

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 23
SEPTEMBER 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street,
Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Rob Phillips (Chair), Peter Adamson, Barrie Page, Josh Rawcliffe, Nick Simmons.

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk)

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

Rob Phillips declared a prejudicial interest in items 24 b) and 25 c) as he was the Chair of Ffindiau Tyleri.

Nick Simmons declared a prejudicial interest in items 24 b) and 25 c) as he was the Treasurer of Ffindiau Tyleri.

Barrie Page declared a personal interest in item 30 b) as he is a member of Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association by residency.

22. MINUTES – 20 JULY 2022

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes were a true and correct record of the meeting of 20 July 2022.

23. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE 2022-23

a) The Committee noted its budget and expenditure for the financial year so far

b) In May 2022, the Full Council had delegated to the Committee responsibility for the 'Shop Local events' budget of £3,000 and a 'Halloween (middle tier of multi-storey car park) event' budget of £5,000. The Committee had no concrete proposals for its own 'Shop Local events' or for a stand-alone 'Halloween event' in 2022-23 but wished to support similar events organised by other local community organisations.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the Committee's 'Halloween event' and 'Shop Local events' budgets may be used to fund any reasonable and appropriate support for events that are staged with the aim of attracting people to Abertillery town centre.

24. HALLOWEEN EVENT

a) The Committee **RESOLVED** to provide a mechanical 'Rodeo Bull' pleasure ride for the forthcoming Abertillery town centre Halloween event from the 'Halloween event' budget at a cost of £288 and to authorise officers to make and pay for appropriate hire arrangements.

b) Peter Adamson took the Chair. Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons remained in the meeting in order to answer questions regarding Ffrindiau Tyleri's insurance arrangements but took no other part in discussion and did not vote on this item.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree a grant of £250 from the Committee's 'Halloween event' budget to Ffrindiau Tyleri in respect of public liability insurance for its Abertillery Halloween and to authorise the expenditure by officers.

Rob Phillips resumed the chair.

25. TOWN CENTRE EVENTS

- a) In May, the Full Council delegated to the Committee responsibility for the 'Shop Local events' budget of £3,000 and a 'WinterFest (ALCC activities)' budget of £2,000. When the then-Chair of the Committee presented the Committee's budget proposals to Full Council in January 2022, it was envisaged that the Committee would organise Council-led events and activities. As yet, the Committee has no concrete proposals for its own events or physical stalls at events organised by other local community groups.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the Committee's 'Shop Local events' and 'WinterFest' budgets may be used to fund local groups, clubs and/or associations to supply personnel to help to set up stands and stalls and to undertake other event management tasks for town centre events.

- b) The Committee **RESOLVED** to provide a mechanical 'Rodeo Reindeer' pleasure ride from the Committee's WinterFest budget at a cost of £396 and to authorise officers to make and pay for appropriate hire arrangements.
- c) Peter Adamson took the Chair. Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons remained in the meeting in order to answer questions regarding Ffrindiau Tyleri's insurance arrangements but took no other part in discussion and did not vote on this item.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree a grant of £250 from the Committee's 'Shop Local events' budget to Ffrindiau Tyleri in respect of public liability insurance for SpringFest and to authorise the expenditure by officers.

Rob Phillips resumed the chair.

26. ABERTILLERY BUSINESS FORUM

The Committee **RESOLVED** to nominate Josh Rawcliffe to act as liaison with the newly-established Forum.

27. TOWN IN BLOOM

- a) Peter Adamson provided the Committee with a verbal report from the Town in Bloom Working Group on progress of the initiative so far in 2022-23. Floral displays in Abertillery and Six Bells had had to be removed from the town centre due to petty vandalism, the displays in Abertillery and Six Bells had been kept in good condition. Those in the northern half of the Community Council area had been less successful. Permission had been granted for hanging basket brackets to be fitted to Bournville Community Centre but no action had yet been taken. Cllr Adamson suggested that the Town in Bloom Working Group may need to consider developing a strategy for the upkeep of displays in addition to the service provided by The Willows.
- b) The Committee considered the parameters for community involvement in Town in Bloom. Nick Simmons said that attempts to attract engagement by local groups had

stalled. Peter Adamson noted that a local community group maintained their own floral display in Aberbeeg but was finding it difficult to continue the work. A group in Llanhilleth had shown interest in adopting Town in Bloom displays but their members were elderly and could not make a long-term commitment.

The Committee requested help from officers to promote community involvement opportunities on the Council website and via social media. The text of a proposed leaflet had been agreed. The Committee asked the Clerk to provide costings for the printing and distribution of such a leaflet.

The Clerk agreed to consult the Council's insurers regarding public liability cover for any local community groups or members of the public who adopt floral displays or take part in other Town in Bloom activities.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that, in addition to the supply of plants, its Town in Bloom community involvement budget may be used to supply a group or individual with relevant materials. Groups or individuals will not be limited to a single application for such support.

- c) The Committee **RESOLVED** to defer discussion on funding for community involvement for inclusion in its proposed Town in Bloom budget for 2023-24.

28. ALLOTMENTS

- a) The Clerk provided a verbal briefing explaining that a review of current lease arrangements across the Council's six allotments had been undertaken. This had revealed that a number of leases were out of date and that the ownership of some of the sites was in question. Officers were working with Blaenau Gwent Council to clarify the situation and take appropriate action.
- b) The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to take appropriate legal, title and registration action to fulfil the Council's obligations under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 and to pay such fees and charges from its allotments budget as may be necessary.

29. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree a draft policy for the community asset transfer of potential green spaces within the Community Council area for submission to the Full Council.

30. DEFIBRILLATORS

- a) The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend the draft policy for the provision of automated external defibrillators within the Community Council area to the Full Council.
- b) The Committee **RESOLVED** to refuse a request from Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association for the Council to take over the ownership and maintenance of a proposed defibrillator in High Street, Llanhilleth. The Committee asked the Clerk to consult with Llanhilleth TRA as to whether a different site could be found that would conform with the agreed draft defibrillator policy. Barrie Page remained in the meeting but took no part in the debate or vote.

- c) The Committee **RESOLVED** to refuse an application from Six Bells Bowls Club for a grant of £500 in respect of the purchase of a defibrillator to be stored inside the club's pavilion as it would not conform with the agreed draft defibrillator policy.

31. ENERGY-SAVING ADVICE

The Clerk informed the Committee that the provision of energy-saving advice was a matter for the UK Government's Department of Energy and Climate Change. Some matters were devolved to the Welsh Government which had, in turn, delegated some issues to principal authorities. Energy-saving advice was not a matter over which a community council had any authority to act.

The Committee asked the Clerk to provide links to official advice from the Council website and to use its social media outlets to share energy-saving advice from appropriate public bodies.

32. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The Committee **RESOLVED** to instruct officers to invite Nick Smith MP, Alun Davies MS and those Members of the Senedd and Members of Blaenau Gwent Council with responsibility for transport matters (or their representatives) to meet the Committee to discuss the provision of night-time public and community transport in the Community Council area.

33. NEXT MEETING

The Committee **RESOLVED** that its next meeting would concentrate on discussions surrounding its proposed budget submission for 2023-24. The meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 12 October.

The meeting ended at 8.38 pm.