

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

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> <p>(i) the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Committee meeting held on 26 November 2025;</p>	

	<p>(ii) a school environmental grant of £1,000 to Griffithstown Primary School (minute no. B40).</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that:</p> <p>(i) the minutes of the Biodiversity Sub-Committee held on 26 November 2025 be confirmed as a true record and the recommendations adopted;</p> <p>(ii) Griffithstown Primary School be awarded a school environmental grant of £1,000.</p>	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.</p> <p>There is 1 bench outstanding in New Inn and work is ongoing to try and find a suitable location which may not be TCBC owned land. If this is the case then the siting of the bench will incur planning permission costs.</p>	

	<p>Councillor J Martin informed the meeting that he will discuss this with his fellow Ward Members.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED*</u>: that the information is noted and that a suitable location be identified for the bench in New Inn even if it is not on TCBC land.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>MW/CD</p>
<p>428.</p>	<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. Councillor S Lang informed the meeting that they had spoken to residents, and most of them would like the noticeboard to be reinstated.</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, but 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>Councillor J Martin asked if there is going to be provision for residents parking in Hillcrest, New Inn? The Chair advised that a meeting is being held with Mark Thomas, TCBC with himself and Councillor N Byrne in the next few weeks.</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