

**QUICK NOTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE PLANNING
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025**

NB: FULL MINUTES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DUE COURSE

In attendance:

Councillor: Jon James# (in the Chair)

and Councillor(s): John Cox*, Gaynor James#, Lisa Jones*,
Richard Overton#, Allan Peploe#

Officers: Kerrie Smith, Deputy Clerk# (Minute Taker),
Cathryn Drew# (Projects 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
184.	<u>Recording of Meeting</u> Members agreed that the Council meeting could be recorded for minute taking purposes.	
185.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies were received from Councillor(s) Nick Byrne, Anne Gunter and Nick Simons.	
186.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillor(s) Gaynor James and Jon James 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 members of Pontypool Community Council. <u>RECOMMENDED:</u> that the declarations be noted.	KS
187.	<u>Biodiversity Sub-Committee</u> Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 July 2025.	

	<u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that: (i) the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 July 2025 be confirmed as a true record;	
188.	<u>Planning Applications</u> Members 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
189.	<u>Planning Determinations</u> Members received and noted Torfaen County Borough Council planning determinations including reasons for approvals or refusals. <u>RECOMMENDED</u>: that the planning determinations be noted.	
190.	<u>Planning Applications: Plenary Powers</u> Members noted observations on planning applications which had already been submitted between meetings. <u>RECOMMENDED</u>: that the plenary powers applications be noted.	
191.	<u>Varteg Community Wood Lease</u> The Committee received a letter from Pontypool Park Estate advising that the annual rent for the lease of the Varteg Community Wood will increase to £162.00. The Chair informed the meeting that they would like to visit the site. The Project Officer will provide maps and further information at the next meeting. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that; (i) the lease for the Varteg Community Wood be renewed at a cost of £162.00;	CD/MW/ CC

	(ii) a site visit is organised for P&E Committee members; (iii) maps and further information be provided at the next meeting.	CD CD
192.	<u>VJ80 Benches</u> The Committee were informed that 16 benches have been ordered and the installation contract is in place. 80% of the due diligence checks have been signed off and 13 have been completely signed off. Relevant consultation has taken place with relevant parties. Installation date is to be confirmed and the intention is to have an unveiling of the benches on Thursday 6 November 2025. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that: (i) the information is noted; (ii) Members advise if they wish to have an unveiling ceremony in their Wards.	
193.	<u>Notice Boards, Bins and Benches</u> Committee received an update on the noticeboards, bins and benches. <u>Noticeboards</u> There are 2 noticeboards outstanding in Snatchwood and Pentwyn. The noticeboard in Trevethin has been vandalised and it will cost £70 for parts and £110 to repair it. <u>Bins</u> The request for a bin by St Mary's Church, New Inn has been removed. Replacement bins in Snatchwood and Pentwyn have both been approved, waiting for installation dates from TCBC. A new request has been received for a bin on Newport Road, New Inn opposite Lancaster Road. <u>Benches</u> The replacement bench in Sebastopol has been installed in The Ellipse.	

	The Project Officer informed the meeting that the bench audit will be completed shortly and a report will be brought to the meeting in October. The Chair requested a bench in George Street opposite the school instead of a memorial bench. This will be included within the bench audit. <u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that (i) the information be noted (ii) discussion around additional budget take place at the Budget Priorities Day; (iii) repairs to the noticeboard in Trevethin are approved at a total cost of £180.00. (iv) a replacement bin be purchased and installed by the housing estate leading to the Wetlands; (v) a new bin request be considered for Pantygasseg; (vi) the report on the bench audit will be provided at the meeting in October.	LM CD CD CD CD
194.	<u>Abertillery Wind Farm Proposal</u> The Committee received a letter from Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales advising that the determination period for the application has been suspended for a period of 3 additional weeks, the determination period will resume on 22 September 2025. <u>RECOMMENDED</u>: that the information be noted.	
195.	<u>Committee Budget</u> Members received a copy of the budget within its remit including reserves. No observations were made. <u>RECOMMENDED</u>: that the information be noted.	
196.	<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>RESOLVED:</u> that the meeting was a multi-location meeting, the agenda had been sent electronically, discussions held on the Varteg Community Wood, VJ80 benches consultation and noticeboards, bins and benches.	
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST DECLARED
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Interest Declared</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Councillor Gaynor James	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 members of Pontypool Community Council.	
Councillor Jon James	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 members of Pontypool Community Council.	