

**MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF PONTYPOOL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2025**

In attendance:

Councillor: N Warren# (Chair)

Councillor(s): N Byrne*, L Clarkson#, J Cox#, E Hunt*,
G James#, J James#, L Jones#, N Jones*, S Lang#,
J Martin#, R Matthews#, R Overton#

Officer(s): L McMail#, Clerk
K Smith#, Deputy Clerk (Minute Taker)

Also attending: B McPherson#, S Read#, G Jones# - Torfaen County
Borough Council (TCBC)

* Attending remotely via Microsoft Teams

Attending physically in the Council Chamber

Min. no.	Subject and Decision	Action
256.	<u>Recording of meeting</u> Members agreed that the meeting be recorded for minute taking purposes.	
257.	<u>Questions from the Public</u> No questions received.	
258.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies received from Councillor(s) A Gunter, J Horlor, A Peplow, C Price, S Senior and N Simons.	
259.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillor(s) N Byrne, L Clarkson, G James, J James and R Matthews 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. <u>RESOLVED:</u> that the declarations of interest be recorded.	KS

260.

HDRC Project

The Chair welcomed B McPherson, S Read and G Jones to the meeting.

Prior to the meeting Members were sent a copy of the Research Action Report that the Team had prepared which included and centred on the priorities highlighted at the Full Council meeting that the Team attended in July 2025:

1. What information is available around youth boredom and anti-social behaviour?
2. What information is available around domestic abuse?
3. What challenges do single parent families face, particularly around loneliness?

B McPherson recapped on what was discussed at the Full Council meeting in July 2025.

Discussions took place relating to the types of data that had been used and how this data had been provided, ie by different teams within TCBC which assisted in identifying the different trends etc.

Members are particularly keen to receive crime data and were asked to let TCBC know if there is a specific area or ward where there needs to be a specific focus as the aim of this project is to identify problematic areas.

Councillor S Lang advised that their ward falls in all 3 of the categories in the report.

Councillor L Clarkson informed the meeting that anti-social behaviour and lone parent families are areas within their ward that are being looked at.

These areas are inter-linked and these are the type of things that TCBC are looking at as part of the HDRC project.

B McPherson advised that the Community Capacity Building Team are already working in areas to try make improvements.

S Read asked if there was a particular singular contact within the Council that they could send information to on a regular basis in between attending future meetings.

Councillor N Byrne informed the meeting that a few years ago projects through music had been set up to try and alleviate

	<p>anti-social behaviour. Work was also done with the Fire Service, Police and Social Services and there had been a reduction in anti-social behaviour at that time and questioned if perhaps this could be something that could be resurrected.</p> <p>G Jones informed the meeting that feedback he was receiving when visiting Youth Clubs was that they would like 'gaming' groups to be set up along with other types of activities.</p> <p>If funding is required to help to set up any of these groups then G Jones will continue to contact the Clerk.</p> <p>The Chair thanked B McPherson, S Read and G Jones for attending the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that Councillor S Lang would be happy to be the single point of contact going forward.</p>	
261.	<p><u>Chair's attendance at Events and Meetings</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: that this item be deferred until Councillor A Peplow is available to provide an update.</p>	
262.	<p><u>Council Meeting – 24 September 2025 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 24 September 2025.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 24 September 2025 be confirmed as a true record.</p>	KS
263.	<p><u>Finance, Governance & Policy Committee – 1 October 2025 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Finance, Governance & Policy Committee minutes held on the 1 October 2025 and approve the recommendations of that committee.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance, Governance & Policy Committee held on 1 October 2025 be confirmed as a true record and the recommendations adopted.</p>	KS
264.	<p><u>Planning & Environment Committee – 8 October 2025 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Planning and Environment Committee minutes held on 8 October 2025 and approve the recommendations of that committee.</p>	

	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 8 October 2025 be confirmed as a true record and recommendations adopted.</p>	KS
265.	<p><u>Accounting Statements and Annual Return for the year(s) ended 31st March 2024 and 31st March 2025</u></p> <p>Members were asked to receive the External Audit Reports from Audit Wales and note that the Council have received an unqualified audit for the year end 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025.</p> <p>Councillor G James stated that she would like to thank the staff who had worked on these statements and returns.</p> <p>Councillor N Jones wished to make an observation based on the comparison for the two years staff costs have increased by £88,093 which equates to a 39% increase.</p> <p>The Chair advised this reflected changes in staffing levels, scale point increases and annual increments year on year.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the information is received and noted.</p>	
266.	<p><u>Pre Budget Day Preparations for 26/27</u></p> <p>Members were informed that the budget day is being held on Saturday 15 November 2025 from 10.00 am to 1.30 pm.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the Chair and Vice Chair of Committees look at their spend for this year and any bring ideas for new projects to the budget day to help assist with the day running smoothly.</p>	
267.	<p><u>Pontypool Public Toilets</u></p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that in 2023/2024 the Council agreed to offer £5,000 as a contribution to TCBC for the public toilets. In March 2025 Members agreed that the Council would no longer fund the public toilets and the Clerk advised TCBC. TCBC have asked that the Council honour the agreed contribution for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that £10,000 be paid to TCBC towards the running costs of Pontypool Public Toilets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and this be funded from general reserves.</p>	LM
268.	<p><u>Summer Survey Feedback</u></p>	

	<p>The Chair advised that following the summer survey the community were given the option to add their personal details if they wanted to be contacted.</p> <p>Members were sent a copy of the responses and asked to make contact with the individual(s).</p> <p>Councillor(s) G James, L Jones and R Overton advised that they had contacted their residents.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the above information be noted.</p>	
269.	<p><u>Feedback from Members on the Community Engagement Training, One Voice Wales</u></p> <p>All Members were invited to attend Community Engagement training held by One Voice Wales on Wednesday 15 October 2025. Councillors L Clarkson, L Hunt, S Lang and A Peploe attended.</p> <p>Councillor S Lang informed the meeting that the training covered a wide range of things and that it was a good session and discussion had taken place relating to signposting so that people are pointed to the right places.</p> <p>Councillor E Hunt advised that they were disappointed that only 4 members attended the training especially considering that the decision to arrange the training was agreed at Full Council. The trainer said that some Councils charge Councillors for the training sessions if they are unable to attend. At the training Members were told that they should feedback on any surveys that the Council have undertaken and asked if staff could pull together an info-graphic on the outcome of the summer survey so that it can be put on social media.</p> <p>Councillor L Clarkson commented that in relation to feedback the Council needs to make sure that we have lessons learnt and any barriers the Council come against when these things are done.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the above feedback is noted; (ii) staff are asked to create an info-graphic on the outcome of the summer survey and for it to be put on social media. 	MW

270.	<p><u>Feedback from Members</u></p> <p>Councillor G James attended the Torfaen Play Sufficiency meeting which was a really good meeting and the Council were thanked for the support that they provide to the service.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the above information be noted.</p>	
271.	<p><u>Miscellaneous Correspondence</u></p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the information sent through to Members is noted.</p>	
272.	<p><u>Biodiversity and Sustainability</u></p> <p>How has this meeting contributed to the Council’s duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience of ecosystems.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Hybrid meeting (ii) Paperless agenda for some (iii) Lift sharing to attend in person 	
	<p>The recording of the Council meeting was stopped at this point.</p>	
273.	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</u></p> <p>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.</p>	

Signed by The Chair