

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

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday 24 July 2024

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on  
Wednesday 4 September 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 A Bird, F Jones, K Manneh, M Villars & W Walker

*(Councillors SWJ Ashley & R Bennett participated in the meeting via remote means)*

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

**Absent** Councillors L Chaney, M Day, L Johnston, G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman,  
C Morgan & P Seabourne

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

**ESP24/011 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors M Day, G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman, C Morgan & P Seabourne

**ESP24/012 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.

**ESP24/013 Minutes – 29 May 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2024 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor M Villars signed the minutes.

**ESP24/014 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters**

**(a) Planning Lists**

There were no outstanding Planning Lists.

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

Planning application 24/P/0177/TPO, Councillor Walker was concerned with the poor standard of the work carried out to two Oak trees at Oakfield Grange.

The Clerk will pass on concerns to Torfaen County Borough Council.

Members noted the Schedule of Planning Decisions.

It was **recommended** that:-

- i) the Clerk reports members concerns to TCBC with the work to two Oak Trees at Oakfield Grange.
- ii) to note the Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions.
- iii) the position is noted.

**ESP24/015 Neighbourhood Services**

Councillor Owen was unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk reported that going forward borough Councillors representing Neighbourhood Services, Recycling and the Canal would take it in turns to attend meetings and update members.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

**ESP24/016 Environmental Reports**

**(a) Canal Update**

The Clerk reported that no update has been received.

Members discussed the overgrown brambles on the Canal between the Fire Station and Ty Coch, making it difficult to walk along the path and highlighted that this was also an issue in a number of other paths in the Cwmbran area. The Clerk will report the areas where brambles are of concern to Torfaen County Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Clerk reports members concern with brambles on paths to TCBC.
- b) the position is noted.

**ESP24/017 Reports regarding any Climate & Nature Emergency Activities**

**a) Raising Recycling Rates**

Members discussed the new initiative under consultation which has been in the press and on social media to add an extra step to recycling collections of a red bag, residents would then need to separate metals and plastics which are all currently placed in the black box. Members were concerned how making the sorting of waste for residents more complicated would help to raise the recycling rate, which currently stands at 64% and needs to reach a target of 70%.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

**b) Windfarm Development**

The Clerk reported that the applicant for a windfarm development between Abertillery and Abersychan has been withdrawn and a meeting is taking place this week concerning the windfarm development at Upper Cwmbran and Thornhill. Feedback will be provided to members after the meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

**ESP24/018 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.

**ESP24/019 Task Force Performance Information**

The Clerk reported to members that he recently went out for the day with the Task Force team and was very pleased with the excellent job they carry out but also with the Well Being aspect of the service provided to residents.

The garden of the customer they visited was very overgrown and could not be used, the Task Force team cleared the garden and the customer was extremely pleased with the service and highly praised the team and the work carried out making the garden accessible for her.

The Clerk will prepare a visual report for members with before and after photographs for a future meeting.

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

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the clerk prepares a visual report for members of the Task Force work.
- b) the Task Force performance information is noted.

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