

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of
Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 7 September 2016**

Present Councillor S Evans (in the Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Brooks,
LJ Chaney, WM Howell, R Jones, KK Manneh, R Seabourne and WJ Walker

Councillor BJ Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council, Executive
Member)

Also Clare Facey (Administration Officer)

ESP16/0013 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors TA Matthews
(meeting), D Standing (annual leave) and TJ Winter (sickness)

ESP16/014 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.

ESP16/015 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning & Highways Matters

Members considered outstanding planning list 1151.

Members also considered planning items 6089 (noted), 6090 (still
awaiting police observations) and 6091 (noted).

It was **recommended** that no objection is offered to list 1145.

(b) Schedule of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions

Members considered a schedule of recent decisions of Torfaen County
Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that the decisions are noted.

ESP16/016 Blaen Bran Community Woodland

Members were pleased to receive an update on the environmental
improvement works funded by the Council at the Woodland. The
Administration Officer reported on the works by providing members with
photographs of the newly erected bench. It was reported that the Clerk was
awaiting dates of the unveiling ceremony and invitations would be sent out
to members shortly.

It was **recommended** that the position be noted.

ESP16/017 Little Pen-y-Waun

Councillor Standing was unable to attend the meeting but had provided the Administration Officer with an update advising members on the following:-

“I have been gathering the evidence for the preliminary report that will be required prior to an application for the proposed community project at the small farmstead, Little Pen-y- Waun, situated in St Dials.

This has included cartographic regression & LiDAR analysis via Stephen Peel (Torfaen’s Senior Building Conservation Officer), further field work by myself along with some informal discussions with various academics regarding the possibility of the site.

Interestingly, I recently volunteered for a community excavation in Merthyr with the view of observing the interaction between the archaeologists and members of the public. This stems from some bad experiences that I have previously encountered on various projects, including some in the Cwmbran community. Unfortunately, the bad experience was repeated and it is something that we do not want repeating if or when this project goes ahead.

I should be in a position to deliver a small PowerPoint presentation to the planning committee at its next meeting. I would like to propose that both Stephen Peel and Ashleigh Taylor are invited to attend the meeting so that they may answer any questions that the committee has.”

It was **recommended** that Councillor Standing is thanked for his excellent detailed report.

ESP16/018 Seminars & Outside Bodies

Members considered a report in relation to the following seminar and received a verbal report from Councillor Ashley:-

- (i) Torfaen Environmental Association 10 March 2016

It was **recommended** that the information is noted.

ESP16/019 Neighbourhood Services Matters

Councillor John Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council’s Executive Member Neighbourhoods) informed members on the following:-

Boating Lake Café break in – this was the subject of vandalism three times in one week in the early hours of Tuesday 23rd August, Sunday 28th August and Wednesday 31st August. Vandals managed to prise open the shutters and steal a small amount of money and confectionary. They also caused damage to the front of the building.

The Council and café owners have since reviewed security arrangements and are currently waiting on new roller-shutters to be installed.

Morrison's Roundabout Update – The roundabout was highlighted as part of this year's Highway Maintenance Resurfacing Contract due to its poor condition.

On further investigation it became apparent that the underlying foundation had failed.

Traditionally, this poor material would be excavated and then reinstated. Based on the number of vehicles using this location and the proximity to the town centre, closing the area for an extensive period would have caused severe traffic problems.

The nature of the work recently undertaken involved injecting a polymer into the underlying foundation which can be driven on immediately and requires no excavation/open trenches. It has been used within a number of boroughs in England successfully and a number of major airports.

On completion, the running surface of the roundabout can then be planned and removed and a new surface laid to seal the area and provide an even finish.

The stabilisation works were completed Thursday 1st September and the aim is to resurface the area within the coming weeks under night time closure.

Streetscene Review – TCBC are currently interviewing for new crew members for the street scene team as part of its transition to area-based working.

TCBC are creating five dedicated area based teams to tackle litter hotspots, as part of our commitment to cleaner and greener communities.

TCBC will also have two rapid response units to respond to issues quickly seven days a week. Currently, each area of the borough is cleansed on a 10 day schedule working north to south, from Blaenafon to Cwmbran.

The new arrangements will see the borough split into five sections which will each have its own dedicated streetscene team and mini street sweeper.

The move will allow crews to get to know their own patch and focus more resources into problem areas, which is hopefully being implemented in the next few months.

Other issues raised by members included:

Members asked where the five teams would be situated. Councillor Cunningham advised that he would forward a map to the Administration Officer for members' matters.

Cameras being used in the future at the "hotspot litter" areas for prosecution.

Raising concerns with a letter to Bron Afon regarding litter collection, grass clearing etc during the winter months in Bron Afon's estates/areas.

Also raising awareness of the neighbourhood teams spraying weed killer close to resident's gardens and being mindful of this.

Thanks was noted to Torfaen County Borough Council for grass cutting at the playing fields in Llantarnam Ward.

It was **recommended:-**

- a) that the Clerk write a letter to Bron Afon highlighting the concerns of members regarding litter collection and grass cutting during the winter months in Bron Afon's areas/estates.
- b) that Councillor Cunningham is thanked for his report.
- c) that the position be noted.

Signed

(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)