

**MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF PONTYPOOL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026**

In attendance:

Councillor: A Peploe# (Chair)

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

Officer(s): C Drew#, Clerk
K Smith#, Deputy Clerk (Minute Taker)

* Attending remotely via Microsoft Teams

Attending physically in the Council Chamber

Min. no.	Subject and Decision	Action
556.	<p><u>Recording of meeting</u></p> <p>Members agreed that the meeting be recorded for minute taking purposes.</p>	
557.	<p><u>Questions from the Public</u></p> <p>No questions received.</p>	
558.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies received from Councillor(s) N Byrne, A Gunter and C Price.</p>	
559.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor(s) 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.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the declarations of interest be recorded.</p>	KS/CP

560.	<p><u>Actions Log from previous minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to note the minute actions log from the previous meetings.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the information be noted.</p>	
561.	<p><u>Full Council Meeting – 25 March 2026 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 25 March 2026.</p> <p>Councillor Senior expressed his disappointment that the Council had lost the GPoC.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that:</p> <p>(i) the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 25 March 2026 be confirmed as a true record.</p>	KS/CP
562.	<p><u>Biodiversity Sub-Meeting – 25 March 2026 - Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Meeting held on 25 March 2026.</p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting and formally apologised that on page 8, minute B69 the invitation to attend the meeting had not been sent out to the special guests but they will be invited to the next meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Meeting held on 25 March 2026 be confirmed as a true record.</p>	KS/CP
563.	<p><u>Finance, Governance & Policy Committee – 1 April 2026 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Finance, Governance & Policy Committee minutes held on the 1 April 2026 and approve the recommendations of that committee.</p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that the policy report will be brought to Full Council in June 2026.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that:</p> <p>(i) the policy review report will be brought to the Full Council in June 2026;</p>	CD

	(ii) the minutes of the Finance, Governance and Policy Committee held on 1 April 2026 be confirmed as a true record and recommendations adopted.	KS/CP
564.	<p><u>Planning Applications</u></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><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the comments/observations stated be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.</p>	CP
565.	<p><u>Planning Determinations</u></p> <p>Members received and noted Torfaen County Borough Council planning determinations for March 2026 including reasons for approvals or refusals.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the planning determinations be noted.</p>	
566.	<p><u>Planning Applications: Plenary Powers</u></p> <p>Members noted observations on planning applications which had already been submitted between meetings.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the plenary powers applications be noted.</p>	
567.	<p><u>Local Voluntary Funding (LVF)</u></p> <p>The Committee was requested to approve the Local Voluntary Funding (LVF) applications in agenda item 12.</p> <p>The Chair stated that all applications had been checked and vetted by the Finance Manager.</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that the LVF application that they submitted for Singergise was going to be considered for a grant instead of an LVF and this would be considered at the Finance, Governance and Policy Committee in June 2026.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that:</p> <p>(i) the LVF applications as outlined in agenda item 12 be approved;</p> <p>(ii) that a grant form be forwarded to Singergise.</p>	CC AA

568.	<p><u>Requests for Financial Assistance</u></p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that requests for financial assistance has been received from Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.</p> <p>It was agreed that the organisation be awarded £200.00.</p> <p>Councillor N Jones asked how many residents from the community attend the event and does it meet the financial assistance criteria?</p> <p>The Chair advised that in the past a very high level of attendees from the community attended the Eisteddfod.</p> <p>Councillor N Warren suggested that the Clerk contact the Eisteddfod to find out how many attendees from the Pontypool area attend.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that £200.00 be awarded from the general grants budget.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>CC/AA</p>
569.	<p><u>Sponsorship of Torfaen Community and Volunteer Awards 2026</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the sponsorship request for the Torfaen Community and Volunteer Awards 2026 which are being held on Friday 16 October 2026 at the Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that sponsorship of the gold package at a cost of £800.00 be approved and taken from the advertising budget.</p>	<p>KS/CC</p>
570.	<p><u>One Voice Wales National Conference and Awards Ceremony 2026</u></p> <p>Members were asked to note the date of the One Voice Wales National Conference and Awards Ceremony on 1 July 2026 and agree who would be attending.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Councillor G James and the Clerk will attend the One Voice Wales National Conference and Awards Ceremony on 1 July 2026.</p>	<p>KS</p>
571.	<p><u>Employee Assistance Programme Report</u></p> <p>Councillor L Hunt informed the meeting that Members should not benefit from this programme as they are not employees.</p>	

Councillor S Senior informed the meeting that they do not think that this programme is needed as the Council as managed without this type of scheme in the past.

Councillor L Hunt advised that the Council has an obligation to provide staff with occupational health assessments and taking part in the scheme covers the cost of one of these a year and the Council has had to arrange two of these within the past year.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the return on investment speaks for itself and the sickness records is the main concern and they are looking to try and reduce the sickness absence levels.

