

Summary (Notes) of the meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Venue: The meeting was held remotely and at the Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Formal minutes of the above meeting will follow.

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on 9 February 2022.

The minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on 23 February 2022.

Present Councillor AL Bird (Chairman), Councillors SWJ Ashley, SJ Brooks, M Day, KK Manneh, J Rees, M Villars, WJ Walker and DH Williams.

Also Councillor LJ Chaney

(Councillors Ashley, Day, Manneh, Rees, Villars and Williams participated in the meeting via remote means)

Also David Collins (Clerk) and Clare Facey (Administrative Officer) Clare Facey participated by remote means.

Absent Councillors RhM Bennett, F Jones, LM Ryan and LG Johnston

(Councillor M Johnston passed away on 8 January 2022.)

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting.)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Members observed a period of silence in memory of former Councillor M Johnston.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors RhM Bennett (sickness) and LM Ryan (personal).

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have and sign the Interests Sheet to give details of the nature of the interest.

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP21/016 (Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters) as a member of Torfaen County Borough Council's Planning Committee. He remained in the meeting during the discussions. He would reconsider the nature of the interest matters at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

Councillor DH Williams declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP21/016 (c) (Mynydd Maen Wind Farm Proposal) as Chairman of Blaen Bran Community Woodland. He remained in the meeting during the discussions.

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP21/017 (Neighbourhood Services) as a member of Torfaen County Borough Council. He remained in the meeting during the discussions. He would reconsider the nature of the interest matters at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. Terms of Reference

Members noted that, at a meeting held on 15 December 2021, the Council confirmed that matters relating to sustainability and Well-being would be overseen by this committee in future.

It was **recommended** that the information is noted.

5. Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as a member of Torfaen County Borough Council's Planning Committee. He remained in the meeting during the discussions. He would reconsider the nature of the interest matters at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations

(a) Planning Lists

Members were advised to submit any observation to any outstanding planning applications to the Council's staff.

Ward Members confirmed that they had no objection to application 21/P/0981/HH.

It was **recommended** that the information is noted.

(b) Torfaen Replacement Local Development Plan (2018-2033)

Members were updated on the current position in preparing the Torfaen Replacement Local Development Plan. Details were reported.

There was a need to develop a new timetable for the plan preparation. This timetable would be part of a revised Delivery Agreement which would be presented for Council agreement in mid-2022 (provisionally), rather than November 2021 as previously stated.

It was **recommended** that the position is noted.

(c) Mynydd Maen Wind Farm Proposal

Councillor DH Williams declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as Chairman of Blaen Bran Community Woodland. He remained in the meeting during the discussions.

Members received a presentation on the above from Chris Jackson and Carey Green of Renewable Energy Systems Ltd., who participated in the meeting via remote means.

Chris Jackson outlined the proposals and described the site of the proposed development. He also referred to consultation which would be undertaken with the community about the proposals and to the establishment of a Community Liaison Group.

Issues raised by Members included:

- the visual impact of the development on the town centre of Cwmbran.
- any potential impact on flora and fauna. (Chris Jackson was unaware of any potential adverse impact but explained that this would be fully taken into account as part of the planning process.)
- the impact of the development on the environment around Twmbarlwm and Blaen Bran Community Woodland.

The Clerk undertook to circulate further details of the development from Renewable Energy Systems Ltd., who would also contact the Council about the formation of the Community Liaison Group.

It was **recommended** that the information is noted.

6. Neighbourhood Services

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as a member of Torfaen County Borough Council. He remained in the meeting during the discussions. He would reconsider the nature of the interest matters at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations

Members welcomed Councillor A Owen Executive Member for Environment, (Torfaen County Borough Council), who participated in the meeting via remote means. Councillor Owen described current initiatives, which included measures to tackle climate change, Local Nature Partnerships, the appointment of an officer with responsibility for the canal and other projects such as improved play facilities. Members expressed the Council's support for working with the Executive Member in relation to climate change and for visiting some of the projects described.

Other issues raised by Members included:

- the importance of improving facilities at sites such as Cwmbran Park, Pontnewydd Park and the Boating Lake, including the provision of facilities such as basketball at Cwmbran Park.
- the availability of external funding to help deliver some of the above projects.

It was **recommended** that Councillor Owen is thanked for her participation in the meeting and her report.

7. **Primary Schools Eco Quiz – 3 February 2022 at The Congress Theatre**

Members noted that event would now take place remotely It is anticipated that Knauf Insulation would once again support the event via a donation. Local schools have been contacted to assess their availability. (Minute CL21/111 (5) refers).

Members approved a potential format for the event, as presented by the Administration Officer.

The Council could rely upon Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 which is the power enabling the Council to discharge its powers and functions.

The event would be delivered under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016: using approved budgets of £800 (N09) with donation from Knauf.

It was **recommended** that

- (1) the format described is approved.
- (2) funds within budget heading N05 (Environmental Projects/New Projects) are also used to support the event and encourage an awareness of environmental issues and sustainability amongst schools.

8. **Committee Estimates 2022/23**

Members considered estimates for the forthcoming year.

Members underlined the importance of establishing a business case for any future projects.

It was **recommended** that subject to the amendment of the title of N05 (Environmental Projects/New Projects) to include Climate Change, the estimates are approved.

Exclusion of the Press & Public

Due to the confidential nature of the business the remaining matters were considered in private.