

**QUICK NOTES OF A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING OF THE PLANNING
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2026**

NB: FULL MINUTES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DUE COURSE

In attendance:

Councillor: Jon James# (in the Chair)

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

Officers: Kerrie Smith#, Deputy Clerk, (Minute Taker)
Miriam Watts#, Projects & Events Manager

* *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
420.	<p><u>Recording of Meeting</u></p> <p>Members agreed that the Council meeting could be recorded for minute taking purposes.</p>	
421.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Richard Overton.</p>	
422.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor 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.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the declarations be noted.</p>	KS

423.	<p><u>Biodiversity Sub-Committee - 26 November 2025 - Minutes</u></p> <p>Members were asked to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Committee meeting held on 26 November 2025; (ii) a school environmental grant of £1,000 to Griffithstown Primary School (minute no. B40). <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Committee held on 26 November 2025 be confirmed as a true record and the recommendations adopted; (ii) Griffithstown Primary School be awarded a school environmental grant of £1,000. 	CC/AA
424.	<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>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the comments/observations stated be submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council.</p>	CP
425.	<p><u>Planning Determinations</u></p> <p>Members received and noted Torfaen County Borough Council planning determinations for November and December 2026 including reasons for approvals or refusals.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the planning determinations be noted.</p>	
426.	<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>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the plenary powers applications be noted.</p>	

427.	<p><u>VJ80 Bench Update</u></p> <p>Members received a verbal update on the VJ80 benches. A total of 15 benches has been installed and the bench in Talywain has been re-sited in the correct location and there is one bench outstanding in New Inn.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the information is noted and that a suitable location be identified for the bench in New Inn.</p>	
428.	<p><u>Noticeboards, Bins and Benches</u></p> <p>Members received a verbal update on the noticeboards, bins and benches.</p> <p><u>Noticeboards</u></p> <p>There is an outstanding issue in relation to the noticeboard in Trevethin.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the new noticeboard will need to be looked at in the next financial year and that a suitable location will be identified by the Ward Members.</p> <p><u>Benches</u></p> <p>The area identified for the bench opposite George Street Primary School is being reviewed as it needs to be DDA compliant. Discussions are ongoing with TCBC to find a suitable location.</p> <p>An email has been received from TCBC Active Travel Team regarding a Pontypool Town Centre cycle storage scheme. There is currently a bench on the proposed site, Officers have checked the records, and it does not belong to PCC.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the noticeboard in Trevethin be looked at again in the next financial year and a suitable location identified; (ii) a suitable location be identified for the bench opposite George Street Primary school which is DDA compliant; (iii) TCBC be informed that the bench located in the proposed cycle storage area does not belong to PCC. 	<p>MW/CD</p> <p>MW/CD</p> <p>KS</p>

429.	<p><u>Varteg Community Wood Site Visit</u></p> <p>Members were informed that works have commenced on site this week and Officers will be looking to arrange a site visit for all stakeholders at the end of February/beginning of March.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that a site visit is arranged for all stakeholders at the end of February/beginning of March.</p>	CD
430.	<p><u>Various Roads – Traffic Regulations: Consolidation Order 2019</u></p> <p>Members received a copy of the proposal and associated order plans for an Amendment Order to be made for various roads within Pontypool and the surrounding areas.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the information is noted together with the deadline date of 28 January 2026 for observations/objections.</p>	
431.	<p><u>Planning Consultation Notice – Former Pontypool College, Blaendare Road, Pontypool – Asbri Planning</u></p> <p>Members received a copy of an email from Asbri Planning relating to the demolition of the former Pontypool College on Blaendare Road and redevelopment to provide residential dwellings and associated works.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the information be noted together with the deadline date of 16 January 2026 for representations to be submitted.</p>	
432	<p><u>Former ZF Factory, Pontyfelin Road, New Inn – Planning Application</u></p> <p>Members received a copy of an email from Dinas Planning relating to the partial demolition of the former ZF Factory, Pontyfelin Road to provide additional manufacturing space and new yard.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the information be noted.</p>	
433.	<p><u>Committee Budget</u></p> <p>Members received a copy of the budget within its remit including reserves.</p>	

	<p>No observations were made.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the information be noted.</p>	
434.	<p><u>Biodiversity and Sustainability</u></p> <p>How has this meeting contributed to the Council's duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems?</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the meeting was a multi-location meeting, the agenda had been sent electronically and discussions held on the Biodiversity Sub-Committee minutes as well as VJ80 benches, noticeboards, bins and benches.</p>	

*This is a recommendation to Council, the final decision would be made by Council.

Signed by Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST DECLARED
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2026

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Interest Declared</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Councillor Nick Byrne	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 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.	