



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH 2015 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Community Councillor Ms J. Rao - Chair
Councillor A. Lewis - Vice- Chair

Councillors:

Mrs A. Blackman, C.J. Cuss, C. Hawker, Ms L. Jones, J.A. Pritchard, J.E. Roberts
Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services - Councillor N. George

Community/Town Council Representatives

Aber Valley	-
Argoed	-
Bargoed	-
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	-
Blackwood	- J. Criddle
Caerphilly	-
Darran Valley	-
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	-
Gelligaer	- Ms. C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- Mrs. A. Reed, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Ms. J. Rao
Nelson	- Mrs. G. Davies
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	-
Rhymney	-
Risca East	-
Risca Town	- M. Parker, B. Campbell (Clerk)
Van	- Mrs. E. Macey

Together with

H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Bolter, H. Davies, Miss E. Forehead, N. George, A.G. Higgs and J. Pritchard, Community Councillors H. Llewellyn, Mrs A. `McConnell, Mrs J. Hibbert and Mrs. S. Hughes, Mr. G. James, Mrs. L. Tams, Mrs. S. Chick, Mr. J. Hold, Mr. K. Williams, Mr. G. Williams, Mr. T. White Mrs. H. Treherne and Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerks of Aber Valley, Argoed and Risca East, Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen and Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Darran Valley and Rhymney, Nelson, Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn, and Van Community/Town Councils respectively).

2. MINUTES - 2ND DECEMBER 2015

Subject to it being noted that Councillor Mrs J.A. Pritchard had been present at the meeting (and was recorded as being both present and absent), the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2015 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

MATTERS ARISING

3. DATA PROTECTION/FREEDOM AWARENESS RAISING SESSION (MINUTE NO. 5)

It was noted that the presentation by Mr Teague, of the Information Commissioners Office in relation to data protection/freedom of information awareness raising for community/town councils had been well received. A copy of the presentation been sent to each Clerk to circulate to their members.

ITEMS RAISED BY THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

4. UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (WALES) BILL

It was noted that there is no information available at present. The Bill is currently at Stage 3 of the process. The National Assembly for Wales website advises that Stage 3 proceedings will take place on 8th March 2016 and it will then move onto Stage 4 - the passing of the Bill.

5. RESPONSE ON THE LG DRAFT BILL CONSULTATION

A copy of the response from the county borough which was considered at Council on 26th January 2016 and had been forwarded to all Clerks was appended to the agenda.

The provisions in Part 6 of the Draft Bill relate to community and town councils requiring the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales to undertake a review of community council arrangements. Community Councillors are required to complete training on matters specified by the Principal Council. The terms of Community Councillors elected in 2017 are extended to six years with Community Council terms becoming fixed at five years from 2023.

It was noted that the county borough had responded to the consultation document that *The provisions relating to Community and Town Councils requiring the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales to undertake a review of Community Council arrangements are supported. The requirement for Community Councillors to complete training on matters specified by the Principal Council is also welcome, especially in the*

light of Community Councils being given on choosing the power of competency. We stress the need to make the training of specific relevance to Community and Town Councils.

Reference was made to comments on the proposals relating to compulsory training in that *Compulsory training for Community Councillors is welcomed in ensuring the highest possible standards in meeting the needs of their local communities, but it is stressed that training needs to be relevant to Community Councillors.*

The proposal to 'welcome compulsory training for community councillors' was not supported by those present and it was requested that in future the county borough only comment on those proposals that affect them and if not, consult on any issues that relate to community/town councils. It was noted that each community/town council has had the opportunity to comment on the proposals within the draft bill as part of the consultation process and all views expressed would be considered as part of that process.

6. REVIEW OF THE CHARTER

It was reported that the Charter had been considered by the nominated representatives and other than minor changes (to reflect the requirements for consultation under the Future Generations legislation around assessments of local well-being and subsequent well-being plans, the deletion of the Community Strategy from the current list of subjects for consultation and a change of the title of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Welsh Language Scheme to read Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020) it was agreed that it remain as at present until such time that local government reorganisation has been determined and whether, as suggested, merged LA's and community/town councils adopt the same/model charter.

As requested at the last the last meeting, Heads of Service had been reminded of the requirement to consult with community/town councils in accordance with the Charter.

It was pointed out that on occasions there are events arranged by the county borough within community/town council areas that their Members were not aware of. It was agreed that arrangements be made to ensure that such details are circulated.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm