

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on
Wednesday 28 May 2025 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on
Wednesday 18 June 2025

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on
Wednesday 2 July 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, A Bird, M Day, C Morgan, M Villars (Chair) & W Walker

*(Councillors R Bennett, G Lloyd-Tolman & L Lloyd-Tolman participated in the
meeting via remote means)*

Also Gareth Davies (Clerk), Andy Smith (RFO/Deputy Clerk), Chris Wyatt
Canal Officer (Torfaen County Borough Council) & Councillor S Morgan
Executive Member for Waste & Sustainability (Torfaen County Borough
Council)

Absent Councillors L Chaney, F Jones, P Jones, K Manneh & P Seabourne

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

ESP25/001 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors L Chaney (Personal)
F Jones (Holiday), P Jones (Holiday) & K Manneh (Personal)

ESP25/002 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 received.

ESP25/003 Minutes – 9 April 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2025 were confirmed as a correct
record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor M Villars signed the minutes.

ESP25/004 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters

(a) Planning Lists

Planning list 1554 & 1555 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.

ESP25/005 Neighbourhood Services

- a) Members received a presentation from Chris Wyatt Canal Officer (Torfaen County Borough Council) outlining the 3 phase 10 year strategy to develop the canal.

Phase 1 will develop the canal from Mount Pleasant to Five Locks basin, with phase 2 putting the canal back to Mount Pleasant Road and phase 3 completing the canal up to the town centre at the end of the 10 year period.

Recently new signage has been installed on the canal and bench installation is also taking place to improve the user experience, with plans also looking to clean the pontoons with the assistance of volunteer groups.

Members thanked Chris Wyatt Canal Officer (TCBC) for his presentation and were interested to hear the plans for the canal development. Councillor Walker was concerned with the condition of the canal section from Two Locks to Llantarnam which is not included in the 10 year plan and members would also like to be provided with information regarding the maintenance costs of the canal.

- b) Members received a presentation from Councillor S Morgan Executive Member for Waste & Sustainability (Torfaen County Borough Council).

The presentation informed members that Torfaen for the future needed to respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment making Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically.

Current issues which are being addressed are littering, abandoned rubbish bags, fly tipping and dog fouling with the pick it up campaign aiming to make the borough greener, cleaner and better off.

The aim is for net zero carbon by 2030, by off setting emissions by tree planting etc to get to a balanced position, with the council leading and encouraging residents and businesses towards net zero carbon by 2050. While also factoring in climate change into planning, protecting and enhancing natural resources.

Recycling rates have increased from 59% in 22/23 to 64% 23/24, but have not yet reached the 70% target. The council enforcement teams will be actively engaging and enforcing to reach the required 70% recycling target and avoid fines.

Members thanked Councillor S Morgan Executive Member for Waste & Sustainability (TCBC) for her presentation and discussed how repair shops are helpful to residents to repair items rather than buy new, with the nearest facility currently in Pontypool. Members also discussed issues with fly tipping in their wards and the benefits to residents from nature reserves and trails.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) Chris Wyatt Canal Officer (TCBC) is thanked for his presentation.
- b) Councillor S Morgan Executive Member for Waste & Sustainability (TCBC) is thanked for her presentation.
- c) the position is noted.

ESP25/006 Environmental Reports

(a) Canal Update

Members received a presentation from Chis Wyatt Canal Officer (TCBC).

(b) Windfarm Development

No update received.

(c) Solar farm development

The Clerk informed members that planning had been extended, and the information would be circulated to members.

(d) Bin Replacement Schedule

The Clerk confirmed that bins had been ordered and asked members to look at the bins in their wards which need to be replaced. Members to inform the Clerk.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Clerk circulates the information regarding the Solar Farm development to members.
- b) members inform the Clerk of any bins to be replaced.
- c) the position is noted.

ESP25/007 Reports regarding any Climate & Nature Emergency Activities

A report for LLARCS will be available the next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) a report from LLARCS to be available at the next meeting.
- b) the position is noted.

ESP25/008 Annual Report

The Clerk will circulate the draft annual report to members. Members to forward any suggestions to the Clerk as soon as possible for the completed report to be ready for the full Council meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Clerk circulates the annual report to members.
- b) Members forward suggestions for the annual report to the Clerk.
- c) the position is noted.

ESP25/009 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.

ESP25/010 Task Force Performance Information

Members discussed ideas for a kit loaning system for community groups to access resources. Members to forward ideas to the Clerk.

Members considered the Task Force performance information.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) members inform the Clerk of ideas for a community kit loaning system.
- b) the Task Force performance information is noted.

Signed
(Chairman, Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee)