

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on Wednesday
17 January 2024 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on
Wednesday 31 January 2024

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on
Wednesday 28 February 2024.

**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), R Bennett, M Day, G Lloyd-Tolman,
L Lloyd-Tolman, K Manneh, C Morgan, M Villars & WJ Walker

(Councillors L Chaney participated in the meeting via remote means)

Also Gareth Davies (Clerk) & Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk)

Absent Councillors A Bird, L Johnston F Jones & P Seabourne

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

ESP23/045 Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence received.

ESP23/046 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.

ESP23/047 Minutes – 22 November 2023

Councillor Walker informed members of an issue with water in a field between his property and Llantarnam Primary School, the Clerk will make enquiries.

Councillor Villars updated members on a reply from active travel confirming that they will be starting work on a new crossing mid-February. Councillor Villars enquired on the location of the crossing which has been confirmed as a zebra crossing to be installed at Hogarth Close. Councillor Villars will make enquires and will report back to the committee when he receives further information.

Members discussed issues with the speed signs on Llantarnam Road with one sign set to 20mph and the other still set at 30mph. Councillor Chaney was also concerned with the speed signs on Blenheim Road, with the sign showing the speed for the traffic travelling in the opposite direction.

The Clerk confirmed that Torfaen CBC are aware of the issues which will be looked at in the coming weeks.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor SWJ Ashley signed the minutes.

ESP23/048 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters

(a) Planning Lists

Councillor Walker enquired why all planning applications were not received by the Council. The Clerk confirmed that the Council receive the planning applications that are dealt with by the Planning Committee, members do not receive the applications dealt with by Planning Officers.

Councillor Ashley asked the Clerk to contact the Planning Department to invite an Officer to attend a meeting to inform members of the planning system.

No objections are offered to Planning List 1489.

(b) Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions

Members noted the Schedule of Planning Decisions.

It was **recommended** that:-

- i) the Clerk contacts the Planning Department to invite an Officer to attend a meeting.
- ii) no objections are offered to Planning Lists
- iii) to note the Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions.
- iv) The position is noted.

ESP23/049 Neighbourhood Services

Councillor Mandy Owen, Executive Member for the Environment (Torfaen County Borough Council) was unable to attend the meeting.

Members discussed issues with the waste collections over the Christmas period. Collections were delayed due to the Christmas break however waste was not collected on the dates advertised with waste being left on the streets for several days awaiting collection.

The Clerk will contact Torfaen County Borough Council for a response.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) The Clerk will contact Torfaen County Borough Council concerning the late waste collections.
- b) the position is noted.

ESP23/050 Environmental Reports

(a) Canal Update

The Clerk confirmed that a refund of the unspent funds for work to remove weeds from the canal had been received.

(b) Live Christmas Trees

The Clerk informed members that he had spoken to Community Councils who already have Live Christmas Trees and also to Blaen Bran Community Woodland.

Members discussed the options and issues with Live Christmas Trees including the ongoing maintenance and making sure the correct type of tree and spruce are used. Members were concerned with the growth of the trees and identifying suitable locations for the trees and the costs of the Christmas lighting, which may need cherry pickers to install the lights as the trees grow.

Members also discussed alternatives for using the funds currently used for the Pontnewydd Christmas Tree, being distributed to groups in all wards to contribute to the cost of a Christmas Tree in each ward.

Members also suggested the Task Force could do some maintenance of the trees.

The Clerk to look into the costs of Live Christmas Trees and report back to the next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Clerk makes enquiries into the costs of Live Christmas Trees.
- b) the position is noted.

ESP23/051 Reports regarding any Climate & Nature Emergency Activities

Councillor L Lloyd-Tolman informed members of the recent contamination in the Afon Lwyd River, which was believed to have come from the British due to the severe amount of rain.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

ESP23/052 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.

ESP23/053 Task Force Performance Information

Members considered the performance information and reports 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)