

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on  
Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday 29 January 2025

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on  
Wednesday 26 February 2025.

**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 S Ashley (Chair), A Bird, L Chaney, M Day, F Jones, K Manneh,  
C Morgan, P Seabourne, M Villars & W Walker

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

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

**Absent** Councillors L Johnston, G Lloyd-Tolman & L Lloyd-Tolman

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

**ESP24/049 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors G Lloyd-Tolman  
(Work) & L Lloyd-Tolman (Meeting)

**ESP24/050 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.

**ESP24/051 Minutes – 20 November 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024 were confirmed as a  
correct record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor S Ashley signed the minutes.

**ESP24/052 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters**

**(a) Planning Lists**

Planning list 1537 no objections received.

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

Members asked the Clerk to contact Torfaen CBC regarding withdrawn planning application 23/P/0412/MOD106. Members also discussed preplanning applications.

Members noted the Schedule of Planning Decisions.

It was **recommended** that:-

- i) The Clerk contacts Torfaen CBC regarding withdrawn planning application 23/P/0412/MOD106.
- ii) to note the Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions.
- iii) the position is noted.

**ESP24/053 Neighbourhood Services**

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

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

**ESP24/054 Environmental Reports**

**(a) Canal Update**

No update received.

**(b) Raising Recycling Rates**

Members discussed the usage of the new red recycling bag and asked the Clerk to contact Torfaen CBC for an update on the amount of recycling since the implementation of the red bag.

Members were also concerned with the accessibility and availability of recycling items for residents, with items currently only available for collection in Cwmbran at the library, which is difficult for some residents.

**(c) Windfarm Development**

No update received.

**(d) Solar farm development**

The Clerk is currently waiting for a reply and will contact again for a response.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

**ESP24/055 Reports regarding any Climate & Nature Emergency Activities**

Members were concerned with an issue with a sewage leak affecting several residents, the Clerk will request an update from Welsh Water.

Members discussed the Active Travel Routes and highlighted areas in the Cwmbran area, where residents are cutting across grass areas for short cuts or needing to cross a road to access a pavement. Members were also interested in the plans for the installation of pedestrian crossings for the new housing developments in Sebastopol.

Paths and pedestrian crossings to be discussed at the next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Clerk requests an update from Welsh Water.
- b) Paths and pedestrian crossings to be included in the next Agenda.
- c) the position is noted.

**ESP24/056 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.

**ESP24/057 Proposed Budget 25-26**

Members considered the attached budget report.

Members discussed ecological projects in schools and the benefits to pupils. Members approved funding of £500 per school for ecological projects.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) £500 funding per school for ecological projects is approved.
- b) the position is noted.

**ESP24/058 Task Force Performance Information**

Members considered the performance information and reports regarding the recent work of the Task Force. The Clerk informed members that a more detailed report will be available at the next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Task Force performance information is noted.

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