

## Ponthir Community Council

### Minutes of Meeting

Held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Ponthir Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllr I Danaher, Cllr P Matthews, Cllr R Morgan, Cllr M Leighton and Cllr L Ryan-Scales.

Also present: Clerk to the Council – Mrs C Danaher.

1. **Apologies:** – Cllr P Buffery apologies accepted, proposed Cllr Leighton, seconded by Cllr Ryan Scales. No apologies received from Cllr A Lang.
2. **Declaration of interest:** Cllr Danaher - New Fosse Wine Society grant application.
3. **To consider matters raised by members of the public:** None.
4. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025:** Proposed Cllr Danaher, seconded by Cllr Matthews. Minutes were signed and dated by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. **Guests:** TCBC Community Connector Joel Cantello couldn't attend the meeting due to illness. Cllr Danaher welcomed Peter Fox MS, Cllr Anthony Bird Cwmbran CC and PCSO James Llewellyn. Cllr Bird gave a further update around the Cwmbran Town Board. The Groups main objectives currently are around heritage, connectivity and security. All grants currently under discussion need to be sent to TVA. Council agreed that phone signal in the village is still poor. Last two plans for a mast from providers had not made it past the planning stage. Cllr Bird will ask about a mast on our behalf. PCSO James will enquire about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and would like to undertake some surgeries with village groups around this and cybercrime as well. James reported only 4 calls relating to Ponthir have been received by the Police since Christmas. He also reported that between 15.15 and 15.45 hrs on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 129 vehicles had their speed checked driving through Ponthir. The maximum speed of vehicles checked was 30mph, with 15 drivers being issued with speeding tickets. Gwent Police will now be conducting similar random checks in the future. Cllr Ryan-Scales asked if the gun would work in the dark? James will check. James also showed Council some smart water kits for putting on valuable household items. He will check on costs and report back to the clerk. **Action:** - Clerk to liaise with James regarding the above points prior to his return to our April meeting.
6. **Matters arising:**
  - a. **Bank Forms and Deposit account:** Cllr Leighton confirmed she had still to complete the bank forms. Cllr Buffery could also be an additional signatory. Council agreed to open an instant access deposit account with £4000, the election reserves. **Action:** - Clerk to open the account.
  - b. **Planters:** Cllr Lang and Cllr Matthews have still to move the planter from School Close to Lamb Lane. **Action:** - Cllr Matthews to borrow the sack truck from the PSCC to move the planter as soon as possible. Clerk informed the meeting that the summer bedding plants have been ordered from Nantyderry nursery.

- c. **Charter between TCBC and Community Councils of Torfaen:** Cllr Morgan has now attended the final Councillor update meeting regarding the charter. He went through all the amendments which will affect Ponthir. Cllr Morgan proposed we adopt the charter subject to final confirmation, seconded by Cllr Leighton and agreed by all members present.
- d. **Cwmbran Town Board: Please see note 5 above.**
- e. **Biodiversity: Action:** - Cllrs Buffery and Leighton to continue to try and obtain information from PSCC and PVH, to add to that already obtained by the Clerk from TCBC and Ponthir School.
- f. **Gwent Archive:** Council agreed to keep minute books with PCC records. **Action:** - Clerk to confirm when all identified documents as per Gwent Archive schedule are destroyed.
- g. **Caerleon Road drains: Ongoing Action:** - Cllr Lang to complete.
- h. **Budget form amendments: Ongoing Action:** - Cllr Lang to complete

7. **To consider and discuss items:**

- a. **Communication: Action:** - All members present agreed to communicate more effectively with the Clerk between meetings, responding to messages and emails in a timely manner.
- b. **Caerleon and Lower Llanfrechfa Times:** Members were pleased with the initial PCC article in the relaunched Caerleon, Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa Times. **Action:** - Clerk to talk to James Dawson about future bimonthly articles and deadlines, as Council are keen to explore opportunities to contribute. A donation of £50 per article was agreed.
- c. **Speeding in the Village: Please see note in 5 above.** Clerk also meeting with Gwent Police Neighbourhood team on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, when a mirror opposite Hafod Road will be discussed.
- d. **Cwmbran Community Council Dinner:** Chair and Clerk are attending. Council approved a £100 donation to their charity, Ty Hafon Children's Hospice . Proposed Cllr Matthews, seconded Cllr Morgan.
- e. **Community Event:** Only PSCC have expressed an interest in taking part. **Action:** - Cllr Leighton to ask current board about how they wish to proceed.
- f. **Grant applications:** Ponthir School have asked Council to purchase 4 trees, at a cost of £220 to mark their 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration. Proposed Cllr Matthews, seconded Cllr Ryan-Scales. **Action:** - Clerk to liaise with the school regarding publicity when the trees are planted. New Fosse Wine Society have asked for a grant. Proposed Cllr Leighton, seconded Cllr Mathews. Grant agreed of £100.
- g. **One Voice Wales AGM** Cllr Leighton agreed to attend on our behalf.
- h. **Park upgrade:** TCBC have asked for a contribution towards the park upgrade opposite PVH. Council agreed that the timing of this request was poor, as it is close to the year end and we have set our budget for 25/26. **Action:** - Clerk to confirm with TCBC.

8. **Finance and Accounts:** balance and all transactions noted.

9. **Planning: TBRA/25/P/0045/TPO** Reduction of oaks and red oaks T1, T2, and T3 by 3m  
LOCATION: Play Area Rear 14-18 Oaklands, Ponthir. No comments were noted.

10. **Committee Reports:**

**Ponthir Church in Wales Primary School:** Cllr Ryan-Scales reported there is a Governors meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Torfaen Community Trust:** Next meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Gwent Valleys Partnership:** Meeting attended by the Chair and Clerk; minutes have been circulated to Councillors.

**Ponthir Village Hall:** Grants continue to be utilised for the upgrading of the hall. New solar panels have been installed, and interior decoration has commenced.  
An open meeting attended by 35 residents unanimously agreed that significant progress has been made in the last two years.

**PSCC:** Cllr Leighton confirmed that the new board continue to work on historical issues which should see the PSCC be in a better place by April.

**Mick Morris Memorial Sporting Trust:** Cllr Ryan-Scales reported that the December meeting discussed and awarded grants, and organisation of the 10k race and golf day.

**Local Council Partnership Committee:** The January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting took place, and the minutes have been circulated. The work of PCC was discussed and TCBC is impressed with what the Council are doing.

**Chair's Report:** Attended the Gwent Valleys Partnership meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Meeting with Bron Afon and various trustee meetings at PVH.

Finally, all members thanked Peter Fox for attending. Peter is happy to help us in any way he can. Councillors are all welcome at the Senydd.

**The date of the next meeting is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in Ponthir Village Hall.**

**Meeting closed at 20:50**

**This document is available on our website.**

**A copy of this document can be made available in Welsh.**

**Please contact the Clerk on 07454 988250 or email  
clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk**