

MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 24 APRIL 2023 AT 7.00 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery and via video conferencing (Zoom).

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair)

Other: Peter Adamson

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk)

PRESENT VIA VIDEOLINK

Councillors: Tracey Dyson, Ben Owen-Jones

Apologies: Deb Pitt, Josh Rawcliffe

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Deb Pitt and Josh Rawcliffe.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

None.

3. MINUTES – 10 FEBRUARY 2023

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

4. CO-OPTION

The Committee **RESOLVED** to co-opt Peter Adamson as a Non-Voting Member of the Committee.

5. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Ben Owen-Jones questioned, on Deb Pitt's behalf, whether she should be only a non-voting member of the Youth Engagement working group as she held an obvious personal interest as the Senior Practitioner with Off The Streets. The Clerk reminded Members that a working group has no power or authority to make any decisions so, in effect, all members of a working group were 'non-voting.' He advised that no such distinction between members of the working group was necessary.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that Tracey Dyson, Ben Owen-Jones, Deb Pitt and Josh Rawcliffe would be the members of the Youth Engagement working group.

Ben Owen-Jones reported that Josh Rawcliffe was working to set up regular visits to the youth engagement projects supported by the Council and to arrange meetings with youth workers. The working group's focus for the time-being was on establishing a youth forum that would generate proposals for youth-led initiatives. The Committee had secured a budget line of £2,000 to support such initiatives. Tracey Dyson advised Members not to under-estimate the enthusiasm of young people to become involved in the local community. Her personal experience of youth work was that even the most unlikely young people responded positively and constructively to being given responsibility for decision-making.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that its Terms of Reference included the responsibility to measure the effectiveness of Council-funded youth engagement work.

Barrie Page said that Josh Rawcliffe had been looking at the subject and was moving towards recommending more qualitative measurements than simply counting the number of attendees and reports of local youth annoyance.

6. ADULT ENGAGEMENT

The Committee **RESOLVED** that Barrie Page, Deb Pitt and Josh Rawcliffe would be the members of the Adult Engagement working group.

Barrie Page reminded Members of the proposals presented to the Committee at its February meeting. The first step was the development of a register of local groups and organisations that support and interact with people aged 18-and-over who could be described as vulnerable, isolated or disadvantaged. This would include organisations based outside the locality that engaged with people within the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area. It was hoped that the required direction and scope of the working group would become apparent as the level of provision – and gaps in provision – became clearer. He encouraged the Committee to contribute to the register and to encourage other Council Members to do likewise.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that it had been given the responsibility to draw up – and agree with Full Council – the Terms of Reference for its Adult Engagement work. He suggested that this should be one of the tasks of the Adult Engagement working group.

The meeting ended at 7.51 pm.