

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on Wednesday
1 March 2023 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on
29 March 2023

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on a
Wednesday 12 April 2023

**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 Councillors SWJ Ashley (Chair), A Bird, L Chaney, L Johnston, F Jones, P
Jones, C Morgan, M Villars, WJ Walker

(Councillors R Bennett, L Lloyd-Tolman participated in the meeting via remote
means)

Also Gareth Davies (Clerk) and Richard Hughes (Treasurer Friends of
Pontnewydd Park)

Absent Councillors M Day, G Lloyd-Tolman, P Seabourne, KK Manneh

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

ESP22/059 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillor G Lloyd-Tolman (work)

ESP22/060 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 non-prejudicial interest in Minutes
ESP22/062 (a) Planning Lists and ESP22/065 (c) Pontnewydd Park
Environmental Funding. He remained in the meeting during the discussions.*

*Councillor C Morgan declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP22/065
(c) Pontnewydd Park Environmental Funding. He remained in the meeting
during the discussions.*

ESP22/061 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chair signed the minutes.

In relation to minute ESP22/054 Councillor Walker expressed his concerns with the ongoing issues with recycling collections in Llantarnam.

ESP22/062 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters

Councillor SWJ Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP22/062 (a) Planning List. He remained in the meeting during the discussions.

Councillor Bird updated Members on works taking place at Cwmbran Station from Monday 27 February to Friday 3 March to clear and prepare for the potential installation of a footbridge and lift at the Station.

(a) Planning Lists

No objections are offered to Planning List 1447, items 6426, 6427, 6428 and 6429 & Planning List 1448, item 6430.

Items 6426 and 6427 Community Council Ward amended to Northville.

(b) Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions

Members noted the Schedule of Planning Decisions.

It was **recommended** that:-

- i) no objections are offered to Planning List 1447, items 6426, 6427, 6428 and 6429 & Planning List 1448, item 6430.
- ii) to note the Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions.
- iii) Contact is made with Torfaen Planning Department to arrange a representative attending a future meeting to advise members on planning approval procedures.
- iv) Contact is made with Network Rail to attend a meeting to discuss the future development of the Station.

ESP22/063 Neighbourhood Services

Members discussed concerns with ongoing waste collections with regular failed Friday collections, waste is then left outside properties with collections being carried out on the weekend. Members would like to invite Councillor Mandy Owen to the next meeting to discuss the issues.

It was **recommended** that:-

- (i) Councillor Mandy Owen and the Recycling Manager are invited to the next meeting.
- (ii) The position is noted.

ESP22/064 Seminars & Outside Bodies

Members enquired if Alice Rees had been contacted concerning representation at the Canal Action Group, Councillor Ashley confirmed that contact had been made and it was ongoing.

It was **recommended** that:-

- (i) Contact is made with Alice Rees for an update.
- (ii) The position is noted.

ESP22/065 Future, New Environmental Projects/Well-Being & Anti Poverty /Foodbanks

Councillors SWJ Ashley and C Morgan declared non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP22/065 (c) Pontnewydd Park Environmental Funding. They remained in the meeting during the discussions.

- a) Fuel Banks Scheme: Members discussed the Citizens Advice Bureau's scheme which is not yet up and running. The Clerk has requested a report and is awaiting a response. Members agreed that CAB should be contacted urgently for an update on the scheme.

Councillor L Lloyd-Tolman updated members on the Thornhill Foodbank and the high demand for the service with a growing number of requests for help being received. Thornhill Foodbank are partnered with the Foodbank Foundation and the scheme has been up and running since October 2022.

It was **recommended** that:-

- (i) The Clerk to contact Citizens Advice Bureau and request a written update and invite a representative to attend the next meeting.
- (ii) Refer to next full Council Meeting.
- (iii) The position is noted.

- b) Mon and Brec Canal Regeneration: Members discussed the de-weeding of the canal between Ty Coch Lane and Two Locks. A Funding contribution of £6000 was discussed and Members voted to approve the proposal.

It was **recommended** that:-

- (i) Payment of £6000 to be made to Torfaen County Borough Council.
 - (ii) The position is noted.
- c) Pontnewydd Park Environmental Funding: Richard Hughes Treasurer of the Friends of Pontnewydd park attended the meeting and gave Members a report on the strategy to improve the use of the park and reduce anti-social behaviour. Funding will be used to facilitate events for the community and improve the parks grounds with additional inclusive planting and recreation equipment. A Children's roundabout with disabled access has already been purchased funded by a Lottery Grant.

Members discussed the park improvements, and it was proposed to support the request for funding for park improvements and the installation of the roundabout with funding of £7000.

It was **recommended** that:-

- (i) Deferred to the next full Council Meeting.
 - (ii) The position is noted.
- d) Rolling Road Safety at Schools Programme: Councillor Bird gave a report to Members on the aims of the programme to improve parking and road safety around schools providing funding for the purchase of equipment and installation costs.

It was **recommended** that:-

- (i) Deferred to next full Council Meeting.
 - (ii) The position is noted.
- e) Royal Memorial Fund: Members discussed the Royal Memorial Fund to support local regeneration projects. Members suggested linking the Coronation with the Memorial Fund and to look at publicity for the fund.

It was **recommended** that:-

- (i) Members to look at Memorial projects in each ward to discuss at a future meeting.
- (ii) To look at a Memorial Plaque for the Clock outside the Council House.

- (iii) The position is noted.

ESP22/066 Biodiversity Plan

Councillor Bird confirmed that the Biodiversity Plan has been written and submitted. Members discussed the report and approved the recommendations. A copy of the report is to be sent to Steve Williams for his comments.

It was **recommended** that:-

- (i) Copy of the report is sent to Steve Williams.
- (ii) The Clerk to look at a new resident's handbook.
- (iii) The position is noted.

ESP22/067 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.

ESP22/068 Task Force Performance Information

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

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Task Force performance information is noted.

Signed
(Chairman, Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee)