

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on Wednesday 31 May 2023 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday 21 June 2023

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on  
Wednesday 5 July 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), LJ Chaney, M Day, L Johnston, G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman, KK Manneh, M Villars (Vice-Chair), WJ Walker

(Councillors C Morgan participated in the meeting via remote means)

Also Gareth Davies (Clerk) and Councillor Mandy Owen, Executive Member for Environment (Torfaen County Borough Council)

**Absent** Councillors A Bird, R Bennett, F Jones, P Seabourne

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

**ESP23/001 Appointment of Chairman and Membership**

At the Annual General Meeting of Cwmbran Community Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Councillor SWJ Ashley was appointed Chairman of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24. Councillor M Villars was appointed as Vice Chairman. Membership was appointed as referred to above.

Terms of Reference for the Committee were also agreed at the above meeting.

**ESP23/002 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors A Bird (Work commitments), R Bennett (Work commitments), F Jones (Holiday), P Seabourne (Holiday)

**ESP23/003 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 & LJ Chaney declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP23/005 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters. They remained in the meeting during the discussions.*

**ESP23/004 Minutes - 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2023 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

The Chair signed the minutes.

**ESP23/005 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters**

*Councillors SWJ Ashley & LJ Chaney declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP23/005 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters. They remained in the meeting during the discussions.*

**(a) Planning Lists**

No objections are offered to Planning List 1459.

Planning list 1460, item 6456 objection to felling of Liquid Amber tree. No objections to items 6457 & 6458.

**(b) Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions**

Members noted the Schedule of Planning Decisions.

Members enquired on the situation with the Stagecoach Depot. Councillor Ashley will make enquiries and report back to members.

It was **recommended** that:-

- i) No objections are offered to Planning List 1459 and Planning List 1460 items 6457 & 6458.
- ii) Planning list 1460, item 6456 objection to felling of Liquid Amber tree.
- iii) Councillor Ashley to report back on the development of the Stagecoach Depot.
- iv) to note the Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions.
- v) The position is noted.

## **ESP23/006 Neighbourhood Services**

Councillor Mandy Owen, Executive Member for Environment (Torfaen County Borough Council) attended the meeting via remote means and answered questions from Members.

The clerk updated members on the reply received from Councillor Owen concerning the sewage leak at the playing fields at the old Llantarnam School. Welsh Water officers inspected the area and were unable to find any sewage or water leak fault and the fencing has now been removed. The issue is not visible at present due to no rainfall for several weeks. Councillor Owen suggested that when it rains, and the issue is visible a site meeting is arranged to assess the situation.

Councillor Owen confirmed that the Waste Consultation has been paused following feedback from residents and they will be working on the raise the rate campaign to increase recycling.

Members enquired about how recycling can be improved, including if all plastics could be collected at the roadside which is not possible at the present time. Members discussed encouraging residents to take stretchy plastics to supermarkets for recycling. Members also discussed concerns with animal waste and tea bags which contain plastic.

Councillor Owen confirmed that they had received an amount of feedback concerning animal waste and litter. They are looking at everything to try and make it as easy as possible for residents to increase their recycling. The campaign raise the rate will encourage recycling with education, engagement and enforcement to target residents who are not recycling.

Councillor Owen updated members on the work being carried out at Court Farm & Oakfield Community Centre, the roof has been completed and the scaffolding is being taken down. It is hoped that the centre will be open by the weekend.

It was **recommended** that:-

- (i) Councillor Mandy Owen is thanked for attending the meeting.
- (ii) The position is noted.

## **ESP23/007 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.

**ESP23/008 Task Force Performance Information**

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

The clerk reported to members on the duties being carried out by the Task Force in April and May, including tool maintenance, taking the van for repairs/MOT and installing the banners and posters around the Cwmbran area advertising the Big Event.

Members discussed the cost of the gardening and decoration service provided to residents, with residents over 75 and disabled residents receiving the service at a reduced cost. Members agreed that the service is a community service not for profit and should be available to all.

Members suggested the Task Force could be extended to assist residents without transport with disposing of large items and to families with disabled children at reduced cost.

The Clerk will look at the charging regime, any changes which can be made to the service and marketing. To report back to the next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Clerk to report back to the next meeting
- b) the Task Force performance information is noted

*Signed* .....  
(Chairman, Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee)