

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on Wednesday 6 September 2023 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday 27 July 2023

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on  
Wednesday 11 October 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 M Day, M Villars & WJ Walker

*(Councillor SWJ Ashley participated in the meeting via remote means)*

Also Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk), Stephanie Kopec (Events & Outreach Officer), Councillor Mandy Owen, Executive Member for Environment (Torfaen County Borough Council), Caroline Andrews (TVA Opening Doors Officer) & Katie Davies (TVA Third Sector Development Officer)

**Absent** Councillors R Bennett, A Bird, L Chaney, L Johnston, F Jones, KK Manneh, G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman, C Morgan & P Seabourne

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

**ESP23/017 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors A Bird (Work), L Chaney (illness), KK Manneh (Personal), G Lloyd-Tolman (Personal) & L Lloyd-Tolman (Personal)

**ESP23/018 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.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**ESP23/019 Minutes – 5 July 2023**

Councillor Villars would like to add the following standing items to the agenda.

- a) Environment Reports
- b) reports back on any Climate and Nature emergency activities.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2023 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor M Villars signed the minutes.

#### **ESP23/020 Torfaen Voluntary Alliance**

Members received a presentation from Caroline Andrews (TVA Opening Doors Officer) & Katie Davies (TVA Third Sector Development Officer) Torfaen Voluntary Alliance.

The TVA supports organisation, individuals and the community in a wide range of ways including finding funding, planning and recruiting volunteers. TVA is a partner of the Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) network funded to deliver on 4 key themes, Volunteering, Good Governance, Sustainable Funding, and Influencing & Engagement. A officer from the National Lottery also regularly visits the TVA to assist with grant applications.

TVA also run the Opening Doors project to support community led venues to become a network of hubs to encourage people out of their homes to tackle loneliness and isolation. Connect Torfaen is a free online place to advertise events taking place in the community.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) Caroline Andrews and Katie Davies are thanked for their presentation.
- b) the position is noted.

#### **ESP23/020 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters**

##### **(a) Planning Lists**

No objections are offered to Planning Lists.

##### **(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 Lists.
- ii) to note the Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions.
- iii) The position is noted.

**ESP23/021 Neighbourhood Services**

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

Councillor Owen reported to members that work was still ongoing to increase recycling with increased kerbside collections including shredded paper, textiles and batteries. A free compost trial had started to reuse the green waste, with residents able to collect two bags per person from the household recycling centre.

Members were interested to find out where trees would be planted and suggested possible suitable sites. Councillor Walker asked for assurances that the compost would be free from pests and disease. Councillor Day asked Councillor Owen to look at a path at the boating lake near the river which is very overgrown with brambles, Councillor Owen noted the issue which she would report to council officers to look into.

It was **recommended** that:-

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

**ESP23/022 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.

**ESP23/023 Task Force Performance Information**

Members considered the performance information regarding the recent work of the Task Force. The RFO/Deputy Clerk informed members that the new finance system will be able to report on the Task Force by ward and should be available in the coming months, ward data will be available for the next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Task Force performance information is noted.

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