

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 July 2023 AT
6.00pm in the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Michaela Assiratti, Steve Bard, Mark Lewis, Ben Owen-Jones, Barrie Page and Josh Rawcliffe.

Officers: David Cartwright, Clerk

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

None.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

None.

18. MINUTES – 13 JUNE 2023

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

19. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2023-24

Steve Bard questioned whether it would be correct for the Chair of the Council to continue to chair the Committee. The Clerk replied that there was no barrier to this in the Council's Standing Orders.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to reappoint Tracey Dyson as Chair of the Committee.

20. RAS DRAPHONT AND FUN RUN

Ben Owen-Jones reported that the inaugural runs had been a great success with more than a hundred athletes taking part in the events. Some runners had travelled great distances to take part and many members of the local community had lined the public road sections of the course. Volunteer marshals – including the Chair – had done sterling work and the employment of a traffic management company had been a worthwhile investment. Cllr Owen-Jones noted that he had had to make a number of payments in connection with the event out of his own pocket as it was not possible for the Council to raise cheques in time. He welcomed the Council's recent decision to move to internet banking in the near future.

21. LONELINESS PROJECT

Josh Rawcliffe reported that work was progressing to identify a venue for an Armed Forces Veterans Hub. He added that the Committee should begin thinking of activities for Christmas such as helping community groups to bring isolated elderly people together for Christmas meals and to arrange joint trips to the Cwmbrân Christmas market. The Chair suggested that Six Bells Tennis Club should be approached and asked to make the new clubhouse available to the ad hoc group that meets regularly at the Six Bells Park refreshment kiosk. She had also been invited to view Gelli Crug Allotments with a view to the Council taking over two plots, one of which would be for the use of community groups involved in the Loneliness Project.

22. PARTY IN THE PARK

- a) The Chair moved a motion to seek Full Council's long-term support in principle for Party in the Park. Such an assurance would enable bookings to be made well in advance – even

before the budget for a particular financial year had been set. Ben Owen-Jones suggested that such long-term thinking would enable the Committee to consider booking a major free attraction each year that the target audience would not otherwise be able to afford to experience. The Chair said that any such attraction would need to be clearly to the benefit of families with young children.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a Party in the Park event be held annually at Abertillery Rugby Club, on the second Saturday in June each year.

- b) The Chair moved a motion that surplus funds from the 2023 Party in the Park event be used to support a similar event being organised by Off The Streets in Llanhilleth. The Chair suggested that this should be restricted to £5,000. The Clerk advised the Committee to first consider whether it believed it was within its authority to use the surplus funds in this way. Steve Bard questioned whether the Committee should use the bulk of the surplus funds on a single event. He would prefer the funds to be shared between the Llanhilleth event, a summer fete being planned for Six Bells Park and other community events that may arise during the summer. He was also concerned that the Committee had not been presented with full details of the event in Llanhilleth. Ben Owen-Jones reminded the Committee that the Council had an established working partnership with Off The Streets. The organisation's track record gave him confidence that the money would be well-spent.

Steve Bard left the meeting at 7.03 pm.

Mark Lewis believed that the size of the event planned for Llanhilleth warranted substantial financial support. He suggested that the event would also act as a 'test bed' for future Council support for similar events in other areas, especially those scheduled for late summer and early autumn.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise (under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972) officers to pay £5,000 of surplus funds from the 2023-24 Party in the Park budget to Off The Streets in respect of a similar event to be staged in Llanhilleth.

The Chair said that she believed it would be wise for the Committee to make proposals for a Parties in the Park budget from 2024-25 onwards.

23. SUMMER CINEMA EVENTS

The Chair reported that three sessions per week had been booked at The Met from 24 July to 31 August. Children from the Off The Streets projects in Llanhilleth and Swffryd would attend on Monday mornings; families affected by autism on Monday afternoons; and children involved with the Blaenau Gwent Youth Team on Thursdays. Although some aspects had yet to be finalised, she believed the initiative was on course to underspend its £10,000 budget.

The meeting ended at 7.11 pm.