



Clerk to the Council/  
Clerc i'r Cyngor:

17 February/Chwefror 2022

MRS. R.V. TUCKER, B.A.

Dear Sir/Madam  
Annwyl Syr/Fadam

You are hereby summoned to attend a **MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT 6:30 PM on WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

The meeting will be held remotely, using Microsoft Teams. Councillors have been provided with a link to attend the meeting. If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting remotely, please contact the Clerk of the Council (by e-mail or telephone) at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions at Council meetings and to speak in Welsh or English, provided that at least 3 working days' notice in writing of the question has been provided to the Clerk.

The agenda for the meeting is set out below and relevant papers are attached.

Gofynnir drwy hyn i chi fynychu **CYFARFOD Y CYNGOR** yn yn Rhith Gyfarfod am **6:30 PM, DYDD MERCHER 23 CHWEFROD 2022**

Cynhelir y cyfarfod o bell ar Microsoft Teams. Mae cynghorwyr wedi derbyn dolen i fynychu'r cyfarfod. Os yw unrhyw aelod o'r cyhoedd yn dymuno mynychu'r cyfarfod o bell, cysylltwch â Chlerc y Cyngor (trwy e-bost neu dros y ffôn) o leiaf 24 awr cyn y cyfarfod.

Mae gan aelodau o'r cyhoedd yr hawl i ofyn cwestiynau yng nghyfarfodydd y Cyngor, mae gan aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd yr hawl i siarad yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg, cyn belled ag y rhoddir tri diwrnod o rybudd ysgrifenedig o'r cwestiwn i'r Clerc.

Mae agenda'r cyfarfod wedi'i nodi isod ac mae papurau perthnasol ynghlwm.

Yours faithfully/ Yr eiddoch yn gywir

  
**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL/ CLERC I'R CYNGOR**

35A, Commercial Street, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6JQ Tel: (01495) 742805

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TWINNED WITH LONGJUMEAU, FRANCE, BREITEN, GERMANY & CONDEIXA, PORTUGAL  
GEFEILLIWDYD Â LONGJUMEAU, FFRAINCY, BREITEN, YR ALMAEN & CONDEIXA, PORTUGAL

## A G E N D A

1. **Questions from the Public**  
To receive any questions from the public on matters on the agenda.
2. **Apologies for absence**  
To receive apologies for absence.
3. **Declarations of Interest**  
Members are required to declare any interests they may have in any items on the agenda.
4. **Engagement with Torfaen County Borough Council**
  - a) Officers in the TCBC Regeneration team to attend and share/discuss project proposals for **Place Plans (Pontypool)** (attached: page(s) 1 – 2)
  - (b) Dave Leech (Chief Officer, Communities, Customer Service & Digital) to attend and discuss **COVID Recovery Fund** (attached: page(s) 3) and
  - (c) Stephen Vickers (Chief Executive) and Dave Leech (Chief Officer, Communities, Customer Service & Digital) to discuss other matters of mutual interest including the County Borough Council and Community Council **working effectively together in partnership.**
5. **Council Meeting – 26 January 2022 – Minutes**  
To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 January 2022 as a correct record (attached: page(s) 4 – 12)
6. **Policy & Finance Committee – 2 February 2022 - Minutes**  
To approve the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 2 February 2022 and adopt the recommendations of that committee (attached: page(s) 13 – 17)
7. **Planning & Environment Committee - 9 February 2022 – Minutes**  
To approve the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 9 February and adopt the recommendations of that committee (attached: page(s) 18 – 22)
8. **Planning Applications**  
To receive and consider planning applications (attached: page(s) 23)
9. **Reports/Minutes of other relevant/external/partnership bodies**
  - (a) Minutes of the One Voice Wales National Executive Committee – 17 December 2021 (attached: page(s) 24 – 29)

- (b) One Voice Wales Gwent Valleys Area Committee – 11 January 2022  
2022 (attached: page(s) 30 – 34)
- (c) Mynyd Maen Wind Farm development – notes of inaugural meeting –  
16 February 2022 (attached: page(s)35)

10. **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.**

11. **Council Meeting – 26 January 2022 – Confidential Minutes**

To confirm the minutes of the confidential session of the Full Council meeting held on 26 January 2022 as a correct record. (attached: page(s) 36 - 39)

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All Members

# Agenda Item 4a

## Briefing for Pontypool Community Council in respect of Place Plans and the UK Government's Levelling Up Funds (LUF)

### Place Plans

We would welcome the views of Pontypool Community Council in the development of Place Plans for our Town Centres. This is the start of the process of producing Place Plans, having appointed Urban Design Consultants to assist with this work, only last week.

Place Plans are investment plans for town centres that identify investment opportunities for both the public, private and third sector. They identify a wide range of projects that facilitate the regeneration of the Town Centre that can be used to identify and tap into a wide range of funding sources. We are producing Place Plans for the Town Centres of Blaenavon, Pontypool and Cwmbran. These plans will set the direction of travel for investment and will show how through funding, these centres can evolve over the next 10-15 years.

Place Plans will identify a range of projects within town centres, including pre-development activities' such as studies and feasibility work, through to 'oven ready projects'. As Council Officers, we have taken an initial scoping exercise to try and identify potential projects but we would welcome your ideas and input in to this process. We want to know what the key issues are that you feel we need to be addressing through place plans and potential project ideas that will facilitate this. We would like you to think about the environment of the town centre (public realm), key buildings, key spaces and how community & business needs can be addressed. We look forward to meeting you and hearing your views on this subject.

In terms of Place Plans moving forward, we are hopeful to develop draft Place Plans that will be subject to a full and comprehensive public consultation exercise in the summer. This will allow everybody the opportunity to input into the process and engage positively with the Regeneration Team.

### Levelling Up Fund (LUF)

The Council is in the process of preparing a Levelling Up Fund Bid. This is a potentially significant funding stream from UK Government and it is anticipated that bids will need to be submitted in the spring. The purpose of this fund is to address regional economic inequality by investing in infrastructure projects that deliver a visible improvement to places and their communities. In doing so, it will create opportunity across the country by investing in regeneration and growth opportunities in places of need and areas of low productivity and connectivity.

The Fund will focus on capital investment in local infrastructure. The approach to delivering Levelling Up Funding in Wales is through Local Authorities, whereby UK Government has invited Local Authorities to submit bids. Whilst welcoming the opportunity to submit a LUF bid, it is important to note at this stage, that funding for each local authority is not guaranteed, neither is the amount of funding that each local authority receives. Rather the funding decision lies with UK Government, who will determine funding bids on their merits as part of a competitive process.

