



Minutes of Ponthir Community Council Full Council

Monday 13/10 2025 at 7:00 PM

Present Councillors: M Leighton, R Morgan, , I Danaher, Cllr P Buffery & Cllr L Ryan-Scales

Also Present: Simon Rushton, Simon Read, Hannah Wixcey, Joel Cantelo

1. **Apologies:** A Lang, P Matthews
2. **Members Declarations of Interest:** Cllr P Buffery Declared an interest in item 7, and Cllr M Leighton declared an interest in item 8(c).
3. **To Consider Matters Raised by the Public:** No matters were raised
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**
 - a. Proposed by RM and seconded by ID
 - b. Matters Arising:
 - i. Planters- Members noted the quality of growth in the planters and it was recommended that new bulbs be obtained for the late autumn planting. [Action: ID to purchase bulbs](#)
 - ii. Police Update- Members noted that police report had been circulated prior to the meeting and that the Clerk was awaiting further updates on thefts at Oaklands
 - iii. Chairs Jewel- Members voted to have the Chairs Chain of Office repaired and updated to include the current council logo. [Action: clerk to send chain of office for repairs, updating and appraisal \(for insurance\).](#)
 - iv. Christmas Lights- Members noted the information circulated in advance by Cllr P Matthews. [Clerk to Liaise with Cllr Matthews regarding lighting repairs.](#)
 - v. HDRC Report - Members noted the report from HDRC circulated prior to the meeting and welcomed representatives from HDRC and Torfaen council to the meeting. HDRC provided updates on previous areas of concern for the council including issues surrounding dementia, flood risk and loneliness in young people. Regarding dementia update, members noted that it was difficult to get accurate picture as over 50% of Ponthirs population is over 56, but it was noted that Torfaen is above national average for dementia. The idea of using upcoming

vaccine centre in village hall as a way of targeting older people for over 75's research was floated.

With regards youth loneliness it was noted that young gamers not necessarily at risk as online gaming offers its own "community" but HDRC committed to going into schools to get a sense of wellbeing of younger generations looking at the year 6 cohort especially, but concerns of the low numbers of children in the age group in the council area, but also expressed concerns that the council isn't doing enough to drive youth engagement, and expressed frustration around the bureaucracy surrounding any sort of youth work.

Regarding flooding, members were briefed regarding sensors that could be used to see when gulleys and culverts get blocked up and those sensors could be used to stop this, and that there might be potential for PCC and TCBC to partner up to form a community led response and could be potential buy in for the council to form some sort of flood watch, with TCBC identifying risk points.

5. Events

- a. **Remembrance Sunday/Poppy Appeal:** Members noted that clerk had sent cheque for poppies and await launch of online poppy appeal to submit further support
- b. **Christmas Event-**Members discussed the possibility of supporting a Christmas event in partnership with PSCC, however more information was needed regarding costs and organisation [ML to Liaise with PSCC and update members](#)
- c. **Christmas Trees-**
 - i. Members agreed to accept the quote of £950 for two trees from the councils current supplier
 - ii. Members agreed to accept the quote of £3,096.00 + VAT (£3,715.20) for the instillation of lights

6. Finance and Accounts- Members noted cashbook and bank reconciliation

7. **Planning:** Members heard details of planning application Ref: S25/P/0565/HH - Proposal to replace the existing roof and windows of Conservatory with Glass Lantern and Bi-Fold Doors at 88 Candwr Park Ponthir Cwmbran Torfaen NP18 1HN.- No objections were submitted by councillors however PB declared a non prejudicial interest.

8. Members Pre Submitted Motions:

- a. **Ponthir WI** Members agreed the decision to support the Ponthir Women's Institute efforts to decorate the village ahead of the national Remembrance Period
- b. **Solar Factory-** Cllr Buffrey Introduced a motion to set out the council's position on the proposed solar farm.

It was resolved that the council are committed to representing the views of their constituents throughout the whole process and will continue to work with all stakeholders to express the deep concerns felt. Whilst committed to building a cleaner and greener Ponthir the council has a number of concerns in the following areas.

- *Increased risk of flooding*
- *Access to the national grid and preexisting powercut issues in the village*
- *Health and safety of those living close by and the wider community.*
- *The effect on biodiversity in the area.*
- *That a development of this scale is for the use of a single corporate body with little benefit to the wider community.*
- *The transparency of the project and engagement on the part of Total Energies and Welsh Water.*
- *The amount of community funding being made available for the completion of the project, with much smaller scale projects locally to receive substantially more funding.*
- *Logistical issues surrounding the construction of the factory, such as increased traffic and unsuitable road infrastructure to support development*
- *The effect on wildlife.*
- *The effect on amenities associated with the proposed site such as gas and sewerage mains.*
- *The overbearing impact of the scale of the project*
- *The noise and disturbance associated with construction*

The council will continue to work with developers and residents to try to ensure that any final proposal fully addresses all outstanding environmental, traffic, and amenity concerns. Make sure that all legitimate community concerns are rigorously tested and transparently addressed, and identify and secure the maximum possible community benefit from this proposal.

- c. **Funding:** Members agreed to look at core funding and review spending to better assess funding available for community groups.

9. Committee Reports

- a. **Ponthir CIW Primary School-** No report given
- b. **Torfaen Community Transport-** No update, invite to next meeting forwarded to members
- c. **Gwent Valleys Partnership-** No Update, invite to next meeting forwarded to members
- d. **Ponthir Village Hall-** Members received an update from PB that the hall was busy and breaking even, with a number of groups making use of facilities .
- e. **PSCC-ML** updated members that club was running ok, but highlighted a continued need for daytime usage and members noted the new QR code for events calendar, including events for bonfire night and halloween.
- f. **Mick Morris Trust-** No Update
- g. **Torfaen LCP-** Members noted issues regarding selection for CC representative on ethics and standards committee, reiterated position that they will go with majority view for both process and appointment.
- h. **Chairs Report-**members noted the Deputy Chairs visit to Cwmbran Community Council's windrush celebration and the Chair's upcoming visit to Blaenavon Town Council's awards evening

Meeting Closed 20:45