

MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 15 October 2024 AT 6.00 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery and via video conferencing (Zoom).

PRESENT

Councillors:

In Person: Barrie Page (Chair)

Via Video-Link: Peter Adamson, Ben Owen-Jones, Josh Rawcliffe.

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

Apologies/Absent: Tracey Dyson.

31. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Tracey Dyson.

32. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

33. Minutes – 9 September 2024

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

34. Off The Streets data

The Committee discussed a key indicators report provided by Off The Streets, which included questionnaire data from young people using the service.

Cllr Barrie Page noted some of the most significant comments, with young people feeling Off The Streets provided a safe space to go and that it positively impacted their wellbeing. The feedback also suggested that there is not as much for older kids in the area.

The Committee also felt a similar qualitative report from the Abertillery Detached Team could be beneficial, as it provides insight into the youth services beyond what figures can demonstrate.

The Committee discussed the possibility of pursuing academic research into the impact of youth work in the area. Cllr Josh Rawcliffe stated he could put the officers in contact with a potential researcher for this.

35. Website

The Clerk provided an update on progress towards a new Council website. A tender document will be drawn up based on the Committee's suggestions at the last meeting, and four companies will be invited to present to the Committee.

36. Councillor Surgeries

The Committee discussed surgeries held by local borough councillors and Gwent Police in Cwmtillery. These surgeries could be used as a starting point, with Councillors from all wards being able to attend. Future surgeries could then become more ward-focused and Councillors can choose the location, frequency, date and time for their surgeries.

Initial:

Date:

The Committee also discussed the importance of personal safety and the potential need for training for Councillors attending the surgeries.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council to start hosting Councillor surgeries, starting by requesting to join the next Cwmtillery Councillor & Police surgery.

37. Budget 2025/26

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

- BGCBC Detached Team – keep at £60,000.
- Off The Streets – reduce to £50,000.
- Introduce a ‘Youth Liaison Officer’ budget line of £34,000 to potentially hire a member of staff from Off The Streets as Council’s Youth Liaison Officer.
- Introduce a ‘New website’ budget line of £5,000 to build a new website that is more accessible and works correctly.
- Introduce an ‘Extra-curricular transport for schools’ budget line of £10,000 to help fund extra-curricular trips for local schools, ensuring children from low-income families can still attend.
- Introduce a new ‘Councillor surgeries’ budget line of £1,000 to cover start-up costs, training and venue hire fees.

38. Date of Next meeting

As needed.

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

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

Dated:.....