In May 2021, Torfaen Cabinet prioritised the regeneration of town centres as the priority for LUF investment. In doing so, they recognised the important role that town centres play in supporting local businesses, jobs and skills pathways; and also, their importance as places that cement a local sense of pride and well-being. As we continue to recover from the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic, investment in our town centres is recognised as being more important than ever. It is anticipated that the projects to be put forward for LUF investment will

deliver economic benefits to local communities and contribute towards enhancing the vibrancy and viability of our town centres, as such we are developing a bid for both Blaenavon and Pontypool Town Centre. Given the timescales for the submission of the bid and the fact that it is a competitive process, Council Officers have had to pursue projects that were already partially in development with owners positively engaged in seeking funding support through other sources. We will discuss the potential projects to be put forward for LUF Funding at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

# Agenda Item 4b

## **Covid Recovery Fund: Town Centre Enhancement.**

- ▶ In November 2021, Cabinet allocated £1.2M funding for Covid Recovery
- ▶ There are 9 projects in total ranging from business grants and mental health support to work on the M&B Canal and discretionary housing payments
- ▶ One of the 9 projects is for “town centre enhancements” in Pontypool and Blaenavon
- ▶ The aim: A series of small projects that help to clean, green and tidy up our town centres.
- ▶ Overall funding across the two towns is £466,000.... This was worked out on a provisional programme of works which for Pontypool includes:
  - ▶ 2 new green areas in the heart of the town centre. “Parklets” or Planter/Seats
  - ▶ Trellises on prominent gable ends to create the effect of green walls”
  - ▶ Shop Jackets on 4 prominent buildings
  - ▶ Redesign of Rosemary Lane planter with new biodiversity friendly planting
  - ▶ Tidying up entrance at Riverside Car Park
  - ▶ Painting Railings on Hanbury Road and Commercial Street
  - ▶ Repairing Paving (Hanbury Road, including removing stump, and Commercial Street)
- ▶ Dave Leech will run through a presentation with some ideas around these projects. Some of the key things we’ll need to decide from this engagement session are:
  - ▶ Location of parklets / planter/seats?
  - ▶ Style of parklets/planter seats?
  - ▶ Shop Jacket design & who to engage with?
  - ▶ Rosemary Lane design thoughts?

# Agenda Item 5

**MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF  
PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD REMOTELY USING MICROSOFT TEAMS ON  
WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2022 AT 6.30PM**

**In attendance:**

Councillor: Giles Davies (in the Chair)

and Councillors: Elaine Chilcott JP, Matt Ford, Lizzie Hunt, Gaynor James, Nicholas Jones, John Killick, Jonathon Martin, Rose Matthews, Richard Overton, Norma Parrish and Ben Rapier

Officers: Richard Gwinnell (Acting Clerk), Jane Wright (Assistant Clerk) and Lisa McMail (Accountant)

Also:

Katie Jenkins, Electoral Participation Officer, Torfaen County Borough Council

Min No	Subject and Decision	Action
339.	<b><u>Questions from the Public</u></b>  No questions had been received from the public.	
340.	<b><u>Apologies for absence</u></b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nick Byrne, Lynda Clarkson, Janet Jones, Nick Simons, Jackie Taylor and Barry Taylor JP.	
341.	<b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b>  Councillors Giles Davies, Gaynor James, Nicholas Jones, John Killick, Richard Overton and Norma Parrish 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.  Councillor John Killick also declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in the request for a representative on the Mynydd Maen Liaison Group, as he had already been invited to serve on that group as a member of TCBC.	JW  JW

342. **Electoral Participation**

Katie Jenkins (KJ) gave a brief presentation on her work as Electoral Participation Officer (EPO). This primarily involved helping young people to register to vote and encouraging them to vote (since the change in the law to enable 16 and 17 year olds to vote in Welsh elections). She was visiting schools, colleges, youth clubs etc to speak to young people and help them register to vote, as well as promoting registration via social media.

In answer to questions from members, KJ explained (in summary) that:

- her post was funded only for a year, but she hoped to continue longer term, involving schools and teachers in the work of promoting voting among young people
- she was at the Torfaen Learning Zone this week
- TCBC had a number of resources (e.g. polling booths) and had helped with school elections in the past; it was hoped this work would continue after the May elections and after the Covid restrictions ended
- children and young people were often engaged in politics and voting if their parents were
- the biggest challenge was to engage those who were disengaged, those whose parents were not interested and those who were home schooled or did not attend school
- attitudes of young people varied; some could not wait to vote for the first time, while others knew nothing about it or were not interested
- she would make further enquiries at TCBC about the possibility of involving local councillors in going to speak to young people about voting and the role of a local councillor
- there were barriers to young people registering to vote and voting, including the fact that letters were addressed to households or parents, not young people themselves; letters addressed to young people rather than parents were being developed
- not every council had an Electoral Participation Officer, but many were in the process towards this
- national resources were available from the Electoral Commission and others but they were not attractive or appealing to young people necessarily
- the “backdrop” behind her on screen was developed by TCBC in the style of “Banksy” street graffiti, to help attract young people and engage with them

- TCBC had been asked by Welsh Government and others if they could use the same backdrop
- she would be running “pop up stalls” in various places including vaccination centres, to reach more people
- she had met the Member of the Youth Parliament for Torfaen today and was working with others to help engage better with young people.

Members congratulated Katie on her appointment, thanked her for the work she was doing and wished her well with the project to get more young people registered to vote and voting in elections.

**RESOLVED:** that the information relayed by Katie Jenkins, Electoral Participation Officer at Torfaen be noted.

343. **Council Meeting – 15 December 2021 – Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

344. **Policy & Finance Committee – 5 January 2022 – Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** (1) that the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 5 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (2) that the recommendations of the committee be adopted, except for the recommendation that Anne Evans (Torfaen Voluntary Alliance) be invited to the next Policy and Finance Committee meeting and (3) that Anne Evans be invited to a future Council meeting instead.

JW

345. **Events Committee – 19 January 2022 – Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Events Committee held on 19 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair and that the recommendations of the committee be adopted.

A member asked whether Pontypool Active Living Centre was available in the third week of May for the Schools Eisteddfod. The Acting Clerk undertook to let members know as soon as possible.

RG

346. **Budget and precept 2022/2023**

The Acting Clerk reminded members of their previous consideration of the budget at the meetings held on 30

November, 15 December and 5 January. This was the final stage of budget consideration. He also thanked LM (the Accountant) for all her work in getting the budget done.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council approve a budget and precept of £715,987 for 2022/23 (this equates to a 2.8% or £1.48 per annum increase in Council Tax at Band D, with a Band D equivalent charge of £54.33 per household) and Torfaen County Borough Council be informed to this effect.

RG

347.

**Accessible Roundabout and Extension of Playground at Pontypool Park**

The Acting Clerk explained progress with the accessible roundabout and TCBC's recent proposal to extend the playground in Pontypool Park. Pontypool Community Council's (PCC's) proposed roundabout was now part of a much bigger scheme and PCC needed TCBC to agree to and facilitate the installation of this roundabout, along with any other new equipment they were installing. The play area was owned and managed by TCBC, so PCC could not go ahead unilaterally. The funds granted to PCC were £16,415 for the purchase and installation, with £5k for maintenance for the next few years. The funds were granted on the basis that they would be spent by the end of March. TCBC had made clear that the costs may be greater than £16,415 as the existing ground surfacing would need to be removed and disposed of safely. The company which had quoted for the roundabout (in June 2021) had also recently stated that the price had increased slightly since then. He recommended that the Council agree to pay more if needed (up to £2,000 more approximately if needed) to ensure the roundabout was installed and take those additional funds from the playground equipment reserve. It may also be necessary to obtain other quotes, although the roundabout was bespoke and Council had already chosen specifically what it wanted. Given that the park belonged to TCBC, PCC may need to hand the project and funds over to TCBC and commit the spend before the end of March, to ensure success, but members should expect a delay of some months.

