

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 October
2024 AT 6.00 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Peter Adamson, Ralph Henderson (MBE), Chris Hill, Mark Lewis, Rob Phillips, Josh Rawcliffe, Nick Simmons.

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

Apologies: None.

Absent: None.

49. Apologies for Absence

None.

50. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None.

51. Minutes – 2 September 2024

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

52. Planning

The Committee discussed a recent planning application for the change of use at a premise on Oak Street, Abertillery, which had been rejected and appealed. The Committee requested for the officers to enquire with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council about the status of this appeal.

53. Town in Bloom

The Committee **RESOLVED** to move tub 77, which has had the plants removed from it numerous times, from the bus stop at Swffryd to some spare land approximately 50 yards down the road.

The Committee **RESOLVED** not to appoint a Town in Bloom community ambassador.

Cllr Ralph Henderson (MBE) introduced the idea of entering the Wales in Bloom competition, due to the improvements which have been made to the Town in Bloom project and the keen involvement of community groups in the area.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to enter the Wales in Bloom competition in 2025. A Wales in Bloom working group will be established.

54. Biodiversity Leaflets

The Committee discussed producing leaflets to distribute to Town in Bloom community involvement partners which would provide advice about planting with biodiversity at the forefront.

The Committee **RESOLVED** for the officers to research biodiversity by speaking to experts, and to produce a draft biodiversity leaflet.

Initial:

Date:

55. Community Asset Transfer

The Committee discussed the possibility of a Community Asset Transfer of the land outside of the Abertillery Institute. This would allow the Council to improve this area, possibly with flower beds and/or murals.

The Committee **RESOLVED** for the officers to begin discussions with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council about the possibility of a Community Asset Transfer.

56. Policy Forum for Wales Transport Webinar

The Chair raised an emergency motion concerning a Policy Forum for Wales transport webinar taking place on November 25th. The webinar will cover Government plans for transport in Wales, and attendees will have a chance to discuss upcoming changes.

The Committee felt that a representative from the Council should attend this webinar to stay informed about transport policies in Wales and raise issues with travel in the Council area.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Chris Hill as the delegate for this webinar, with the fee of £358 being paid from the Community Transport budget line.

57. Budget 2025/26

The Committee reviewed their budget for 2024/25 and **RESOLVED** to recommend the following budget proposals for 2025/26 to the Finance Committee:

- Town in Bloom – Increase by £1,000 to £15,000 to purchase 10 new tubs.
- Introduce a Town in Bloom Maintenance budget line of £1,000 to cover costs for repairing/replacing worn out tubs. If unspent, this money will be put into earmarked reserves for future maintenance.
- Town in Bloom Community Involvement – Remain at £3,000.
- Introduce a Wales in Bloom budget line of £750 to cover entry fees for the Wales in Bloom contest and increased planting.
- Remove Shop Local, Halloween Events and Car Boot Sales from the budget.
- Combine Community Council Activities Support and Grant Funding to Ffrindiau Tyleri into one budget line. Increase the budget by £2,500 making the new total £10,000 as Ffrindiau Tyleri will lose their 'Levelling Up' funding from BGCBC in 2025 but will continue to put on 4 events.
- Allotments – Increase by £150 to £850 due to Pant y Pwydn Allotment rent increase.
- Provision of 2 new Community Defibrillators – Remain at £3,500.
- Maintenance of Community Defibrillators – Reduce by £2,000 making the new total £1,500, as the majority of batteries were replaced this year.
- Environmental Projects – change budget from £10,000 to zero.
- Introduce a new budget line for Community Asset Transfers due to interest in these projects, but set the budget at £0.
- Introduce a new budget line for Adam Street Allotment Apiary Funding, with a budget of £5,000 towards replacing the apiary at Adam Street Allotment.
- Community Transport – Reduce by £2,500 making the new total £2,500.

Initial:

Date:

58. Date of Next meeting

As needed.

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

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

Dated:.....