

**Minutes of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee held on
Wednesday 3 September 2025 at 6.00 pm.**

The recommendations below will be submitted to the Council Meeting to be held on
Wednesday 24 September 2025

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the meeting of the committee to be held on
Wednesday 8 October 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 A Bird, F Jones, P Jones, M Villars (Chair) & W Walker
(Councillor L Lloyd-Tolman participated in the meeting via remote means)
Also Gareth Davies (Clerk)

Absent Councillors S Ashley, R Bennett, L Chaney, M Day, G Lloyd-Tolman,
K Manneh, C Morgan & P Seabourne
(No Public Participation Session was held at this meeting)

ESP25/021 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors S Ashley, L Chaney,
G Lloyd-Tolman & K Manneh

ESP25/022 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.

ESP25/023 Minutes – 28 May 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2025 were confirmed as a correct
record of the meeting and are approved and actioned therein.

Councillor M Villars signed the minutes.

ESP25/024 Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters

(a) Planning Lists

Planning lists 1566 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.

ESP25/025 Neighbourhood Services

Update postponed to next meeting.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

ESP25/026 Environmental Reports

(a) Canal Update

Jayne Collier (MBACT) attended the meeting and updated members. There are two working groups currently working on the canal and they will be starting work to clear the vegetation in September.

Six carved benches are planned along the canal to form part of a themed walk, the wood has been purchased, and a number of designs have been submitted with three more designs required for the project with a local theme. There has also been a suggestion to provide a nature facility with a bird hide and training room at Ty Coch.

Water levels in the canal are an issue due to the hot dry summer and MBACT are looking at ways to increase the water in the canal.

Members were interested in young people volunteering on the canal from Cross Keys College and how it could be extended to other colleges in the area and if repairs could be carried out while the water levels are currently low.

(b) Windfarm Development

The Clerk reported that the development was awaiting determination by Welsh Government as Planning and Environment Decisions Wales were overseeing it.

(c) Solar farm development

The Clerk reported that the development was awaiting determination by Welsh Government as Planning and Environment Decisions Wales were overseeing it.

(d) Christmas Tree Update

The Clerk reported that 5 trees were on order and a meeting with the interested groups would be arranged for late September/ Early October.

(e) Section 6 Biodiversity duty report

Our Section 6 Biodiversity duty report is scheduled to be updated in November, Councillors were asked to forward any information useful to the development of the updated report to the Clerk.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) Jayne Collier (MBACT) is thanked for attending the meeting.
- b) the position is noted.

ESP25/027 Reports regarding any Climate & Nature Emergency Activities

Members considered that the Canal update was comprehensive and highlighted the current climate and nature emergency and that measures to support the Canal Volunteers were needed.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

ESP25/028 Project Development

Members will be providing suggestions at future meetings.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the position is noted.

ESP25/029 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.

ESP25/030 Task Force Performance Information

Members considered the Task Force performance information.

It was **recommended** that:-

- a) the Task Force performance information is noted with updated information to be added to next report.

Signed
(Chairman, Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee)