

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF  
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 9 February  
2023 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber Mitre Street, Abertillery**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:** Tracey Dyson (Chair), Michaela Assiratti, Ben Owen-Jones, Barrie Page,

**Via videolink:** Josh Rawcliffe

**Others:** Chris Hill

**Officers:** David Cartwright, Clerk

**38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES**

The Chair reported that Peter Adamson had resigned from the Committee on 6 February 2023 due to other commitments. She welcomed Cllr Chris Hill who attended the meeting as an observer.

**39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS**

None

**40. MINUTES – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

Ben Owen-Jones asked for the minutes to clarify that it was planned for the course of the proposed 2023 Fun Run to include both Sofrydd and Crumlin. Subject to that amendment, the Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record.

**41. PARTY IN THE PARK**

- a) The Chair reminded Members that the meeting of the Full Council on 28 September 2022 had resolved to authorise expenditure by the People and Communities Committee of up to £5,000 on a Party in the Park event for 2023 during the financial year 2022-23. This would enable officers to secure advance bookings of acts and amusements. She proposed that authorisation to begin spending on the 2023 Party in the Park event was needed now as the Council already needed to confirm the hiring of the main stage.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to make payments up to a total of £20,000 in respect of the 2023 Party in the Park event.

- b) The Clerk reminded Members that the meeting of the Full Council on 28 September 2022 had not given authority to spend up to £5,000 on the 2023 event during the financial year 2022-23 in addition to the amount assigned to the event in the 2023-24 budget and that it would be wise for the Committee to acknowledge that.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the total expenditure on the 2023 Party in the Park event shall not exceed £20,000 regardless of the financial year in which elements of expenditure take place.

- c) The Committee assigned the Chair as the event's 'project lead' and agreed that Josh Rawcliffe and Michaela Assiratti would join her on the Party in the Park Working Group. The Chair added that she intended to approach Hannah Webley of Abertillery Youth Drama and Music Society, a representative from Abertillery BG RFC and the Deputy Clerk to join the working group.
- d) Ben Owen-Jones said that he would like the Committee to consider alternating the venue of the event between Abertillery and Llanhilleth in future years. He urged the working group not to build into its plans for the 2023 event anything that would exclude that option. The Chair stated that she believed attendance at the 2022 event had been better than estimated by Cllr Owen-Jones and had been even higher in previous years. Cllr Owen-Jones said that the Council lacked objective evidence as to the success of Party in the Park and he believed that one of the

first tasks of the Working Group should be to set explicit objectives for the 2023 event so that the success of staging the event in Abertillery could be clearly evaluated. The Chair allowed Chris Hill to speak. He suggested that a member of the Working Group should 'shadow' the Chair during the planning of the 2023 event so that in-depth knowledge of the organisation of the event was not concentrated in one person.

Michaela Assiratti left the chamber at 6.22 pm

Josh Rawcliffe suggested that the working group should establish links with community groups that were organising events across the Community Council area to celebrate the King's coronation as this could provide useful information about the viability of staging Party in the Park elsewhere in future years. Linking those events with Party in the Park in 2023 may also open up opportunities for external grant funding.

Michaela Assiratti returned to the chamber at 6.24 pm.

The Chair clarified that the proposed date of the event was 10 June 2023.

#### **42. COMMUNITY SUMMER CINEMA EVENTS**

- a) The Clerk said that the booking of the venue and the hiring of transport may require expenditure on the events before the start of the financial year 2023-24. It would be advisable to secure authorisation from Full Council for the Committee to make funds available for this from unspent areas of its 2022-23 budget.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to request from Full Council the authority to spend up to £2,000 from the 2022-23 People and Communities Committee's Outdoor Cinema Event budget in respect of deposits and hire fees for the 2023 community summer cinema events.

- b) The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to make payments up to a total of £2,000 (or whichever other sum is agreed by Full Council) from the 2022-23 People and Communities Committee's Outdoor Cinema Event budget in respect of deposits and hire fees for the 2023 community summer cinema events.
- c) The Committee **RESOLVED** that the total expenditure on the 2023 community summer cinema events shall not exceed £10,000 regardless of the financial year in which elements of expenditure take place.
- d) The Committee assigned Michaela Assiratti to be the 'project lead' for the events. The Chair said that she would work on the events alongside Cllr Assiratti and Ben Owen-Jones.
- e) The Chair said that she had already confirmed many of the arrangements for the events with The Met.

#### **43. ST DAVID'S DAY CONCERT**

- a) The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to make payments up to a total of £441.50 in respect of the 2023 St David's Day concert.
- b) The Clerk noted that the available budget was very tight and that it would be advisable to secure authorisation from Full Council for the Committee to make additional funds available from unspent areas of its 2022-23 budget.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to request from Full Council the authority to transfer £500 from the People and Communities Committee's Outdoor Cinema Event budget to its Musical Concerts budget in respect of the 2022 St David's Day concert.

- c) The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to make further payments up to a total of £500 (or whichever other sum is agreed by Full Council) in respect of the 2023 St David's Day concert.
- d) The Committee assigned the Chair to be the 'project lead' for the 2023 St David's Day concert.

- e) The Chair said that many of the arrangements for the event had already been made but that she intended to approach Cllrs Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons to help with a raffle for the event in aid of the Chair's nominated charity. Ben Owen-Jones asked whether a venue outside Abertillery had been considered for the event. The Chair replied that the event was traditionally held in St Michael's Church, which was currently unavailable. The Met was the only cost-effective alternative venue that was large enough to host the event.

**44. LONELINESS PROJECT**

- a) The Committee assigned Josh Rawcliffe to be the 'project lead' for the Committee's Loneliness Project. Michaela Assiratti, Ben Owen-Jones and Barrie Page were assigned to a project working group.
- b) Cllr Rawcliffe said that he was working on compiling a list of local groups and organisations whose activities could potentially come within the ambit of the project. Ben Owen-Jones suggested that it would be useful for the working group to plot potential partner organisations and their activities on a map to help to identify those locations lacking in provision for people experiencing social isolation.

**45. OTHER PROJECTS**

- a) The Committee assigned Ben Owen-Jones as the 'project lead' for the proposed 2023 local community Fun Run and Barrie Page as the 'project lead' for the central Christmas lights contract.
- b) Cllr Owen-Jones said that the proposed date for the Fun Run was 16 July 2023 and that he would soon submit an application for road closures. He added that the event could require expenditure before the start of the financial year 2023-24 on items such as signage. The Clerk advised that the Fun Run budget for 2022-23 was unspent. His advice was that, while the virement of funds between completely dissimilar budget lines required the authority of Full Council, he believed that a future meeting of the Committee could make a decision itself on whether it was appropriate to use the 2022-23 Fun Run budget to pay for items necessary for the staging of a fun run even though no such event was planned during the financial year 2022-23.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that officers should be instructed to begin a tendering process for the central Christmas lights contract.

The Clerk informed the Committee that Blaenau Gwent Council was currently consulting on a proposal to withdraw support for Remembrance Sunday parades in 2023. The Committee had, therefore, been wise to make provision for such an eventuality in its budget for 2023-24.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair .....

*Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk*