

**QUICK NOTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF PONTYPOOL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2024**

NB: Full minutes will be published in due course

In attendance:

Councillor: Caroline Price# (in the Chair)

Councillors: Lisa Jones#, Nick Byrne#, John Cox#, Anne Gunter*, Lizzie Hunt*, Gaynor James#, Nick Jones*, Sue Malson*, Rose Matthews#, Richard Overton*, Allan Peplow#, Bob Rogers*, Jools Rogers*, Nick Simons*

Officer(s): Kerrie Smith#, (Deputy Clerk, Minute Taker), Rebecca Cronin#, Environmental Health and Safety Lead

Also attending: Robert Cambell# and Lee Kirby#, Gwent Police

* Attending remotely via Microsoft Teams

Attending physically in the Council Chamber

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

Min. no.	Subject and Decision	Action
212.	<u>Recording of meeting</u> Members agreed that the meeting be recorded for minute taking purposes.	
213.	<u>Questions from the Public</u> There were no questions from the public.	
214.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies received from Councillor(s) Lynda Clarkson, Matt Ford, Jon Horlor, Jon James and Jonathon Martin	
215.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillor(s) Nick Byrne, Caroline Price, Gaynor James, Sue Malson, Rose Matthews, Nick Simons declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as they were members of TCBC, as well as being members of Pontypool Community Council.	

	<u>RESOLVED:</u> that the declarations of interest be recorded.	KS
216.	<p><u>Gwent Police representation</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed representatives from Gwent Police who attended the meeting to provide updates on various issues within the community.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the information discussed in the meeting be noted.</p>	
217.	<p><u>Council Meeting – 24 July 2024 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Full Council minutes held on the 24 July 2024.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 24 July 2024 be confirmed as a true record.</p>	KS
218.	<p><u>Finance, Governance and Policy Committee – 4 September 2024 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Finance, Governance and Policy Committee minutes held on the 4 September 2024.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Finance, Governance and Policy Committee meeting held on 4 September 2024 be confirmed as a true record and the recommendation(s) of the Committee be adopted.</p>	KS
219.	<p><u>Planning and Environment Committee – 11 September 2024 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Planning and Environment Committee minutes held on the 11 September 2024.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 11 September 2024 be confirmed as a true record and the recommendation(s) of the Committee be adopted.</p>	KS
220.	<p><u>Events Committee – 11 September 2024 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Events Committee minutes held on the 11 September 2024.</p>	

	<p>The Chair of Council moved the minutes subject to the following: The Deputy Clerk stated under minute number 191 the date should have read Tuesday 3 December 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Events Committee held on 11 September 2024 be confirmed as a true record and the recommendation(s) of the Committee be adopted.</p>	KS
221.	<p><u>Youth Provision Task and Finish Group – 4 September 2024 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Youth Provision Task and Finish Group minutes held on the 4 September 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Youth Provision Task and Finish Group held on 4 September 2024 be confirmed as a true record and the recommendation(s) of the Group be adopted.</p>	KS
222.	<p><u>Regeneration Operational Working Group – 18 September 2024 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Regeneration Operational Working Group minutes held on the 18 September 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Regeneration Operational Working Group – 18 September 2024 be confirmed as a true record and the recommendation(s) of the Committee be adopted.</p>	KS
223.	<p><u>H&S Internal Door Report</u></p> <p>Members received an update report in relation to a health and safety concern with the internal access door following a service report received from Industrial Door Services.</p> <p>A quotation had been received for the supply and installation of a new internal reception door at a cost of £3,281.07 via Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC). As this is an unexpected additional cost and the maintenance budget had already been utilised the funding would need to be taken from general reserves.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the quote from Industrial Door Services via Torfaen County Borough Council totalling £3,281.07 be accepted so that the new door can be installed; (ii) that the cost of the door be taken from general reserves. 	CC/RC

224.	<p><u>Live Christmas Trees</u></p> <p>Members received a report on the Live Christmas Trees that requested approval of the supplier and costs for works to progress in readiness for winter/Christmas.</p> <p>Six companies were asked to provide quotations and these were included in Appendix A.</p> <p>Councillor BR is led to believe that the Church in Talywain will be subject to renovation works and could cause issues with the car park that is next to the area of land opposite the Post Office. Ward Members would like to use the field opposite the Pensioners bungalows instead.</p> <p>Members asked for the Projects Officer to inform them when the trees would be planted.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) award the contract to Jacksons Nurseries at a cost of £4,800; (ii) approve the spend from general reserves. 	<p>CD</p> <p>CC/CD</p>
225.	<p><u>Fencing Costs for Live Christmas Trees</u></p> <p>Members received a report on fencing for the Live Christmas Trees to approve the supplier and costs for commissioning the work of supplying and fitting fencing following approval of the funding for the Live Trees project.</p> <p>Eight companies were asked to provide quotations (full details attached to the report).</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the costs of the fencing and Members proposed that this item be deferred and a further quotation be sought.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) this item be deferred and a further quotation be sought. 	<p>Cllr GJ</p>
226.	<p><u>Christmas Lights</u></p> <p>Members received an update report for the new Christmas Lights contract for Pontypool Town Centre.</p>	

