicial interest in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as a member of TCBC, as well as a member of Pontypool Community Council.	Yes

Councillor Sue Malson	A personal and non-prejudicial interest in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as a member of TCBC, as well as a member of Pontypool Community Council.	Yes
Councillor Nick Simons	A personal and non-prejudicial interest in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as a member of TCBC, as well as a member of Pontypool Community Council.	Yes