Members discussed the issue, with the following main points arising:

- members supported the expansion of the play area and Pontypool RFC had also supported it
- PCC should pay more if needed to get the roundabout installed

- a member had attended another meeting recently where it had been suggested the works may not be completed until November
- it was understood there was a national shortage of playground equipment and play equipment was normally installed in the autumn, to prevent playgrounds being closed in the peak summer season
- PCC had already agreed to pay £16,415 for the roundabout and installation (before it received the grant), from the play equipment reserve
- the grant meant PCC would save £16,415, so the spending of £2,000 or so from PCC reserves was well within existing expectations and was already agreed
- the grant for maintenance of £5k was for maintenance of the PCC roundabout only and not for the whole playground
- was it possible to locate the roundabout elsewhere in Pontypool Park?
- no; this would need the consent of Pontypool Estates and was unlikely to happen; it would also take longer and may require other permissions e.g. planning
- PCC could attempt to pay for the roundabout itself as soon as possible, with installation to follow at a later date, to fit into TCBC's wider playground works
- PCC should hand the funds over to TCBC, for TCBC to manage the purchase and installation as part of their bigger scheme at the playground
- the PCC reserve was intended to pay for maintenance of PCC play equipment.

On a motion from Councillor JK, it was:

**RESOLVED:** that relevant TCBC officers be asked to liaise with each other and secure the purchase and installation of PCC's agreed roundabout; that PCC pay the funds granted (£16,425) to TCBC for this purpose if needed; that PCC pay additional sums if needed (in the region of £2,000) from the play equipment reserve; that the £5,000 for future maintenance of the new roundabout be kept in a reserve for that purpose; and that TCBC be informed of the funds available for future maintenance of the PCC roundabout.

RG  
CC  
LM

348. **Ethics and Standards Committee: Community Councillor representative**

The Acting Clerk informed members that the term of office of Councillor Steve Brooks (on the Ethics and Standards Committee) had been extended, as a result of the change in

term of office of councillors from four years to five years. PCC would be asked after the May 2022 elections to consider who it wished to appoint after May. That would normally be considered at a meeting of the Local Councils Partnership Committee.

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

349. **Change of signatories for Gateway Credit Union**

The Accountant recommended that the signatories on the Gateway account be changed, as the current list was out of date and access to the account and statements needed to be speedier.

**RESOLVED:** that the signatories on the Gateway Credit Union account be changed; from Ruth Tucker, Barry Taylor and Giles Davies; to Giles Davies, Gaynor James and Lisa McMail.

LM

350. **Planning Applications**

Members received and considered details of planning applications submitted to TCBC, on which the Community Council was being consulted.

**RESOLVED:** that the observations (or absence of observations, as the case may be) outlined in the appendix attached to these minutes be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.

CP

351. **Planning applications: Plenary Powers**

Members received the list of observations made on planning applications between meetings, under plenary powers.

**RESOLVED:** that the observations outlined be approved.

352. **Mynydd Maen Wind Farm Community Liaison Group**

Councillor JK stated that he was already a member of this group (representing TCBC) so it may be better if someone was chosen to represent PCC.

Members suggested that Councillor Lyn Clarkson may be interested in being on the liaison group (although she was absent from this meeting).

Councillor JK suggested that, if Councillor LC did not wish to be PCC's representative, someone else should be asked (by email) to volunteer. If no one volunteered, he would be happy to represent PCC as well as TCBC on the group.

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Lyn Clarkson be asked to represent PCC on the liaison group; that other members be asked to volunteer to do so, if Councillor LC did not wish to do so; and that Councillor JK represent PCC on the liaison group, if no one else volunteered to do so.

JW

**NB** the Chair announced at this stage that the Chief Executive of TCBC would be attending the Council meeting on 23 February 2022. If any members wished to raise any issues with the Chief Executive, they should let the Acting Clerk know by 16 February, so that advance notice of those issues for discussion could be given.

353.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** - 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.

Signed by Chair: .....

**Full Council**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Planning Applications commented on**

1	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District reference</i>	<i>Site reference</i>	<i>Other reference</i>
	<b>21/P/0987</b>	Pontypool	3 Maes Y Celyn, Griffithstown, Pontypool	

**PROPOSAL: Single storey side and rear extension at the above property including landscaping and driveway to facilitate improved mobility**

**This Council has no observations**

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2	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District reference</i>	<i>Site reference</i>	<i>Other reference</i>
	<b>21/P/0990</b>	Snatchwood	Rhiw Ffranc House, School Road, Pentwyn	

**PROPOSAL: Retention of Pergola, elevated decking area and prefabricated wooden summer house**

**This Council has no observations**

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3	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District reference</i>	<i>Site reference</i>	<i>Other reference</i>
	<b>22/P/0002</b>	Abersychan and Cwmavon	61 Wellington Road, Talywain, Pontypool	

**PROPOSAL: Detached garage to side of existing dwelling**

**This Council has no observations**

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4	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District reference</i>	<i>Site reference</i>	<i>Other reference</i>
	<b>22/P/0004</b>	Abersychan and Cwmavon	1B Elizabeth Row, Talywain, Pontypool	

**Proposed single storey front house extension and porch**

**This Council has no observations**

5	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District reference</i>	<i>Site reference</i>	<i>Other reference</i>
	22/P/0006	Pontypool	McDonalds Restaurants Ltd, Pontymoile	

**PROPOSAL:** The refurbishment of the restaurant to include the removal and replacement of a section of shop front, with the installation of a new door and aluminium cladding to match existing finishes and associated works

**This Council has no observations**

# Agenda Item 6

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF  
PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD REMOTELY USING MICROSOFT TEAMS ON  
WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 6.30PM**

**In attendance (all using Teams):**

Councillor: Norma Parrish (in the Chair)

and Councillors: Lynda Clarkson, Lizzie Hunt, Gaynor James, John Killick and Richard Overton

Officers: Richard Gwinnell (Acting Clerk), Lisa McMail (Accountant) and Jane Wright (Assistant Clerk)

Min. no.	Subject and decision	Action
359.	<p><b><u>Apologies for absence</u></b></p> <p>Councillors Janet Jones, Nick Simons and Barry Taylor JP.</p>	
360.	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>Councillors Lynda Clarkson, Gaynor James, John Killick, Richard Overton and Norma Parrish 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.</p> <p>A member asked whether they needed to declare personal interests in individual LVF applications where relevant. The Chair stated that members had already declared their interests on the LVF application forms, so there was no need to declare the same interests again in this meeting. This was normal practice.</p>	
361.	<p><b><u>Schedule of Receipts and Payments</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*</u></b>: that the schedule of receipts and payments for November 2021 be approved.</p>	
362.	<p><b><u>Use of Credit Card</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*</u></b>: that the payments made with the Council's credit card, shown in the report, be approved.</p>	

