

**QUICK NOTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE PLANNING  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023.**

**NB: FULL MINUTES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DUE COURSE**

**In attendance:**

Councillor: Jon James# (In the Chair)

and Councillors: Lynda Clarkson\*, Dr John Cox#, Anne Gunter\*, Gaynor James#, Richard Overton\* Nick Simons\*

Officers: Mrs L McMail (Clerk)#, Mrs R. Cronin\* (Projects and Events Manager), Mrs C. Jones# (Community Development Officer) Ms J. Wright\* (Assistant Clerk)

\* *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
110.	<b><u>Apologies for absence</u></b>  Apologies from Councillors Nick Byrne, Matt Ford, Caroline Price, Jools Rogers and Nathan Warren	
111.	<b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b>  Councillors Lynda Clarkson, Gaynor James, Jon James 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
112.	<b><u>Biodiversity Sub Committee</u></b>  As the Chair of biodiversity was unable to be present and give a verbal update on the Biodiversity Sub Committee it was unanimously agreed to defer this to the September Planning and Environment meeting.  <b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> that a verbal update be given by the Chair of the Biodiversity Sub Committee at September's	

	Planning & Environment Committee.	
113.	<p><b><u>Planning Applications</u></b></p> <p>Members received and considered the list of planning applications on which it was being consulted by Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC).</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> that the observations stated be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.</p>	CP
114.	<p><b><u>Planning Determinations</u></b></p> <p>Members received and noted Torfaen County Borough Council planning determinations including reasons for approvals or refusals.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> that the planning determinations be noted.</p>	CP
115.	<p><b><u>Planning Applications: Plenary Powers</u></b></p> <p>Members noted observations on planning applications which had already been submitted between meetings.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> that the plenary powers applications be noted</p>	CP
116.	<p><b><u>Benches</u></b></p> <p>The Committee was asked to approve/consider the following requests:</p> <p>(a) Supply a bench at both Berry's Corner and Chestnut Close providing they are standardised recycled plastic ones as used in the park. Agreed</p> <p>(b) Replace/refurbish/relocate bench at Maple Road that is low and poorly sited. Agreed. The Chair stated that he had seen the photographs of this; adding that it was sited in a very precarious place. Cllr NW to give an update at Council on best place to locate it.</p> <p>(c) Adding a commemorative plaque to the recently refurbished seat located in the park, in memory of Mrs Ruth Tucker. Agreed, subject to obtaining permission from the relevant department at TCBC.</p>	

	<p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*</u></b>: that the requests as outlined above be approved with costs to be reported to the next meeting.</p>	
117.	<p><b><u>Play Equipment</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received an e-mail from Henrietta Lucas (HL) in relation to a request from Pantygasseg Community Association asking about funding of fencing. The quote that had been received was for approximately £8000.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*</u></b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) that £8,200 be awarded for the funding of fencing and repair of seat covers as outlined above.</li> <li>(ii) that CJ continue to source and apply for funding that could be available to the Community Council in relation to providing play equipment.</li> <li>(iii) that Bron Afon be contacted to establish their position in relation to the play equipment at Pontnewynydd Park.</li> </ul>	<p>LM/CC</p> <p>CJ</p> <p>LM/JW</p>
118.	<p><b><u>Canal Strategy: Task &amp; Finish Group</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received the terms of Reference for the Canal Strategy Task &amp; Finish Group; and nominated Councillor Nathan Warren to be the nominated member to serve on this Task &amp; Finish Group.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*</u></b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) that the terms of reference for the Canal Strategy: Task &amp; Finish Group be noted.</li> <li>(ii) that Councillor Nathan Warren be the Council's nominated representative to serve on this Group.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr NW</p>
119.	<p><b><u>Forest Schools</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received a report from Mrs AA, Events Officer.</p> <p>Mrs RC, Projects &amp; Events Manager stated that the lessons used to take place at Greenmeadow Community Farm but as that is currently closed that is not an option. It was agreed that this item be deferred to Full Council for Mrs RC to ascertain if the American Gardens would be able to be used as a venue. The Clerk also referred to Hannah Cubie at the Canal who may also be able to accommodate the request.</p>	

	<p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> that further information be gathered and that this item be deferred to Full Council as outlined above.</p>	RC/LM
120.	<p><b><u>Christmas Trees</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received a report on the siting of Christmas trees from Mrs AA, Projects &amp; Events Officer. Mrs RC stated that Mrs AA had been working closely with Cllr NW on this; she believed the current position is that they are waiting for site visits and assessments to take place with representatives from Torfaen. Cllr LC confirmed this was the case as relayed to the Biodiversity Sub Committee the previous evening.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> that the report and information to date be noted, with an update to be given at the next P &amp; E meeting.</p>	AA
121.	<p><b><u>Litter/Doggy Bins</u></b></p> <p>Mrs RC, Projects &amp; Events Manager stated that at present it was quiet on the litter/dog bin front. She was working with Sian Watkins and would hopefully have a list of all the bins that needed some maintenance or replacement, including looking at larger bins instead of smaller ones and would report back to Committee on a month-to-month basis. The only bin that presently needed to be installed was by the Gorsedd stones which was part of the Poetry trail.</p> <p>Cllr LC stated that there is overcrowding of bins in her ward, and it may be worth looking at removing some and relocating them, also referring to vandalism. The Chair stated that he had discussed this with his Vice-Chair as the same problem seemed to be happening in various wards, they were going to look at an overall restructure of what the Council are doing with the bins and compile an overall plan, not just a straight replacement of bins. Cllr LC stated that she has suggestions for some of the areas in her wards which she would be happy to share.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> that the information as outlined be received noting that Litter/Doggy Bins was work in progress, with updates to be given at each P &amp; E meeting.</p>	RC/AA MW
122.	<p><b><u>Notice Boards</u></b></p> <p>Mrs RC informed the meeting that Sian Watkins team came</p>	

	<p>and collected another notice board from the Unit last week and that one is going to be situated at St. Mary's Drive/Greenway Drive, Griffithstown, the previous board had to be removed a little while ago because of damage so this would be installed shortly dependent on weather.</p> <p>The other one in Griffithstown would be the relocation of the notice board from Hill Street/Oxford Street to outside the Panteg surgery. RC confirmed that the Councillors of the Griffithstown wards had agreed for that one to be resited, so she was just waiting for a reply from Torfaen to see if she needed to apply for planning permission to site that one outside the surgery.</p> <p>Finally, RC stated that at the last meeting there was an error in the information she gave, she had stated that a Notice Board had been sited at Station Road, but it had been sited at Stafford Road, so she just wanted to clear that up for the minutes.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> that the current position as outlined by the Projects &amp; Events Manager in relation to notice boards be received and noted.</p>	RC
123.	<p><b><u>Committee Budget</u></b></p> <p>Members received the budget and reserves within its remit and the spend to date.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED:</u></b> that the information be noted.</p>	

- \* This is a recommendation to the Council. The Council will make the final decision at a future meeting.

Signed by Chair .....

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

**Planning and Environment Committee**

**12<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

<b><u>Name of Member</u></b>	<b><u>Interest Declared</u></b>	<b><u>Signature</u></b>
Councillor Lynda Clarkson	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 members of Pontypool Community Council.	Signed
Councillor Gaynor James,	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 members of Pontypool Community Council.	Signed
Councillor Jon James	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	Signed

	members of Pontypool Community Council.	
Councillor 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 members of Pontypool Community Council.	Signed