

**MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 9 May 2024 AT 6.00 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery and via video conferencing (Zoom).**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Barrie Page (Chair), Josh Rawcliffe, Peter Adamson, Ben Owen-Jones (Via Video-Link), Tracey Dyson (Via Video-Link).

**Officers:** Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk), Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

**Apologies:** None.

**Absent:** None.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**3. Minutes**

**15 February 2024:** The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record.

**4. Newsletter Spring 2024**

The Committee made one amendment to the newsletter, requesting the addition of an announcement about the new Town In Bloom contractor.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept and publish the newsletter with this amendment added.

**5. Feedback on police meeting**

Barrie Page provided a verbal summary of an informal meeting held between CSO Luke Davies (Gwent Police) and members of Council in April. He stated that the meeting was useful and informative about how issues in the area are being handled, and thinks it would be beneficial to host them on a regular basis.

**6. Youth Café**

During the meeting with CSO Luke Davies, the possibility of establishing a Youth Café in Abertillery was discussed. This would be a safe space for young people to gather, with the aim of discouraging anti-social behaviour.

The Space Café in Abertillery (now Off The Streets) was funded by the Council for a few years, and functioned as a Youth Café before the building lease ran out. Tracey Dyson reported that neighbours of the Space Café were unhappy with the impact it had on their area, and questioned why a Youth Café is needed when Abertillery already has a Youth Club.

Barrie Page reported that a lot of young people are reluctant to use formal youth services in the area, but agreed that a decision would not be rushed into. Tracey Dyson suggested Caffi Tyleri as a possible venue, as it is rural enough to not disturb neighbours.

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Barrie Page will contact Blaenau Gwent Youth Service to discuss the plausibility of setting up a Youth Café. He will also meet with Caffi Tyleri to discuss the possibility of using their facilities to trial a Youth Café. Peter Adamson will also contact the landlord of Six Bells Pub, which runs a successful youth space every Sunday, to discuss the organisation of this service.

## **7. Noticeboards**

The Committee discussed the locations of existing noticeboards and the criteria for placing potential new ones. Officers will create a map of existing noticeboards throughout the area for the Committee to review at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the usage of noticeboards, stating that they ought to be used for newsletters, posters for upcoming events and important updates. They should also include a notice informing the public of how to find meeting agendas, and possibly a QR code with a survey to encourage feedback about the notices. The Committee also emphasised the importance of keeping notices up to date.

Queries were raised about the possibility of requiring planning permission for noticeboards, and also regarding the ownership of a noticeboard at Cwmtillery Lakes.

Officers will enquire with Planning at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council about possible planning permission requirements for noticeboards. They will also investigate the ownership of the noticeboard at Cwmtillery Lakes.

## **8. Off The Streets funding**

Barrie Page reported that establishing a charity to raise funding for Off The Streets is still a possibility, but the process would be complicated. Therefore, Off The Streets are going to pursue applying for their own grant funding and fundraising.

## **9. Change of Website Host**

The officers provided an update regarding the Council website, stating that it was slow and often had broken links. The Committee agreed that the website would benefit from a redesign.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree for officers to investigate the costs and options for changing website hosts.

## **10. BGCBC InThisTogether**

Barrie Page reported that very few organisations had joined the website since being sent the link after the last meeting.

Josh Rawcliffe reported that he had helped multiple organisations sign up, but at least five groups he had helped sign up for the website were no longer being shown on the map. He stated that the main barrier for groups signing up was the email authentication process being too difficult.

Josh Rawcliffe will contact those running the website to investigate the issues with the site and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

## **11. Date of Next meeting**

As needed.

These minutes were produced by Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

DRAFT

Initial:

Date: