

**MINUTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2026**

In attendance:

Councillor: Jon James# (in the Chair)

and Councillor(s): Nick Byrne*, John Cox*, Anne Gunter*,
Gaynor James#, Sarah Lang*, Jonathon Martin#,
Allan Peploe#

Officers: Cath Drew#, Clerk
Sarah Fussell#, Projects and Events Officer

* *Attending remotely via Microsoft Teams*

Attending physically in the Council Chamber

The meeting was recorded for minute taking purposes as agreed by Members.

Min No	Subject and Decision	Action
178.	<u>Recording of Meeting</u> Members agreed that the Council meeting could be recorded for minute taking purposes.	
179.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies received from Councillor(s) Lisa Jones, Richard Overton and Nick Simons	
180.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillor(s) Nick Byrne, Gaynor James and Jon James declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in any agenda items relating to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) as they are a member of TCBC, as well as a member of Pontypool Community Council. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u> : that the declarations be noted.	KS/CP

181.	<u>Action Log from Previous Minutes</u> The Committee were asked to note the minute actions log from the previous meetings. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the information is noted and a further update provided at the next meeting.	SF
182.	<u>Planning Applications</u> The Committee received and considered the list of planning applications on which it was being consulted by Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC). <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the comments/observations stated be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.	CP
183.	<u>Planning Determinations</u> The Committee received and noted Torfaen County Borough Council planning determinations for July 2026 and August 2026 including reasons for approvals or refusals. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the planning determinations be noted.	
184.	<u>Planning Applications: Plenary Powers</u> The Committee noted observations on planning applications which had already been submitted between meetings. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the plenary powers applications be noted.	
185.	<u>Notice Boards, Bins and Benches</u> The Committee received an update report on the noticeboards, bins and benches. The Projects & Events Officer informed the meeting that: <u>Noticeboards</u> (i) replacement noticeboard in Trevethin - consent to advertise has been applied and paid for.	

	(ii) new noticeboard in Upper Cwmynyscoy - this land is privately owned with no pavements so unable to install a noticeboard on this site and the Councillor who requested it has been notified. <u>Bins</u> A new request has been received for a bin to be installed at Festival Crescent, New Inn Upper at a cost of £305-£366 (dependent upon land ownership). <u>Benches</u> (i) new benches to be installed at the Canal (Pontypool stretch) and George Street Primary. TCBC are checking to ensure that the areas are suitable; (ii) replacement bench at Blodwyn Road is being replaced and paid for by TCBC; (iii) new request for a bench to be installed at Festival Crescent at a cost of £649 (including installation). <u>VJ80 Memorial Benches</u> (i) the Chair has liaised with the New Inn Primary Headteacher, who confirmed that they have consulted with the TCBC Safeguarding Officer and they are happy for the bench to be installed opposite the main entrance to the school; (ii) Folly Contractors have removed and disposed of the damaged bench in New Inn Lower free of charge; (iii) TCBC have undertaken an audit of the memorial benches and have identified some that are already in poor condition. The Chair advised that these benches are not fit for purpose, they have contacted a local company to provide a quotation for new benches. These benches will need to be replaced on an 'as and when' basis. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that: (i) a new bin is purchased at Festival Crescent at a cost of £305-£366 (including installation); (ii) a new bench is purchased and installed at Festival Crescent at a cost of £649 (including installation);	SF SF
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	(iii) the VJ80 bench is installed opposite New Inn Primary School's main entrance; (iv) Full Council is requested to allocate a budget to replace damaged VJ80 benches.	SF CD
186.	<u>Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW)</u> Councillor Gunter informed the meeting that they wanted to bring to the Committee's attention the re-application of the PEDW Pylon at Llanhilleth. Following the recent wildfires there should be a change of plan. Discussion took place about the planning process at Welsh Government level and the lack of influence at TCBC level on such decisions. The Clerk suggested writing a letter from the Community Council and asked Councillor Gunter to send background information through to them. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the Clerk sends a letter on behalf of the Community Council, subject to Full Council approval.	CD
187.	<u>Committee Budget</u> Members received a copy of the budget within its remit including reserves. The Clerk informed the meeting that there is funds still available in the benches budget and suggested using some of these monies to replace the New Inn Lower VJ80 bench. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that a report is brought to the next Committee meeting asking to approve the replacement of the New Inn Lower VJ80 bench using funds from the benches budget.	SF
188.	<u>Biodiversity and Sustainability</u> How has this meeting contributed to the Council's duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems?	

	<u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the: (i) meeting was a multi-location meeting (ii) agenda had been sent electronically (iii) discussions held on the VJ80 benches, noticeboards, bins and benches.	
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*This is a recommendation to Council, the final decision would be made by Council.

Signed by Chair