

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on Wednesday
23 February 2022 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on 16
March 2022.

These 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.)

ESP21/022 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)

ESP21/023 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.

ESP21/024 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.

ESP21/025 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 group would operate as an avenue for the creation and maintenance of channels of communication between representatives of the wind farm developer, the local community and their elected representatives. The first meeting of the group took place on 16 February 2022. Councillor Williams reported on issues which had been discussed, which include access arrangements, number of turbines, costs, consultation and anticipated timescales.

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

ESP21/026 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. Comments had been requested by 23 February 2022.

The results would be collated and analysed over the coming weeks before consideration was given to further works. The results would be shared with the Council. The Administration Officer referred to advice received from Torfaen County Borough Council on the level of responses received.

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

ESP21/027 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.

The Clerk agreed to circulate information provided by Councillor Owen on waste collection arrangements during the recent storms, which had been requested by a Member. The Member had been provided with a copy of the response.

Members discussed issues associated with refuse collection during the recent storms, with particular reference to Llantarnam and other wards. The Chairman paid tribute to the hard work of Torfaen County Borough Council staff but acknowledged concerns expressed about missed collections etc. in some areas and advice to the public. The concerns expressed would be passed to Councillor Owen.

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

ESP21/028 Primary Schools Eco Quiz – 3 February 2022 at The Congress Theatre

Members considered a report 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.

ESP21/029 Seminars & Outside Bodies: Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canal Trust: 31 January 2022

Members considered a report of Councillor Ashley in relation to the above meeting. Key issues discussed 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 measures to achieve a co-ordinated approach to the work of groups who participated in litter-picking.

ESP21/030 Exclusion of the Press & Public

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed that the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 be exercised.

ESP21/031 Task Force Performance Information

Members considered performance information about the recent work of the Task Force.

It was **recommended** that

- (1) the information is noted.
- (2) a ward-by-ward summary of work undertaken by the Council over a five-year period is submitted to Members.

Signed
(Chairman, Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee)