

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on  
Wednesday 26 February 2025 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday 26 March 2025

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on  
Wednesday 9 April 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, C Morgan, M Villars & W Walker

*(Councillors R Bennett, M Day, F Jones & P Seabourne participated in the  
meeting via remote means)*

Also Gareth Davies (Clerk), Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk) & Gary Meale  
Community Decarbonisation Officer (Torfaen County Borough Council)

**Absent** Councillors L Chaney, L Johnston, G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman &  
K Manneh

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

**ESP24/059 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors L Chaney, G Lloyd-  
Tolman & L Lloyd-Tolman

**ESP24/060 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.

*Councillor S Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP24/064  
Environmental Reports – (a) Canal Update. He remained in the meeting  
during the discussion.*

**ESP24/061 Minutes – 15 January 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2025 were confirmed as a  
correct record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor S Ashley signed the minutes.

**ESP24/062 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters**

**(a) Planning Lists**

Planning list 1542 & 1543 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.

**ESP24/063 Neighbourhood Services**

Members received a presentation from Gary Meale, Community Decarbonisation Officer (Torfaen County Borough Council) informing members of the ongoing work to reduce CO2 emissions in community venues, domestic homes and TCBC assets. CO2 emissions have reduced in the borough by 39.9% in the last 5 years.

15% of Torfaen County Borough Council's vehicle fleet is now fully electric, with additional EV charging points being fitted at various sites in the borough including schools.

Support is available to residents to advise on energy efficiency in their homes and to access schemes and grants available. 28 community projects have received support.

Members were interested in how EV chargers would be installed in streets with terraced housing and Gary Meale explained the type of chargers which are available including fitting to existing lamp posts and ones which can be recessed in the pavement.

Members were also keen to know how improvements could be made to the Council House building, which is currently waiting for smart meters to be installed to monitor the energy usage.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) Gary Meale, Community Decarbonisation Officer (TCBC) is thanked for his presentation.
- b) the position is noted.

## **ESP24/064 Environmental Reports**

*Councillor S Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP24/064 Environmental Reports – (a) Canal Update. He remained in the meeting during the discussion.*

### **(a) Canal Update**

Members discussed the work required and how to restore the canal for the benefit of residents and wildlife.

Members agreed to hold a meeting to discuss the canal and to invite Chris Wyatt (Canal Officer) and groups involved with the regeneration of the canal to participate.

### **(b) Raising Recycling Rates**

No updates received.

### **(c) Windfarm Development**

No updates received.

### **(d) Solar farm development**

No updates received.

### **(e) Schools eco funding**

Members discussed the funding for ecological projects for schools and approved the payment of £500 per school for primary and secondary schools with pupils attending from the Cwmbran area.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) a meeting is arranged discuss the canal regeneration.
- b) £500 funding per school approved for Eco projects in primary and secondary schools with pupils from the Cwmbran area.
- c) the position is noted.

## **ESP24/065 Reports regarding any Climate & Nature Emergency Activities**

### **i) Paths & Pedestrian Crossings**

The Clerk confirmed that information has been passed on to members concerning planned improvements to paths in their wards.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

**ESP24/066 Live Christmas Trees**

Members considered how to identify community groups and agree a communication approach to publicising the project in preparation for engagement with groups and landowners.

Members discussed the benefits for the community and approved the project.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the project is approved.
- b) the position is noted.

**ESP24/067 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.

**ESP24/068 Task Force Performance Information**

Members considered the performance information and reports regarding the recent work of the Task Force and the Clerk confirmed that he had been in touch with a consultant to look at strengthening the project.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Task Force performance information is noted.

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