363.	<p><b><u>Financial Budget Comparison (Monitoring Report)</u></b></p> <p>The Accountant informed the meeting that the Christmas Cavalcade line on the budget comparison reports an overspend of £8000, this is an error; the orders and invoices had not been linked which had caused a duplication of costs, this has been rectified for the December report.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*</u></b>: that the financial monitoring report to the end of November 2021 be approved and the information outlined by the Accountant be noted.</p>	
364.	<p><b><u>Local Voluntary Funding (LVF) applications</u></b></p> <p><u>Cllr John Killick</u>  Blaendare Allotments Association – £300 (Care of fence and surroundings)  s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000  Race Football Club - £300 (to support junior football by purchasing kit)  Pontymoile Community Hall - £400 (to develop work with children and young people)  Pontymoile OAP Hall - £400 (to pay for utility bills so the group can provide activities and a meeting place for the elderly in the area)  The Race Club - £300 (Community Hall run by management committee for the benefit of local people)  West Monmouth RFC - £400 (to support the development of Junior rugby)  Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19</p> <p><u>Cllr Rosemary Matthews</u>  Woodlands Camera Club - £200 (running costs)  Parkinsons Torfaen - £500 (running costs)  4<sup>th</sup> Gwent Boys Brigade - £400 (running costs)  s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000</p> <p><u>Cllr Elaine Chilcott JP</u>  Ebenezer Ladies Group - £50 (help with speaker fees)  s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000</p> <p><u>Cllr Keith James</u>  New Inn Community Craft Club - £200 (activities connected with the Platinum Jubilee)  s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000</p> <p><u>Cllr Giles Davies</u>  Cwmavon Women’s Institute - £400 (to help fund equipment, transport costs and trips to places of interest and theatre)  s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000</p>	CC

Cllr Gaynor James

Garndiffaith Gleemen Male Choir - £100 (enable the choir to carry on promoting male singing in Torfaen)  
s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000

Cllr Lynda Clarkson

Talywain Women's Institute - £65 (support with costs)  
Talywain RFC Mini and Junior Teams - £100 (support with costs)  
Garndiffaith RFC Mini and Junior Teams - £100 (support with costs)  
Garndiffaith Community Association - £200 (support with costs)  
Varteg Community Association - £200 (support with costs)  
Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19  
Garndiffaith 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts Group - £200 (support with costs)  
Nifty Knitters - £75 (support with costs)  
Ti a Fi - £150 (support with costs)  
s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000

Cllr(s) Lizzie Hunt, Adrian Lang, Norma Parrish and Ben Rapier

Sebastopol Junior AFC - £500 (£125 x 4) (towards running costs)  
Panteg Cricket Club - £400 (£100 x 4) (towards running costs)  
Torfaen Qigong - £150 (£37.50 x 4) (towards running costs)  
New Panteg Junior RFC - £400 (£100 x 4) (towards running costs)  
Griffithstown Junior AFC - £400 (£100 x 4) (train and organise junior teams)  
*Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19*  
Pontypool Retired Men's Society - £150 (£37.50 x 4) (towards speaker system)  
Nidus Children's Choir - £150 (£37.50 x 4) (towards running costs)  
Torfaen Male Choir (formerly Pontypool Male Choir) - £200 (£50 x 4) (towards running costs/sheet music)  
Golliwopsies - £400 (£100 x 4) (towards running costs)  
Pontypool Chrysanthemum Society - £200 (£50 x 4) (towards running costs)  
*s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000*  
New Panteg RFC - £400 (£100 x 4) (towards running costs)  
Panteg Park Bowls Club - £400 (£100 x 4) (towards running costs)  
Panteg AFC - £400 (£100 x 4) (towards running costs)  
*Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976, s.19*  
Congregational Church Women's Guild - £150 (£37.50 x 4) (towards running costs)  
Griffithstown Ladies Club - £150 (£37.50 x 4) (towards running costs)  
St. John's Ambulance Griffithstown Division - £350 (£87.50 x 4) (towards running costs)  
*s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000*  
Pontyfelin Ladies Bowls club - £250 (£62.50 x 4) (towards running

	<p>costs)  Friends of Pontypool Park - £200 (£50 x 4) (towards equipment)  Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19</p> <p>Linden Singers - £150 (£37.50 x 4) (towards running costs)  Griffithstown Allotment Association - £350 (£87.50 x 4) (towards running costs)  <i>s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000</i></p> <p>Griffithstown Community Hall - £300 (£75 x 4) (towards running costs)  Ennicrocrafting Crafting Club - £100 (£25 x 4) (to help with running costs)  <i>Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19</i></p> <p>Needles and Pins - £100 (£25 x 4) (to help with running costs)  Mello 'D' - £100 (£25 x 4) (to help with running costs, sheet music etc)  Griffithstown Primary School - £250 (£50 x 3) (Lizzie Hunt, Norma Parrish and Ben Rapier) (£100 x 1 (Adrian Lang)) (towards sports equipment)  Ysgol Panteg - £150 (£50 x 3 (Lizzie Hunt, Norma Parrish and Ben Rapier)) (towards sports equipment)  1st Griffithstown Guides - £400 (£100 x 4) (towards running costs)  1st Griffithstown Scouts - £400 (£100 x 4) (towards running costs)  <i>s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000</i></p> <p><u>LVF Projects</u>  TOG's - £500 (£125 x 4) (Project to help children with social Skills)  Age Connects Torfaen - £500 (£125 x 4) (to help with dementia Project)  Friends of Fishponds Park (Panteg) - £1000 (£250 x 4) (help with running costs, purchase of equipment, seats and bulbs)  Panteg House Sports and Social Club - £1000 (£250 x 4) (running costs for distributing food and clothes etc to those in need)  Torfaen Museum Trust - £300 (£75 x 4) (towards the cost of an exhibition)  <i>s.137 LGA 1972/Power of Well Being s2 LGA 2000</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> that the LVF applications above be approved.</p>	
365.	<p><b><u>Torfaen Community &amp; Volunteer Awards 2022 (TCVA)</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Richard Overton declared a personal interest in this matter as he was a member of TVA.</p>	<p>16</p>

	<p>The Committee received a request from Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) enquiring if Pontypool Community Council would be interested in sponsoring a TCVA award for 2022 as they are currently finalising the sponsorship proposals and wished to give PCC the first opportunity to support again this year.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*</u></b>: (a) to sponsor a gold aware (and discuss the cost with TVA) and (b) if a gold award was not available) to sponsor a silver or bronze award instead (in that order of preference).</p>	
366.	<p><b><u>Requests for Financial Assistance</u></b></p> <p>A financial request was received from Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*</u></b>: that £200.00 be awarded.</p>	CC/ LM

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

Chair .....

