

**Summary (Notes) of the meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 23 February 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 16 March 2022.

The minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on a date to be agreed.

**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**

**Present** Councillor AL Bird (Chairman), Councillors SWJ Ashley, SJ Brooks, M Day, F Jones, LG Johnston, WJ Walker and DH Williams.

*(Councillors Ashley, Day and Jones participated in the meeting via remote means)*

Also David Collins (Clerk) and Clare Facey (Administration Officer).

**Absent** Councillors RhM Bennett, KK Manneh, J Rees, LM Ryan and M Villars.

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

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors J Rees (work commitments) and KK Manneh (personal) and M Villars (illness)

Apologies for Absence were also received from Councillor LJ Chaney (personal) who is not a member of the committee.

Apologies for Absence were also submitted by Councillor A Owen of Torfaen County Borough Council (illness)

**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.

Councillors SWJ Ashley and F Jones declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minutes ESP21/025 (Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters), ESP/026 (Cwmbran Drive Active Travel Improvement Study) and ESP21/027 (Neighbourhood Services) as members of Torfaen County Borough Council and, in particular as members of the Planning Committee. (Minutes ESP21/025 and ESP21/026) They remained in the meeting during the discussions. They would reconsider the nature of the interest matters at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

**3. Minutes & Membership**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chairman signed the minutes. Members noted that Councillor F Jones had been present at the meeting. (Minute CL21/12591 refers)

Members noted that the position of Vice-Chairman of the committee was vacant following the recent death of the former Vice-Chairman.

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

**4. Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters**

Councillors SWJ Ashley and F Jones declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as members of Torfaen County Borough Council and, in particular as members of the Planning Committee. They remained in the meeting during the discussions. They 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.

**(b) Mynydd Maen Wind Farm Proposal**

Members noted that the Council had appointed Councillor DH Williams to sit on the Mynydd Maen Wind Farm Community Liaison Group. The first meeting of the group took place on 16 February 2022. Councillor Williams reported on issues which had been discussed.

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

**5. Cwmbran Drive Active Travel Improvement Study**

Councillors SWJ Ashley and F Jones declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as members of Torfaen County Borough Council and, in particular as members of the Planning Committee. They remained in the meeting during the discussions. They would reconsider the nature of the interest matters at County Borough Council level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

Members considered a report on the above. The report introduced proposals by Torfaen County Borough Council to make it easier and safer for pedestrians and cyclists to cross Cwmbran Drive.

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

**6. Neighbourhood Services**

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

Members noted that Councillor A Owen Executive Member for Environment, (Torfaen County Borough Council) was unable to participate in the meeting due to illness. She had provided information in relation to measures to help tackle climate change, which had been submitted to Members. Members discussed waste collection arrangements during the recent storms.

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

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

Members which reviewed the success of the above event, which had been held on-line this year. The event had proved very popular with encouraging feedback from local schools. The event had featured a recorded speech from the Chairman of the Council.

Members paid tribute to the hard work of the Council's staff who had helped to deliver the event.

It was **recommended** that the success of the event is noted.

**8. Seminars & Outside Bodies: Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canal Trust: 31 January 2022**

Members considered a report of Councillor Ashley. Key issues discussed at the meeting had included the role of the new Canal Coordinator (Alice Rees), the regeneration potential of the canal and litter-picking arrangements. Members emphasised the importance of a co-ordinated approach to the work of groups who participated in litter-picking.

Members discussed the role of heritage bodies and bodies responsible for promoting canals.

It was **recommended** that

- (1) the report is noted.
- (2) Councillor Ashley provides a detailed written report to the Clerk for circulation to Members.
- (3) Alice Rees is invited to attend a future meeting to discuss her role and potential ways in which the Council could support the future of the canal.
- (4) the Council supports measure to achieve a co-ordinated approach to the work of groups who participated in litter-picking.

**Exclusion of the Press & Public**

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