

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on  
Wednesday 4 September 2024 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday 25 September 2024

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on  
Wednesday 9 October 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, M Day, L Johnston, G Lloyd-Tolman, C Morgan,  
P Seabourne, M Villars (Vice Chair) & W Walker

*(Councillors S Ashley participated in the meeting via remote means)*

Also Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk), Alexander Magee (Thirty47), Sean  
Murphy (Elgin Energy) & Elliot Dommet (Stantec)

**Absent** Councillors R Bennett, L Chaney, F Jones, L Lloyd-Tolman & K Manneh

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

**ESP24/020 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors L Chaney, F Jones &  
K Manneh

**ESP24/021 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 S Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP24/023  
- Elgin Energy. He remained in the meeting during the discussions.*

**ESP24/022 Minutes – 17 July 2024**

Councillor Walker enquired if a reply had been received from Torfaen County  
Borough Council concerning the poor standard of work carried out on two  
Oak Trees at Llantarnam Grange. The RFO confirmed that the Clerk had  
contacted Torfaen CBC and had not yet received a response.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 were confirmed as a correct  
record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor M Villars signed the minutes.

## **ESP24/023 Elgin Energy**

*Councillors S Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP24/023 - Elgin Energy. He remained in the meeting during the discussions.*

Members received a presentation on the proposed Solar Farm at Pentre Lane from Alexander MaGee (Thirty 47), Sean Murphy (Elgin Energy) & Elliot Dommet (Stantec).

The presentation included an overview of the company and details of the site location which will cover 110 acres of grade 3B agricultural land used for grazing, north of Pentre Lane Llantarnam.

The Statutory Consultation is taking place from 7 August until 18 September 2024 and a Public Consultation was held on 3 September 2024. The proposal will generate enough green renewable energy to power 5500 homes every year.

Members thanked the Elgin Energy representatives for their presentation and asked questions concerning the proposal including concerns with the amount of traffic to the site using Pentre Lane. Members were informed that there will be an amount of traffic between 9am and 5pm to deliver supplies to site and consultations had taken place with residents to look at whether residents would prefer heavier traffic for a shorter period or to extend the construction period for less disruption each day.

Members were very interested in the landscape strategy to maintain the fields and were informed that the fields will be maintained through grazing and mowing and also with the planting of native trees and shrubs. The site will be decommissioned after 40 years, with all solar panels removed from site.

Members were also informed that there would be a Community Benefit Package totalling £80,000 to be spent on local projects.

- a) Alexander Magee (Thirty47), Sean Murphy (Elgin Energy) & Elliot Dommett (Stantec) were thanked for their presentation.
- b) the position is noted.

## **ESP24/024 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters**

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

Planning lists 1519 & 1520, no objections received.

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

Members noted the Schedule of Planning Decisions.

It was **recommended** that:-

- i) to note the Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions.
- ii) the position is noted.

**ESP24/025 Neighbourhood Services**

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

Councillor Walker was very concerned that the ongoing drainage and sewage issues at Llantarnam playing fields had still not been resolved.

Members discussed other options to move forward as this issue remains unresolved for a considerable amount of time. Options discussed included taking the matter to the Public Service Ombudsman, or a class action by residents

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

**ESP24/026 Environmental Reports**

**(a) Canal Update**

Councillor Ashley informed members that he will be attending the Canal Strategy meeting next week and suggested inviting Chris Wyatt (Canal Officer) to the next meeting to report to members.

The RFO reported to members that the first payment to MBACT had been made and he would request a report for the next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) Chris Wyatt (Canal Officer) is invited to the next meeting.
- b) the position is noted.

**ESP24/027 Reports regarding any Climate & Nature Emergency Activities**

**a) Raising Recycling Rates**

Members discussed how recycling information could be included in Torfaen Talks to advise residents and would like to invite Councillor Sue Morgan to the next meeting to report on recycling and raising the recycling rates.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) Councillor Sue Morgan is invited to the next meeting.
- b) the position is noted.

**b) Windfarm Development**

Councillor G Lloyd-Tolman reported to members that a peat survey had been conducted and there had been a bit of movement of the turbines with the site size remaining the same.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

**ESP24/028 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.

**ESP24/029 Task Force Performance Information**

The RFO informed members that a Task Force Presentation will be given by the Clerk at the next Policy & Finance meeting.

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)*