

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on
Wednesday 8 October 2025 at 6.00 pm.**

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

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on
Wednesday 15 November 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, F Jones, P Jones, C Morgan, M Villars (Chair) &
W Walker

(Councillor R Bennett participated in the meeting via remote means)

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

Absent Councillors L Chaney, M Day, G Lloyd-Tolman, L Lloyd-Tolman, K Manneh &
P Seabourne

(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

ESP25/031 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors L Chaney, K Manneh
& P Seabourne

ESP25/032 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 A Bird declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP25/038 –
Project Development. He remained in the meeting during the discussion.*

*Councillor S Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP25/036 –
Environmental Reports – Solar Farm Development. He remained in the
meeting during the discussion.*

ESP25/033 Minutes – 3 September 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2025 were confirmed as a
correct record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor M Villars signed the minutes.

ESP25/044 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters

(a) Planning Lists

Planning lists 1570 & 1571 no objections received.

(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.

ESP25/035 Neighbourhood Services/Partner Update

a) LLARCS Update

Councillor Villars updated members on the work of LLARCS in Llantarnam. The group took over the maintenance and planting of a large concrete planter in the Flower Gardens and borders on Oakfield Road.

Events are held in the Flower Gardens each year, ranging from litter picks to events attended by stalls, wildlife groups including birds and with Torfaen play organising children's activities. Bird boxes have been installed and bird counting events are held to encourage children with nature activities. Wooden planters have also been planted with fruit and vegetables for residents to pick and take home.

The main issue is with water at the Flower Gardens as there is no tap on site, therefore water must be carried there in containers by volunteers and filled at local properties.

Members discussed how rainwater could be collected and suggested that LLARCS contact experts from local allotment groups to investigate water collection systems. The Clerk will contact Dave Leech at Torfaen County Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Clerk contacts Dave Leech (Torfaen CBC)
- b) the position is noted.

ESP25/036 Environmental Reports

Councillor S Ashley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP25/036 – Environmental Reports – Solar Farm Development. He remained in the meeting during the discussion.

(a) Canal Update

Councillor S Ashley and Councillor F Jones updated members on the recent canal meetings attended.

Members discussed issues including overgrown weed and impact on wildlife of the lack of water in the canal. Members were interested to know how often the police patrol the canal area and discussed if Canal Watch could be reintroduced.

(b) Windfarm Development

No update received.

(c) Solar farm development

No update received, members discussed the possible disruption by HGV vehicles to the site and to wildlife.

(d) Christmas Tree Update

The Clerk informed members that information will be going out to groups interested in having Christmas trees and planting should be taking place at the end of October.

(e) Section 6 Biodiversity duty report (Due November)

The Clerk reported that the report will be circulated to members ready for the next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

ESP25/037 Reports regarding any Climate & Nature Emergency Activities

No reports received.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

ESP25/038 Project Development

Councillor A Bird declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute ESP25/038 – Project Development. He remained in the meeting during the discussion.

a) Wildflower Meadows

Councillor Walker suggested that there are a number of areas of land around Cwmbran which could be planted with wildflowers. Members discussed the suggestion and agreed that the Clerk explores possible areas.

b) Cwmbran Futures Fund Bid

The Clerk informed members of the Cwmbran Futures Fund and asked members to consider a bid for £150,000 to be used to provide support to community associations and buildings to support energy efficiency measures and decarbonisation with match funding. Members approved the funding bid.

c) Support for Environmental Groups

Members discussed support for environmental groups with a dedicated £5,000 pot to kickstart or maintain ecological activity, with a maximum of £1,000 per group, members approved the proposal.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Clerk explores possible areas for wildflower planting.
- b) the Cwmbran Futures Fund bid is approved.
- c) support for environment groups with a £5,000 pot and a maximum of £1,000 per group is approved.
- d) the position is noted.

ESP25/039 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.

ESP25/040 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)