

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 22
FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Mark Lewis (Chair); Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Nick Simmons; Glyn Smith.

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk)

Others: Karen Williams, Town Centre Development Officer, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chair welcomed Karen Williams to the meeting and ruled that he would move confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting down the agenda in order to deal with Abertillery Town Centre issues as early in the agenda as practicable.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

None

51. ABERTILLERY TOWN CENTRE – KAREN WILLIAMS

Karen confirmed that rights to stage the Abertillery Thursday Market were held by Mr Phil Edwards. Karen agreed to advise the Committee as to the relevant contractual conditions that may affect any plans to involve a different or additional market organiser.

Karen suggested incorporating promotion of the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area into a proposed Blaenau Gwent promotional video.

Karen agreed to enquire as to the availability of the Abertillery multi-storey car park for events such as a regular Sunday morning car boot sale.

Karen agreed to inform the Blaenau Gwent CBC Enforcement Team about the Committee's concerns regarding fly-tipping near the Green Walk and other anti-social behaviour issues.

Karen advised the Committee to contact Andrew Parker of Blaenau Gwent CBC regarding CCTV coverage in Abertillery town centre.

Karen agreed to raise the Committee's concerns regarding the obscuring of road signs and other information signs by overgrown vegetation.

Karen left the meeting.

52. MINUTES – 24 JANUARY 2022

The Committee **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes as a correct record.

53. TOWN IN BLOOM

Cllr Nick Simmons reported that a meeting was being arranged with Willows Garden Centre.

54. PLANNING ISSUES

The Committee asked the Clerk to submit a formal objection to a planning application for the former Oak Street Social Club in Abertillery on the grounds of over-development of the available space; the inappropriateness of such a development in a quiet residential street; the lack of landlord management; inadequate waste storage and collection arrangements; and the lack of safeguards to prevent the development or sections of it becoming homes of multiple occupation.

55. DEFIBRILLATORS

The Committee ask the Clerk to check with the Deputy Clerk regarding on-going proposals to site a defibrillator at Hywel Griffiths Court.

Cllr Rob Phillips reported that, along with Cllr Gary Oakley, he had identified potential locations for directional signage for existing defibrillators and had obtained indicative costings of less than £1,000. Work to make and fit the signs would need to go out to tender.

The Committee asked the Clerk to submit the signage plans to Blaenau Gwent CBC Highways Department for blanket planning permission.

The Clerk reported that the Council had received a grant application from Six Bells Bowls Club for support to part-fund the purchase of a defibrillator. The application would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

56. TRINITY CHAPEL

The Clerk reported that the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee of Blaenau Gwent CBC had recently considered the project to bring Trinity Chapel in Abertillery back into use. They found that costs have trebled, they are still rising and the project is nowhere near completion. The planned community asset transfer of the library and Trinity Chapel to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (which was agreed more than a year ago) has still not gone through as further Welsh Government funding is required to finish the work.

57. CAR PARKING

The Committee asked the Clerk to approach Blaenau Gwent CBC to request that an officer from the council's Civil Enforcement Team attend a future meeting of the Committee.

58. NOTICEBOARD PROVISION

The Clerk presented indicative costs for different types of noticeboards. Cllr Mark Lewis agreed to identify potential sites.

59. SUBWAY MURAL

The Committee asked the Clerk to approach Blaenau Gwent CBC to enquire about the possibility of the borough council, community council and Ffrindiau Tyleri cooperating to renovate the subway and about a potential Community Asset Transfer of the mural.

The meeting ended at 9.17 pm.