# Agenda Item 7

**MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY USING MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 6.30PM**

**In attendance: (all using Teams)**

Councillor: Gaynor James (In the Chair)

and Councillors: Lynda Clarkson, Elaine Chilcott JP, Keith James, John Killick, Richard Overton

Officers: Richard Gwinnell (Acting Clerk) and Jane Wright (Assistant Clerk)

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

Min No	Subject and Decision	Action
367.	<b><u>Apologies</u></b> Councillor Jackie Taylor	JW
368.	<b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b> Councillors Lynda Clarkson, Gaynor James, Keith James, John Killick and Richard Overton 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
369.	<b><u>Planning Applications</u></b> Members received and considered details of planning applications submitted to TCBC, on which the Community Council was being consulted. <b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> that the observations (or absence of observations, as the case may be) outlined in the appendix attached to these minutes be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.	CP

370.	<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
371.	<p><b><u>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received consultation documents on the new Householder Extensions &amp; Alterations SPG and Revised Planning Obligations SPG.</p> <p>Cllr LC made the following comments:</p> <p>(i) it was good to see this supplementary planning guidance as it clears up a lot of issues and puts more clarity in the planning system for all concerned.</p> <p>(ii) disappointed that Welsh Government had reduced the sizes of internal dimensions of properties.</p> <p>(iii) how do WG come to the numbers on how many children per school places for development(s) as reading the report the numbers for 11+ seemed quite low; when most people had experience of not being able to get their children into schools in their own catchment area because of class numbers.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> that the information be received and the comments noted.</p>	
372.	<p><b><u>Forest Schools</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received a comprehensive report on the provision of 2022 Forest School lessons. The budget for Forest Schools is £2000, which had not been increased for some time. The cost of the lessons and transport have increased, therefore the £2000 would only cover the cost of lessons. On top of this would be the estimated transport cost of 9 x £200 per coach per school to Greenmeadow Community Farm totalling £1800. The Chair proposed that due to the importance of this matter and bearing in mind the schools are keen for their students to continue to attend these lessons that the budget be increased to cover the transport costs. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*:</u></b> (1) that the budget be increased by</p>	AA/ CC/ LM

	£1800 to cover estimated transport costs (2) any additional costs for transport be brought back to Committee for further consideration.	
373.	<p><b><u>Plant a tree for the Jubilee</u></b></p> <p>The committee considered and discussed a report on plant a tree for the Jubilee.</p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDED*</u></b>: that, in principle, a lime tree be planted in Pontypool Park on Monday 9 May 2022 and (b) that ecologist Steve Williams be asked for advice on location of the tree.</p>	JW

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

**Signed by Chair** .....

**Planning and Environment Committee**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Planning Applications commented on**

<b>1</b>	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District reference</i>	<i>Site reference</i>	<i>Other reference</i>
	<b>21/P/0968</b>	Abersychan and Cwmavon	Land Adjacent to Ty Bryn, Castle Wood, Talywain	

**PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing garage and erection of 2 no. detached houses with detached double garages and 1 no. replacement detached garage for Windy Ridge including new access road, landscaping and parking areas**

**This Council has no observations**

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<b>2</b>	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District reference</i>	<i>Site reference</i>	<i>Other reference</i>
	<b>22/P/0009</b>	Cwmynyscoy	66 Blaendare Road, Pontypool	

**PROPOSAL: Erection of a single-storey rear extension**

**This Council has no observations**

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<b>3</b>	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District reference</i>	<i>Site reference</i>	<i>Other reference</i>
	<b>22/P/0030</b>	New Inn Upper	Greenhill, 64 Usk Road, Pontypool	

**Proposed single storey extension & alterations**

**This Council has no observations**

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<b>4</b>	<i>Plan Number</i>	<i>District reference</i>	<i>Site reference</i>	<i>Other reference</i>
	<b>22/P/0031</b>	Trevethin	Delhi, Lower Leigh Road, Pontnewynydd	

**Proposed alterations and addition of dormer to create larger home office**

**This Council has no observations**

5	<i>Plan Number</i> <b>22/P/0037</b>	<i>District reference</i> Sebastopol West	<i>Site reference</i> 18 Maple Road, Griffithstown, Pontypool	<i>Other reference</i>
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**PROPOSAL: Single storey rear extension**

**This Council has no observations**

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6	<i>Plan Number</i> <b>22/P/0038</b>	<i>District reference</i> Abersychan and Cwmavon	<i>Site reference</i> Fairfield Utd AFC, Emlyn Road Talywain	<i>Other reference</i>
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**PROPOSAL: Extension to changing rooms to create hospitality suite and first aid facilities with some minor changes to existing building**

**This Council has no observations**

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7	<i>Plan Number</i> <b>22/P/0040</b>	<i>District reference</i> Trevethin	<i>Site reference</i> 11 Central Drive, Trevethin, Pontypool	<i>Other reference</i>
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**Proposed first floor side extension and the removal of chimney stack from main roof**

**This Council has no observations**

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8	<i>Plan Number</i> <b>22/P/0044</b>	<i>District reference</i> Abersychan and Cwmavon	<i>Site reference</i> Fremar, Cross Street, Garndiffaith, Pontypool	<i>Other reference</i>
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**Proposed single storey front and rear extension**

**This Council has no observations**

# Agenda Item 8

## Full Council

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

### Planning Applications to be commented on

- | 1 | <i>Plan Number</i> | <i>District reference</i> | <i>Site reference</i>         | <i>Other reference</i> |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
|   | <b>22/P/0027</b>   | Sebastopol East           | 162 Parc Panteg,<br>Pontypool | Griffithstown,         |

**PROPOSAL: Single storey extension to rear, together with installation of log burner and flue**

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- | 2 | <i>Plan Number</i> | <i>District reference</i> | <i>Site reference</i>        | <i>Other reference</i> |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
|   | <b>22/P/0046</b>   | New Inn Lower             | 5 Princes Walk,<br>Pontypool | New Inn,               |

**PROPOSAL: Two storey front extension and completion of raised platform (decking)**

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- | 3 | <i>Plan Number</i> | <i>District reference</i> | <i>Site reference</i>           | <i>Other reference</i> |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
|   | <b>22/P/0062</b>   | New Inn Upper             | 106 Chester Close,<br>Pontypool | New Inn,               |

**PROPOSAL: Single storey rear extension**

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- | 4 | <i>Plan Number</i> | <i>District reference</i> | <i>Site reference</i>     | <i>Other reference</i> |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
|   | <b>22/P/0070</b>   | New Inn Lower             | 10 The Walk,<br>Pontypool | New Inn,               |

**PROPOSAL: Front extension**

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- | 5 | <i>Plan Number</i> | <i>District reference</i> | <i>Site reference</i>       | <i>Other reference</i> |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
|   | <b>22/P/0072</b>   | New Inn Upper             | Lydstep,<br>Road, Pontypool | Sunlea Crescent, Usk   |

**PROPOSAL: First floor extension and roof space conversion**

# Agenda Item 9a

## **Minutes of the National Executive Committee Meeting held on a remote basis on Friday 17 December 2021 at 10.30am**

### **Present:**

Cllr Mike Theodoulou, Chair of One Voice Wales; Cllr Bryan Grew, Larger Council's Representative; Cllr John Killick, Blaenau Gwent/Torfaen; Cllr Glyn Morvan, Blaenau Gwent/Torfaen; Cllr Jo Rao, Caerphilly, Merthyr and RCT; Cllr Hugh Patrick MBE, Brecon/Radnor; Cllr Peter Games, Brecon/Radnor; Cllr Mike Cuddy, Bridgend, Cardiff/Vale of Glamorgan; Cllr John Hughes, Bridgend/Cardiff/Vale of Glamorgan; Cllr Ben Davies, Ceredigion; Cllr Philip Williams, Conwy/Denbigh; Cllr Brian Miles, Monmouthshire/Newport; Cllr Penny Kirkham, Monmouthshire/Newport; Cllr Derrick Pugh (Montgomery); Cllr Ken Rowlands, Pembroke; Cllr David Thomas, Pembroke; Cllr Jayne Garland, RCT/Merthyr/Caerphilly; Cllr Arthur Davies, Neath/Port Talbot; Cllr Wyn Morgan, Swansea; Cllr Mike Harriman, Wrexham/Flint; Cllr Marjorie Thomson, Wrexham/Flint (Vice-Chair of One Voice Wales).

### **One Voice Wales Staff:**

Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive; Paul Egan, Deputy Chief Executive; Shan Bowden, Development Officer; Mel ab Owain Development Officer and Dr Catrin Jones, Policy Officer.

### **Apologies:**

Cllr Wyn Edwards (Carmarthen), Cllr Mair Stephens (Carmarthen), Cllr Alun Wyn Evans (Meirionnydd), Cllr Rachel Davies (Montgomery), Cllr Joanna Hale (Neath/Port Talbot); Cllr Gareth Evans (Swansea); Alun Harries (Development Officer).

### **1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR.**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He referred to 2021 being the busiest and most challenging year for OVW with increasing demands placed on staff from the Welsh Government, stakeholders and member councils. He stated that doors were opening in many places for OVW to engage in all Wales strategic matters and it was proving difficult to prioritise what the organisation should engage with. It had nonetheless been a highly successful year with some increases in staff and an increase in the number of member councils. Additional staffing did place additional pressures on the current staffing structure and these would be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the Strategic Coordination Committee. Some developments had been deprioritised as a means of dealing with growing workloads such as meetings of Area Committee Chairs and the Strategic Coordination Committee. With the Chief Executive, he would be looking to see how resources can be allocated to manage these and other new governance tasks. He concluded by thanking the staff of OVW who were making an excellent contribution to the work of the organisation.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were none declared.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2021.**

**RESOLVED** that: The minutes be approved as a correct record.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING.**

Minute 5 – It was noted that attendance at today's meeting was reasonable but that attendance at the recent Policy Committee and Commercial and Communications Committee had been extremely poor.

**5. FINANCE, RESOURCES AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 3 DECEMBER 2021.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2021 had been circulated with the agenda for consideration. Councillor J. Hughes referred to the regular good attendance level at the Committee and for the excellent reports provided by Paul Egan. He considered that there was a now a very healthy balance on the accounts. He also referred to the excellent self-assessment toolkit which was currently being piloted and he gave specific thanks to Paul Egan and to Mark Galbraith of the SLCC in relation to its preparation.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2021 be approved.
- b) Membership subscriptions be increased by 4% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

In the discussion that followed the following points were made:

- a) The ongoing focus would be on encouraging the Minister to increase the annual revenue grant to OVW.
- b) It was clear that as a membership organisation, OVW was unable to expand its services without an increased resource allocation from the WG or a substantial increase in membership subscriptions.
- c) It appeared that the WG might be prepared to provide financial assistance based on consideration of a business case but would also expect OVW to raise some of the additional funds required from its members.
- d) Concern was expressed that any substantial increase in membership fees could result in member councils dropping out of membership with a net effect of less income being received from member councils.
- e) It was considered that there was a need to better inform member councils of what OVW has been achieving on their behalf and this could be channelled through the e-bulletin.
- f) It was suggested that a business case for increasing membership subscriptions could be prepared and shared with Area Committees to gauge the response from member councils and depending on their responses the matter could be given more in-depth consideration by the NEC.
- g) There was general consensus that more research needed to be undertaken in relation to membership fee levels and any increase beyond the 4% approved for 2022/23 be left for consideration in relation to fees for 2023/24.
- h) The point was made that the greatest danger would be by not enhancing the services available to member councils.

**RESOLVED** that: Membership fee levels be considered in depth by the Strategic Coordination Committee so that a policy decision may be taken about future fee levels.

A question was posed about how many principal councils were working with the sector. The Chief Executive explained that there was a mixed picture across Wales. In the case of Pembrokeshire County Council close links would be formed through the forthcoming appointment of a new Pembrokeshire Liaison Officer a post which was funded mostly by the County Council with a contribution from OVW.

## 6. COMMERCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – 3 DECEMBER 2021.

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting be approved.
- b) A number of Zoom licences be purchased to support those Area Committees requiring translation facilities.

## 7. POLICY COMMITTEE.

The minutes of the recent meeting were not yet available. The Chief Executive reported on the matters that were discussed noting that the attendance level at the meeting was very low.

- a) Audit Wales – Consultation on Fee rates – the Committee considered that the indicative rates proposed were reasonable.
- b) Corporate Joint Committees – OVW had responded to the consultation and had indicated a concern that the proposed Committees might result in the removal of democracy from the people.
- c) Letter from the Minister regarding the professional qualification for Clerks (CiLCA) counting towards the eligibility criteria for the use of the general power of competence.
- d) The Committee considered the submitted response of OVW to the consultation on second homes.
- e) Health and Social Care Strategy Consultation.

A number of other policy updates were provided for the information of the Committee.

- f) It was noted that the Local Places for Nature scheme was proving to be successful.
- g) It was noted that Powys PSB had considered the role of the sector in addressing issues of food poverty and that the PSB would be keen to see OVW involved in supporting this objective.
- h) An update had been provided on the review of ethical standards in Wales and how OVW had engaged with the Consultant in this regard. A discussion took place about whether OVW should have a more prominent role in helping resolve code of conduct issues at the Council level it being noted that this would not be possible without suitable resourcing.
- i) An update had been given on a number of other policy matters including the electoral registration project; Ministerial Towns Action Group; funding support for the third sector to support election processes; and flexible voting pilots.
- j) It had been noted that a number of councillors represented OVW on local groups and their involvement was much appreciated.

In the discussion that followed, an issue had been raised about river pollution in Pembrokeshire and the impact it would have on the local development plan. The NEC supported the involvement of OVW in this regard. Other points raised included:

- The issue of co-option on to Corporate Joint Committees was raised as an issue.
- It was necessary to resurrect discussions with the WLGA in relation to the Independent Review of Local Councils.
- The need to ensure that minutes of NEC Committees are prepared before the NEC so that consideration of such would be more effective.

- The need to make Conferences and Events more attractive so that they have more appeal to member and non-member councils. It was suggested that NEC members take time out to speak with non-member councils to encourage them to join OVW. Councillor Killick volunteered to take part in this approach.

