

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on
Wednesday 8 April 2026 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on
Wednesday 6 May 2026

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on
Date to be Confirmed.

**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 L Chaney, L Lloyd-Tolman, C Morgan, M Villars (Chair) &
W Walker

*(Councillor S Ashley, R Bennett, G Lloyd-Tolman participated in the meeting
via remote means)*

Also Gareth Davies (Clerk) & Gren Ham (Group leader for Energy & Climate
Change TCBC)

Absent Councillors A Bird, M Day, F Jones, P Jones, K Manneh & P Seabourne

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

ESP25/071 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors A Bird, F Jones,
P Jones & K Manneh

ESP25/072 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.

ESP25/073 Minutes – 25 February 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2026 were confirmed as a
correct record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor M Villars signed the minutes.

ESP25/074 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters

(a) Planning Lists

Planning lists 1592 no objections.

(b) Schedules of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions

Members noted the Schedule of Planning Decisions.

It was **recommended** that:-

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

ESP25/075 Neighbourhood Services/Partner Update

Members received a report from Gren Ham (Group leader for Energy & Climate Change TCBC) regarding the work of the borough providing support packages to community centres and buildings to cut emissions. The support has been very positive with 23 community centres and 46 businesses benefiting with the installation of solar panels. The aim is also to provide support to 1000 households per year and the use of data sharing with the NHS to assist targeting householders effected by the cold.

Members were also updated on the boroughs fleet of electric vehicles, with 89 electric chargers now installed across Torfaen. Members were concerned with the need to download an app to use the chargers which may discourage some residents to swap to electric vehicles. Members were informed of future plans for car sharing with vehicles being available for collection from charging hubs for a monthly subscription, assisting households who only require occasional use of a vehicle to reduce the cost of owning a vehicle.

Members thanked Gren Ham for attending the meeting and were interested in the cost for using vehicle chargers and asked if signage could be improved with details of the app. Members also discussed the use of e bikes and if this could aid the reduction of vehicle use.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) Gren Ham (Group leader for Energy & Climate Change TCBC) is thanked for attending the meeting.
- b) the position is noted.

ESP25/076 Environmental Reports

(a) Updates where Notified

Councillor Walker was concerned that no grass cutting had taken place in Llantarnam so far this year. The Clerk will contact TCBC for the grass cutting schedules for all wards.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Clerk contacts TCBC for the grass cutting schedules for all wards.
- b) the position is noted.

ESP25/077 Reports regarding any Climate & Nature Emergency Activities

The Clerk informed members that no updated had been received.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

ESP25/078 Project Development

a) Wildflower Meadows

The Clerk informed members that Events & Outreach Officer had attended a meeting and an update would follow.

b) Cwmbran Futures Fund Bid

The Clerk confirmed that no update had been received.

c) Support for Environmental Groups – Crow Valley Angling

The Clerk informed members of a request for funding received from Crow Valley Angling for £600 to restock Carp in the Cwmbran Boating Lake. Members approved the £600 funding request.

d) Canal Weed/Vegetation Cuts - TCBC

The Clerk informed members of a request for support from TCBC to contribute to the cost of clearing weed in the canal at the Two Locks section. Members discussed the request and asked the Clerk to request a schedule for the work and agreed to pay a contribution once the work has been completed.

e) Pontypool links update

No update received, an update will be available at the next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the funding request for £600 to Crow Valley Angling is approved.
- b) Members agreed to pay a contribution towards weed cutting once the work has been completed.
- c) the position is noted.

ESP25/079 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.

ESP25/80 Task Force Performance Information

Members considered the Task Force performance information.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Task Force performance information is noted.

Signed
(Chairman, Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee)