

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE  
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 16  
NOVEMBER 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street,  
Abertillery.**

**PRESENT**

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

**Officers:** David Cartwright (Clerk)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Josh Rawcliffe was attending a One Voice Wales councillor training course.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**3. MINUTES – 12 OCTOBER 2022**

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a correct record.

**4. TOWN IN BLOOM**

- a) Peter Adamson reported that the Town in Bloom contractor had carried out work in Cwmtillery and Bournville as requested. Although vandalism was not a chronic problem, a floral tub at the 'Stute Gardens in Abertillery had been damaged and some tubs had attracted litter including discarded dog waste bags. The Committee discussed the possible re-siting of some tubs away from vulnerable locations.
- b) The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to make the following expenditure from the Town in Bloom community involvement budget:
- The Brynithel Activities Group will take over the custodianship of five existing floral tubs at Brynithel. Officers were authorised to purchase bulbs, plants and materials to be supplied by the Council's Town In Bloom contractor to the Brynithel Activities Group up to a total value of £375;
  - Officers were authorised to purchase four tubs from the Council's Town In Bloom contractor (at an indicative cost of £300) that would be put into the custodianship of local residents at Gelli Crug and to purchase bulbs, plants and materials to be supplied by the Council's Town In Bloom contractor to the local residents up to a total value of £300;
  - Officers were authorised to purchase two tubs supplied by the Council's Town In Bloom contractor (at an indicative cost of £150) that would be put into the custodianship of the Ebbw Fach Community Group at Aberbeeg and to purchase bulbs, plants and materials to be supplied by the Council's Town In Bloom contractor to Aberbeeg Tenants and Residents up to a total value of £150.

Members of the Town in Bloom Working Group advised the Clerk that further equipment and/or materials up to a total value of £150 from the Town in Bloom community involvement budget should be supplied to Mr Neil Milkin of Abertillery in accordance with previous authorisations by the committee.

## 5. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that the Council continued to liaise with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council regarding ownership and leasehold issues.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

- a) The Chair reported that he, Nick Simmons, Peter Adamson and Josh Rawcliffe had held a site meeting with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council officers, councillors and representatives from the Ebbw Fach Trail. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council officers had agreed to report back on options for the removal of unserviceable sections of the A467 subway mural in Abertillery and to discuss with the son of the original artist the feasibility of the renewal or repair of salvageable sections. The officers would also investigate the availability of grant funding for any proposed work.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council officers also agreed to consider the removal of the collapsed viewing platform plus the extension of safety railings on the Green Walk in Abertillery. They said they would raise the matter of possible involvement in voluntary work to restore and maintain the Green Walk with the local Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council-funded youth club.

- b) The Committee agreed that the site meeting had been very positive but nothing had emerged from the meeting that necessitated a change to the 'Environmental Projects' budget line of the Committee's budget proposals for 2023-24.

## 7. TRANSPORT

- a) The Clerk reported that the extension of the Ebbw Vale Railway to Abertillery remained part of the Welsh Government's National Transport Delivery Plan and was included in the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority Metro Plus Phase 1 programme. However, while Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council had taken ownership the site of the proposed Abertillery Transport Interchange, there had still been no confirmation of funding for the project from the UK government's Restoring Your Railway Fund. The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee, which was given responsibility for the Regional Transport Plan when it was set up in February 2022, did not appear to have met since.

- b) The Committee asked the Clerk to write to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and to the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority to ask for progress reports and to seek inclusion in consultation on possible interim proposals such as an integrated bus link to Llanhilleth station. No amendment to the Committee's draft budget proposals for 2023-24 was proposed.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that:

- The Council gives a formal undertaking that the Council will take into account the well-being of future generations in every decision made by the Council, its committees and sub-committees.
- The Council's duties and responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 be added to the terms of reference of every committee and sub-committee of the Council.
- A brief well-being of future generations impact assessment of every proposed decision shall be provided at, or in advance of, all meetings of the Full Council, its committees and sub-committees.

The Clerk agreed to draft appropriate motions for submission to a forthcoming meeting of the Council.

**9. RESILIENT SPACES**

The Committee has signalled its intention to explore the possibility of adopting some patches of unused land in the community council area and planting floral displays. Barrie Page reported on his attendance at the One Voice Wales online conference on *The importance of community councils in creating resilient spaces for nature*. Cllr Page reported that ecologists who had addressed the conference had laid stress on the importance of assessing the environmental impact of apparently 'green' initiatives. Preparing the soil for tree-planting may release more greenhouse gas emissions than the tree would absorb. Some attractive flowers are useless for indigenous pollinators. Some unkempt patches of land may be of more benefit to the environment than a floral planting scheme. Cllr Page advised that officers at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council may be able to offer specialist information.

The meeting ended at 7.19pm.

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

*Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.*