

**MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF PONTYPOOL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2026**

In attendance:

Councillor: A Peploe# (Chair)

Councillor(s): N Warren*, L Clarkson#, A Gunter#, J Horlor*, L Hunt*,
G James#, J James#, L Jones#, J Martin#, R Matthews#,
R Overton#, C Price*

Officer(s): C Drew#, Clerk
K Smith#, Deputy Clerk (Minute Taker)

Also attending: C Ashman#, Place Planning Consultant (TCBC)

* Attending remotely via Microsoft Teams

Attending physically in the Council Chamber

| Min. no. | Subject and Decision | Action |
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| 522. | <p><u>Recording of meeting</u></p> <p>Members agreed that the meeting be recorded for minute taking purposes.</p> | |
| 523. | <p><u>Questions from the Public</u></p> <p>No questions received.</p> | |
| 524. | <p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies received from Councillor(s) J Cox, N Jones and S Senior.</p> | |
| 525. | <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor(s) L Clarkson, G James, J James, R Matthews and C Price declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as they were members of TCBC, as well as being members of Pontypool Community Council.</p> <p>Councillor R Overton declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in agenda item no. 13 relating to an LVF application.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the declarations of interest be recorded.</p> | KS/CP |

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| 526. | <p><u>Development of a Shared Blueprint for Growth</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed C Ashman, Place Planning Consultant (TCBC) to the meeting.</p> <p>Members received a presentation outlining the development of a shared Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen blueprint for future growth.</p> <p>As part of the development of the blueprint an up to date overview of each settlement across Torfaen in terms of local aspirations, opportunities in developing the economy and place will be outlined.</p> <p>The completed blueprint will be sent to the Council for comments next Spring.</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that copy of the presentation slides will be forwarded to them following the meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Chair thanked C Ashman for attending the meeting (ii) a copy of the presentation slides are forwarded to Members. | KS |
| 527. | <p><u>Full Council Meeting – 25 February 2026 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 25 February 2026.</p> <p>Cllr A Gunter informed the meeting that they had submitted their apologies for the meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 25 February 2026 be confirmed as a true record.</p> | KS/CP |
| 528. | <p><u>Biodiversity Sub-Meeting – 25 February 2026 - Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Meeting held on 25 February 2026.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Meeting held on 25 February 2026 be confirmed as a true record.</p> | KS/CP |

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| 529. | <p><u>Finance, Governance & Policy Committee – 4 March 2026 – Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Finance, Governance & Policy Committee minutes held on the 4 March 2026 and approve the recommendations of that committee.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the minutes of the Finance, Governance and Policy Committee held on 4 March 2026 be confirmed as a true record and recommendations adopted.</p> | KS/CP |
| 530. | <p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <p>Members received and considered the list of planning applications on which it was being consulted by Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC).</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the comments/observations stated be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.</p> | CP |
| 531. | <p><u>Planning Determinations</u></p> <p>Members received and noted Torfaen County Borough Council planning determinations for February 2026 including reasons for approvals or refusals.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the planning determinations be noted.</p> | |
| 532. | <p><u>Planning Applications: Plenary Powers</u></p> <p>Members noted observations on planning applications which had already been submitted between meetings.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the plenary powers applications be noted.</p> | |
| 533. | <p><u>Requests for Financial Assistance</u></p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that requests for financial assistance has been received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Pontnewynydd Sports & Social Club (ii) The Really Amazing Charity TRAC 2 <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Pontnewynydd Sports & Social Club be awarded £500 from the grants miscellaneous budget. (ii) The Really Amazing Charity TRAC 2 be awarded £250 from the grants miscellaneous budget. | CC/ AA |

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| 534. | <p><u>Local Voluntary Funding (LVF)</u></p> <p>The Committee was requested to approve the Local Voluntary Funding (LVF) applications in agenda item 13.</p> <p>The Chair stated that all applications had been checked and vetted by the Finance Manager.</p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that 4 late applications had been submitted.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the LVF applications as outlined in agenda item 13 be approved together with the 4 late applications (as detailed in the attached table).</p> | CC/AA |
| 535. | <p><u>Invitation to Peter & Paul Festival</u></p> <p>Members were informed that the Council has received an invitation from its twinned town in Bretten to attend the Peter and Paul Festival on 3-5 July 2026.</p> <p>Discussion took place around the Youth Festival in August and it was agreed that members of the Youth Council attend this event.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Cllr A Peploe and their Consort will attend the twinning event on 3-5 July 2026 in Bretten.</p> | CD/SF |
| 536. | <p><u>Membership of One Voice Wales – 2026/2027</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the membership of One Voice Wales for 2026/2027.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the membership be renewed at a cost of £7,649.00.</p> | CC |
| 537. | <p><u>Democracy and Boundary Commission (DBCC) Annual Remuneration Report 2026 - 2027</u></p> <p>Members were asked to note the contents of the Democracy and Boundary Commission (DBCC) Annual Remuneration Report 2026-2027 which sets out the remuneration for County Borough and Community Councils.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the information contained within the report be noted.</p> | |
| 538. | <p><u>Community Engagement Plan</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve the Community Engagement Plan.</p> | |

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| | <p>Cllr L Clarkson suggested contacting Torfaen Youth Service so that they can take this to the Youth Clubs to get the teenagers perspective on this regarding public engagement and summer surveys.</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that the Council's draft Strategic Plan will be brought to the next meeting for approval.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Community Engagement Plan be approved; (ii) Torfaen Youth Service be contacted regarding public engagement; (iii) the Strategic Plan be brought to the next meeting for approval. | <p>MW/CD CD CD</p> |
| | <p><u>Miscellaneous Correspondence</u></p> <p>Members were asked to note the miscellaneous correspondence forwarded to them during March 2026.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the information be noted.</p> | |
| 539. | <p><u>GOVERNANCE ITEM</u></p> <p><u>General Power of Competence (GPOC)</u></p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that the Council no longer operates under the General Power of Competence.</p> <p>With effect from 9 March 2026 the Council now operates under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 mainly unless activity falls within a specific statutory power/provision.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the information be noted.</p> | |
| | <p>The recording of the Council meeting was stopped at this point.</p> | |
| 540. | <p><u>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</u></p> <p>By virtue of The Public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</p> | |

Signed by The Chair

FULL COUNCIL

25 MARCH 2026

LOCAL VOLUNTARY FUNDING

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Requested Amount</u> | <u>Organisation</u> | <u>Reason</u> |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Councillor N. Byrne | £225.00 | Pontnewynydd Sports and Social Club | To help replace cooker. |
| Councillor N. Byrne | £125.00 | Torfaen Mind | Dan Jones Fund. |
| Councillor J. Martin, Councillor R. Overton, Councillor N. Jones and Councillor S. Senior | £9,500.00 Councillor J. Martin £2,500.00 Councillor R. Overton £2,500.00 Councillor N. Jones £2,250.00 Councillor S. Senior £2,250.00 | New Inn Scouts | Roof Repair |
| Councillor J. Horlor | £300.00 (PROJECT) | Cold Barn Farm | Period dignity and safe sex promotion |
| Councillor J. Horlor | £200.00 (PROJECT) | Cold Barn Farm | Allotment project buying seeds, soil etc |
| Councillor J. Horlor | £500.00 (PROJECT) | The Really Amazing Charity (TRAC 2) | To hold summer events for children |
| Councillor J. Horlor | £300.00 (PROJECT) | Cold Barn Farm | Dance Attack – pay for dance tops for the children to wear |

PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OPERATES UNDER THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE