

MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 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)

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

Rob Phillips declared a personal interest in item 39 as it was likely to include discussion of making provision for potential grant funding of Ffrindiau Tyleri, of which he was Chair.

Nick Simmons declared a personal interest in item 39 as it was likely to include discussion of making provision for potential grant funding of Ffrindiau Tyleri, of which he was Treasurer.

Barrie Page declared a personal interest in item 40 b) as he regularly meets Brynithel Action Group.

36. MINUTES – 23 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes were a true and correct record of the meeting of 23 September 2022.

37. SUBWAY MURAL

The Clerk reminded the Committee that, on a number of occasions, it had discussed the potential community asset transfer of the mosaic mural at the subway under the A467 in Abertillery. The co-creator of the mural had outlined a variety of options to restore the mural but the cost and viability of these ideas remained ambiguous.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to include provision for a feasibility study into the renovation of the mural in the Committee's 'Environmental Projects' budget proposals for 2023-24 at an indicative cost of £2,000.

38. ALLOTMENTS

- a) The Clerk reported that the costs of resolving ownership and lease issues were now expected to be minimal and to fall within the financial year 2022-23.
- b) The Clerk informed the Committee that there would be no need for it to make extra provision – beyond known rent increases – in its 'Allotments' budget proposals for 2023-24.

39. BUDGET 2023-24

The Committee's Town in Bloom budget proposals included provision for a rate-of-inflation increase to the third year of the Council's agreement with The Willows; funding to support the potential adoption of floral tubs by local community groups; and a contingency to cover the costs of theft and vandalism as well as maintenance

during the winter months outside the Council's contract with The Willows. These additions would generate an uplift of £3,500 on the 2022-23 Town in Bloom budget. The Committee proposed to make no allocation for stand-alone events and initiatives to promote Abertillery town centre but to recommend increased participation in, and support for, four existing events organised by Ffrindiau Tyleri. Following the Full Council's decision to adopt a Community Asset Transfer Policy, the Committee proposed an 'Environmental projects' budget of £10,000 to fund a subway mural feasibility study, the potential greening of small pieces of land plus expenditure and grant funding of other potential environmental improvements. Despite these fresh initiatives, the Committee's total proposals equated to an 8.5 percent decrease in its budget compared with 2022-23.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree its draft budget proposals for submission to the Finance and Grants Committee as part of the Council's budget-setting process.

40. TOWN IN BLOOM

- a) Peter Adamson reported on a meeting between the Town in Bloom Working Group and the Town in Bloom contractor. The Willows had agreed to improve planting in Cwmtillery, to progress the fixing of hanging-basket brackets in Bournville and to support the engagement of schools in the Town in Bloom initiative. Josh Rawcliffe reported that the working group had already been in contact with the governors of three local schools.

- b) Peter Adamson suggested that it would be unwise to allocate further grants from the Town in Bloom 'Community involvement' budget until the scheme had been more widely publicised and the level of public response established. The Clerk agreed to publish details on the Council website and on social media.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to defer to its next meeting consideration of an application from Brynithel Action Group for a grant of £300 to undertake the care of four Town in Bloom floral tubs.

The meeting ended at 8.11 pm