(Councillor Grew left the meeting at this point).

## **8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT.**

### Partnership Council Update

The Chair and Chief Executive had attended the recent meeting which included discussion on climate change, open cast coal mining in NPT and abandonment of certain road projects. These subjects had a direct bearing on future sustainability and decarbonisation. Cllr Andrew Morgan the Leader of RCT Council referred to the work of principal councils in relation to these strategic agendas which were being supported by specific WG funding support. The Chair had indicated at the meeting the need for more resources to support the local council sector in this regard. Also discussed was the relationship between the third sector and principal councils and the Chair made representations about the need for funding of the local council sector in relation to collaboration with other sectors. The Minister thanked all parties present for their support in relation to the implementation of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Chair requested that consideration be given to the local council sector being granted funding for support in relation to the provision of infrastructure to comply with the requirements of Section 47 of the said Act. It was reported at the meeting that the budget settlement for principal councils would be based on a three-year programme with a 1% increase applying in each of the three years. The capital budget was also being reduced with climate change providing a key influence on the settlement.

### Section 47 Multi-Location Meetings

OVW had undertaken a survey of the sector with some 277 responses having been received. A full report on the findings garnered from the survey were being put together by Dr Catrin Jones. Initial findings were that there was a lot of support for the continuation of remote meetings, but concerns had been expressed about the costs of infrastructure to support multi location meetings. It was hoped that the research report would assist OVW in negotiating with WG for funding to support infrastructure costs. A copy of the final report will be circulated to all member councils

### Digital Delivery Manager

The Chief Executive provided an update on the current position relating to the recruitment to this WG funded post to be based in OVW. It was noted that there were no applicants in response to the recent job advertisement and the Chief Executive was in discussion with WG regarding an increase in the grant to support a higher salary and improved pension arrangement.

### Governance and Digital Communication Support Officer

It was noted that there were no applications in relation to the recent job advertisement.

IRPW – Payments to Members – Developments relating to discussions with the HMRC and Views of OVW on recent consultation

The NEC was informed that OVW had submitted its comments to the IRPW on the recent consultation. It was pointed out to the IRPW that OVW was opposed to the proposal to adopt a two-tier approach for basic payments to members. It was reported that WG was making substantial progress with the HMRC relating to the business case that the basic payment of £150 should be deemed to be free of any taxable liability. Furthermore, it was hoped that an additional tax-free payment may be agreed by the HMRC of £52 per annum for the purchase of consumables by members. It was likely that HMRC would require the tax reference numbers of all councils to support this change. It was noted that there was no movement on the part of the HMRC in relation to carer expenses being deemed to be tax free.

**RESOLVED** that: Support be given to the approach taken by WG in relation to the negotiations to achieve the two tax free payments for members.

Pembrokeshire Liaison Officer

It was reported that Emyr John had been appointed to the post and would commence employment on 4 January 2022. Most of the funding for the post would be provided by Pembrokeshire CC with a small contribution from OVW. The Chief Executive gave his thanks to Councillor C. George, the Chair of the Area Committee who had taken a leading role in securing the funding. Councillor Ken Rowlands also thanked Councillor George as well as the Chief Executive for achieving this highly successful outcome.

Save a Life Cymru – CPR and Defibrillator Manager

Three applicants were to be interviewed on 21 December 2021 and it was hoped to make an appointment with the successful candidate commencing in early February 2022.

Local Places for Nature Officer

The Chief Executive provided a brief update on the work being undertaken by Rachel Carter. The projects being coordinated were of high value and WG response to the outcomes was likely to be positive. The current funding for the post ended on 31 March 2022 and it was hoped that funding would be extended for a further year.

Commercial Update

The Chief Executive was in dialogue with an Accountancy and Auditing Company with a view to negotiation of a sponsorship agreement. The package offered would attract sponsorship of £3k. It was noted that the company employed 3 Welsh speaking Auditors.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – June 2022

A number of grant streams were now available to support councils who were arranging local celebrations. The Chief Executive would arrange for details to be circulated to member councils.

Video – ‘Becoming a Councillor’

The video would shortly be available and launched early in the New Year. Councils would be encouraged to include a link to the video on their websites.

Ystadau Cymru

The Chief Executive reported on developments within the Group in which he was in membership. It was reported that Newtown and Llanllwchaïam Town Council had been awarded the prize for the most innovative delivery award as well as the overall national award.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Chief Executive to write to the Council congratulating them on this excellent achievement.
- b) The Chief Executive to also inform the sector of their achievement.

**9. INFORMING THE SECTOR OF THE WORK OF OVW.**

It was suggested that a bullet point list of all of the achievements reported at today’s meeting be circulated to all councils.

**10. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE.**

**RESOLVED** that: The following matter be referred to the Committee:

*‘Nature Wise Initiative and its direct link with climate change issues’.*

**11. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORTS.**

The reports had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

**12. NEXT MEETING.**

To be held on 18 March 2022 at 10.30am.

Signed..... Date 18 March 2022  
Chair of NEC

# Agenda Item 9b

## Un Llais Cymru One Voice Wales

Minutes Gwent Valleys Area Committee, held on  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the meeting was held remotely

### **Present : -**

Cllr Stewart Matthews – Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council  
Cllr Stuart Ashley – Cwmbran Community Council  
David Collins, (Clerk) – Cwmbran Community Council  
Cllr Valerie Waters – Hentllys Community Council  
Cllr Glyn Morvan – Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council  
Cllr Keith Jenkins – Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council  
Cllr John Killick – Pontypool Community Council  
Richard Gwinnell (Act.Clerk) – Pontypool Community Council  
Cllr Tommy Smith – Tredegar Town Council  
Cllr Gaynor James – Tredegar Town Council

### **Apologies: -**

Cllr Liam Cowles – Blaenavon Town Council  
Cllr Jackie Huybs – Blaenavon Town Council  
Cllr Kebba Manneh – Cwmbran Community Council

### **In attendance: -**

Shan Bowden - One Voice Wales

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **2. Minutes of the Meeting, held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were approved.

#### **3. Draft Minutes of the Larger Councils Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and National Executive Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Larger Councils Committee were noted

The minutes of the NEC held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 had not been available for consideration at the meeting and would be circulated for information as soon as they became available.

#### **4. One Voice Wales Conferences**

One Voice Wales would be holding the Innovative Practice Conference sometime in July and it was hoped that an Annual Conference could also be held later in the year.

If COVID guidance/regulations permitted, it was hoped that some conferences in 2022 could be held as face-to-face events.

As soon as dates were arranged, they would be circulated to all councils.

## 5. Training & Consultancy

Training modules continued to be held remotely and were well supported.

When it was safe to do so face to face training would be offered in addition to remote training to accommodate individual preference.

Consultancy was still being offered albeit remotely at reasonable additional costs.

Additional code of conduct and introduction to local councils modules would be offered

To meet demand after the May 2022 elections.

## 6. Membership

Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council was the only council not in membership of One Voice Wales.

The Chair and Councillor Waters both offered to attend remote meetings of non-member councils to inform them of the value their councils found came from the support membership of One Voice Wales could offer through training, advice and networking.