Councillor S Senior asked what the process has been up to now?

The Clerk advised that there hasn't been an assisted programme for staff in the past and the idea behind the scheme is to reduce sickness absence and to put a process in place for staff to be supported.

The first year will pay for itself purely on the occupational health assessment that the Council are currently paying for.

Councillor Senior asked if the scheme provides an unlimited amount of occupational health assessments?

The Clerk confirmed that it covers one occupational health assessment per year and that any occupational health referrals to date have been paid for when required.

Councillor N Jones asked if One Voice Wales (OVW) provide this type of support as the Council has a lot of subscriptions, would one of these provide the same service? They would just like to make sure there is no cross over and could this be checked.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Council does not have anything like this in place and OVW does not provide this service, but advised the meeting that they would assess the value of the scheme and bring a report to Council after the first year.

Councillor N Jones asked how much has been spent on occupational health within the past 5 years.

	<p>The Clerk informed the meeting that we have made 2 referrals within the past 2 years but did not have any other information to hand.</p> <p>Councillor N Warren advised that Ysgol Panteg run a scheme similar but does have concern regarding the 5 year scheme and asked what the penalty is for leaving the scheme early.</p> <p>The Clerk will find out this information and report back.</p> <p>The Chair stated that in their opinion the Council need to look after the staff as they are the backbone of the organisation.</p> <p>Member were asked to vote on this item:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="309 757 1281 1339"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>For</th> <th>Against</th> <th>Abstain</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Councillor A Peploe</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor N Warren</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor L Clarkson</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor J Cox</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor L Hunt</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor G James</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor J James</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor L Jones</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor N Jones</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor S Lang</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor J Martin</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor R Overton</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor R Matthews</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor S Senior</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>RESOLVED: that following the vote the report be approved.</p>	Name	For	Against	Abstain	Councillor A Peploe	✓			Councillor N Warren			✓	Councillor L Clarkson	✓			Councillor J Cox	✓			Councillor L Hunt	✓			Councillor G James	✓			Councillor J James	✓			Councillor L Jones	✓			Councillor N Jones		✓		Councillor S Lang			✓	Councillor J Martin			✓	Councillor R Overton			✓	Councillor R Matthews	✓			Councillor S Senior		✓		<p>CD</p> <p>CD</p>
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572.	<p><u>Feedback from Members</u></p> <p>The Chair provided an update on the of events/meetings they attended during April 2026.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the information be noted.</p>																																																													
573.	<p><u>Miscellaneous Correspondence</u></p> <p>Members were asked to note the miscellaneous correspondence forwarded to them during February 2026.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the information be noted.</p>																																																													

574.	<p><u>Committee Structure Review</u></p> <p>Councillor N Warren informed the meeting that OVW will be undertaking a review of the Committee Structure at the end of April 2026 and if anyone has any suggestions or input on what they would like to see, ie Committees restructured, Committee powers changed, delegation of powers to officers etc could they email them to the Clerk</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that suggestions/comments are sent by email to the Clerk.</p>	
575.	<p><u>Annual Meeting – 13 May 2026</u></p> <p>Members were asked to note the deadline date for the return of the preference forms</p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that there have been some technical difficulties in accessing the form and there are hard copies available should Members need them.</p> <p>Councillor N Jones requested a hard copy and asked if the form could be given to Councillor Senior.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the deadline date is noted.</p>	KS
	<p>The recording of the Council meeting was stopped at this point.</p>	
576.	<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

FULL COUNCIL

22 APRIL 2026

LOCAL VOLUNTARY FUNDING

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Statutory Provision</u>
Councillor C. Price	£250.00	Pentwyn Cricket Field and Lethbridge Community Centre	Purchase of equipment and consumables for “Sunday Afternoon Club.”	Local Government Act (Miscellaneous provisions) 1976 (LGA) Section 19
Councillor G. James	£750.00 PROJECT	Groves Painter & Decorators	Decorate stone work at town memorial gates.	Local Government Act 1972 (LGA) Section 137 General Power
Councillor G. James	£500.00	Pontypool Indoor Market Traders Association	Towards an event in town.	Local Government Act 1972 (LGA) Section 145 Entertainment and the Arts
Councillor A. Peplow	£1,200 PROJECT	Singergise	We are seeking funding of £1,200 to support the launch of an 8-week pilot for a Community Interest Company (CIC) project: an adult community jazz and blues orchestra. These sessions will provide a welcoming and supportive environment for adults of all abilities to come together, learn, and perform jazz and blues music.	Local Government Act 1972 (LGA) Section 145 Entertainment and the Arts

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Statutory Provision</u>
			<p>A key feature of the project is its partnership with Singergise Radio, where elements of the orchestra will be broadcast as part of DJ4aDay CIC programming. This will include live performances and participant interviews, giving individuals a platform to share their experiences and further strengthening community connection.</p>	