	<p>Anchor points load testing work has been scheduled for September at a cost of £1,610 plus VAT. Any additional maintenance/repairs will be invoiced separately as agreed as Full Council on 24 July 2024 (as per minute 148).</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) approve the testing of the anchor points be carried out at a cost of £1,610 plus VAT; (ii) approve the spend from general reserves 	CC/MW
227.	<p><u>Twining Visits Report</u></p> <p>Members received a debrief report on the Twining Youth Festival and other Twining Events that took place during the Summer of 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that Members note the contents of the report.</p>	
228.	<p><u>Twining Youth Festival 2025</u></p> <p>Members received an update report on the 2025 Youth Festival following the Working Party meeting held on 21 August 2024.</p> <p>Gilwern Outdoor Activity Centre is able to provide a 5 day residential package for 40 young people/youth leaders with all food included and a range of daytime activities plus transport which has been costed at £376pp plus an additional £5pp for bed linen – total cost £15,240.</p> <p>A total of 8 rooms with bed and breakfast will be booked at the Premier Inn, Pontypool for delegates at a cost of £2,047.84 with free cancellation up until 1.00pm on the day.</p> <p>Additional transport, evening activities and weekend catering will need to be budgeted for but it is anticipated that the total spend for the Festival will be within the £27,900 available budget.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Council approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the booking of Gilwern Outdoor Activity Centre at a total cost of £15,240 (with a 10% deposit to secure the booking); (ii) the booking of 8 rooms at the Premier Inn, Pontypool at a cost of £2,047.84; (iii) that St Alban’s School and Pontypool Golf Club are tentatively reserved for the Conference/evening 	

	<p>Celebration;</p> <p>(iv) at least 1 member of the Youth Council attends all subsequent Working Party meetings.</p>	CC/MW
229.	<p><u>Governor Vacancy</u></p> <p>An e-mail was received from Lesley Bush, Chair of Governors at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllwy, Treveithin in relation to a vacancy on their board of governors. The Chair asked if any members would be interested in taking up this vacant governor position.</p> <p>As no member put themselves forward for the vacancy it was agreed that the Chair of Governors be informed.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllwy, Treveithin be informed that there was no one available to take up the vacant governor position.</p>	LM/KS
230.	<p><u>Recycling (Whale) Project</u></p> <p>Members received a proposal to purchase a Recycling Whale Sculpture as part of a recycling incentive mini project to use in Pontypool Town Centre to promote recycling.</p> <p>The total cost of the sculpture (which includes ex hire and delivery) is £3,220 plus VAT with additional costs anticipated for the internal bin and regular emptying of the bin by Torfaen County Borough Council and several sandbags to keep the structure in place.</p> <p>Members expressed comments around safety and decided not to proceed with this project.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> not to proceed with the project.</p>	MW
231.	<p><u>Welsh Language Scheme</u></p> <p>Members received a copy of the updated version of the Welsh Language Scheme which had been sent to the Welsh Language Commissioner.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Members receive the updated version of the Welsh Language Scheme.</p>	

232.	<p><u>Welsh Government – Draft priorities for Culture 2024-2030</u></p> <p>Members received a copy of the document outlining the consultation on the draft priorities for culture 2024-203 issued by One Voice Wales on behalf of Welsh Government.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Members note the contents of the draft priorities.</p>	
233.	<p><u>Innovative Practice Conference 2024 Report and One Voice Wales National Conference, 16 October 2024</u></p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Members note the contents of the report.</p>	
234.	<p><u>Torfaen County Borough Council’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and Access Strategy</u></p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the information be noted.</p>	
235.	<p><u>Safety of Lithium ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters</u></p> <p>Members received a request to support the NALC and SLCC support campaign on the safety of lithium-ion batteries and their disposal.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the Council support the campaign.</p>	KS
236.	<p><u>Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm Resubmission</u></p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the informed be noted.</p>	
237.	<p><u>Outside Bodies</u></p> <p>Members were asked to note the minutes of the Local Council’s Partnership Committee meeting held on 18 April 2024.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Local Council’s Partnership Committee meeting held on 18 April 2024 be received and the contents of those minutes noted</p>	
238.	<p><u>Policies</u></p> <p>The Council proposed the following policies for adoption. These documents went to the Finance, Governance & Policy meeting on 4 September 2024 and were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Investment Policy (b) Investment Strategy 	

	<u>RESOLVED</u> : that the above polices be approved/adopted by Council.	KS
	The recording of the Council meeting was stopped at this point.	
239.	<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>	

PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED PONT-Y-PŴL
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST DECLARED
MEETING: FULL COUNCIL
DATE: WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2024

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