## 7. Developments in relation to Charters/Asset Transfers/Devolved Services

There had been no further developments in relation to asset transfers or devolved Services.

Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive, who represented the community and town council on Ystadau Cymru, the Welsh Government Committee that monitored asset transfers, would be more than happy to hear from councils who may be experiencing difficulties with asset transfers.

Lyn would be happy to give advice or report difficulties to the Committee.

## 8. Consultations/Information/Correspondence

A list of current consultations and information of interest to the sector had been circulated with the agenda and included:-

A Welsh Government consultation on the Town & Country Planning Act re: new classes for "Second Homes"  
Gwent PSB on its draft Wellbeing Assessment

plus information regarding: -

The Eligible Community Councils (General Power of Competence (GPOC)) (Qualifications Of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations 2021 - recognising CILCA as the qualification.  
Welsh Government reports on councillor remuneration and citizen engagement  
Welsh Government's draft budget for 2022/23  
Save a Life Cymru – funding information  
Welsh Government's People's Practice peer to peer network re climate change or biodiversity

emergency  
Welsh Government decisions re Elections& Electoral Reform  
National Lottery funding available for Queen's Platinum Jubilee

## 9. News and Reports from Councils

At its last meeting the Area Committee had agreed that there would be no guest speaker at this meeting but those councils represented would give a brief verbal account on their council's achievements/work since 2017.

**Pontypool Community Council** - Had invested £53k into a joint working project with Torfaen County Borough Council (CBC) for youth services. With a similar amount of funding from the CBC a full-time youth worker had been employed and further funding to cover equipment and travelling had also been provided.

The staff appointed had been embedded into the CBC staffing so there was no need for similar funding to be agreed each year.

A trustee group was being set up to apply for funding which would hopefully mean the service could have the potential to cover an even larger area.

The service was proving to be a huge success.

**Henllys Community Council** - Had developed a business plan with a more focused approach to what was needed in the community. The Council had a small precept there had not been a specific project instead the council had invested in a local park, improved another, provided funding for a local nature reserve, redeveloped an existing football ground and changing rooms and developed closer relationships with the citizens advice bureau and the local police and fire service.

The Council was looking at new projects such as funding for local businesses, defibrillators, drop kerbs around a One Stop shop and community hall, additional litter bins, a cinema club and with the CBC youth services and a befriending club.

The council was also looking into electronic speed warning signs and now worked in partnership with the rotary club and met regularly with the CEO of the CBC.

Funding had been provided to the local food bank and the council would like to plant more trees.

Councillor Waters praised the One Voice Wales training programme and the support given to the council by Helena Fox, One Voice Wales training associate.

**Tredeggar Town Council** – The Council had concentrated on its pre COVID services and the services it had taken over during the past five years.

This included the upgrading of a Grade 2 listed building, improvements to playing fields, a lighting system for the war memorial, full restoration of public toilets and the maintenance of Christmas lighting.

The council had supported lots of local organisations with small grants.

The emphasis had been on maintaining and restoring assets and services so that they were sustainable for the new council after the May 2022 elections.

**Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council** – The council ran the town's "In Bloom" competition but had been disappointed that it had not been able to organize the Father Christmas Sleigh because of lack of police support.

The council had provided planters in the town and undertaken biodiversity work such as a wildlife garden.

During the pandemic it had supported the community through the local food bank and other community organisations.

It had worked closely with local schools enabling the schools to hold concerts and easter eggs and selection boxes had been provided to the four local schools.

The council ran a community awards scheme to recognize individuals who worked/volunteered in the local community.

**Creoesyceiliog & Llanyravon Community Council** – The council had given funding to refurbish the football and rugby club changing rooms.

It had taken over a building on Woodland Road with a 25-year lease to create a HUB.

The HUB would be applying for a lottery grant to hopefully make it sustainable.

An avenue of cherry trees had recently been planted at the side of the motorway.

**Cwmbran Community Council** – The council had found that it had needed to adapt to cope with the pressures on the community brought about by COVID.

The money usually used to arrange the council's civic dinner had instead been donated to local foodbanks.

School concerts usually held in front of live audiences at the Congress Theatre were being adapted to on-line Zoom events

A school environment quiz usually held in the theatre was being held online in real time in schools.

Whilst Cwmbran CC did not provide many direct services it worked closely with other service providers, organisations and the CBC to provide the services and support needed within the community.

The council tried to be innovative in the way it bought into services and worked with others.

The council had benefitted from Keep Wales Tidy funding to enhance biodiversity within the grounds of a council owned property and it had worked with the CBC's Local Places for Nature Officer and the Canal Officer on biodiversity projects.

Reference was made to the sound advice provided by Paul Egan, One Voice Wales.

The Chair thanked everyone for giving an insight into the many ways in which councils served their communities.

The information given at the meeting illustrated the diverse nature of local councils and the very different ways they found to provide relevant services within their communities.

It was agreed that the session had been informative, valuable, and thought provoking.

**10. Guest Speakers for Future Meetings**

It was agreed that Lyn Cadwallader be invited to the next meeting to give an update about the work of Welsh Government's Town Centre Action Group

**11. Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place remotely at 7pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Signed..... Date 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
Chair

# Agenda Item 9c

## **Notes of the inaugural meeting of the proposed Mynydd Maen Wind Farm development**

At a previous meeting of the Community Council I agreed to represent the Community Council on the Mynydd Maen Community Liaison Group. I attended the first meeting of the group on 16 February 2022. The following are the notes I took from it.

### **NOTES**

Those attending were three councillors from Caerphilly, and just myself and a Henllys Community Councillor from Torfaen. I attended both as Torfaen Borough and Pontypool Community Councillor

The information was given by Chris Jackson from the developer, who is the Senior Project Development Manager.

Meetings of this group will take place every one to two months. We agreed for there to be no chair of the group until after the elections in May as no decisions are being made – meetings at this stage are just to give information and answer questions.

There will be a publication event on 28/3/22 which will be online. They will also be offering individual interviews, should people want to do this, on phone or through video, especially for those who could not attend on 28th. Also there will be a local exhibition online on 8/3/22 with a newsletter to follow. 350 - 500 properties within a specific area will be written to directly to give them information about the work to be carried out. The consultation will last until 1/4/22.

Lorries will approach the site via Cwmcarn, Newbridge, turn east up through Panside Estate and then over the common land. There will be no access from N, E or S.

The intention is to generate 10 Megawatts plus through 15 turbines. An application will be put in by the end of 2022 or early 2023 with an environmental statement plus the results of any community consultation.

2 applications will be made to de-register common land which they are required to replace and this will, as far as possible, be adjoining the lost land so people can move livestock. A section 38 application will be made to carry out work on common land. The application will be within Welsh Government pre-assessed areas as 'suitable for major development'. Planning application is an 'Application of National Significance' to PEDW

The contribution after completion to local inhabitants will be £680k per year in business rates. Local firms will be used to do the work.

The timescale is

A decision to go ahead by Feb 2024  
Start build Feb 2025  
Operational 2026