

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE  
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 17 October  
2025 AT 5:00 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Barrie Page (Chair), Ralph Henderson (MBE), Chris Hill, Rob Phillips, Josh Rawcliffe and Nick Simmons.

**Officers:** Steve Edwards (Clerk) and Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

**Absent:** Peter Adamson, Mark Lewis,

**Other:** Bruno Góes Maciel and daughter

**28. Apologies for Absence**

Peter Adamson and Mark Lewis

**29. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations**

None

**30. Minutes 8 September 2025**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to amend the draft minutes. Item 23 remove the words "outside St Pauls Church"

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

**31. Planning**

The Committee discussed the recent planning application concerning the property next to the Dolls house. They agreed to no further action from the Council as this was an application for a residential property and that originally the terraced house had been residential.

The Clerk stated that he had been in contact with Blaenau Gwent planning and that any HMO would require a specific licence and no licence had been applied for either this property or the Dolls House itself.

**32. Biodiversity Working Group.**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to set up a working group to consider biodiversity in Council actions, and work on the Councils biodiversity plan and Section 6 Biodiversity report.

The Clerk reminded everyone that we had a statutory duty to produce a Biodiversity report.

Barrie Page and Josh Rawcliffe will form the group. They will invite an officer and TAFY to be part of this workgroup

**33. Defibrillators**

The Deputy Clerk gave an update on progress for the new Defibrillator sites.

- We are waiting on the invoice to purchase and install a unit at Shore MMA Llanhilleth
- There are difficulties in finding a suitable site for a unit in the St Illtyd area. The Carpenters Arms are not willing to fund the electricity costs, which are

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approximately £30 to £50 per year. There is power in the church area but it was yet to be confirmed if a suitable site within that area could be found. The Committee asked if we could pay the annual electricity costs. The officers agreed that they would find out if we had any legal powers to pay the costs. They would also find out the costs of a standalone solar panel Defibrator unit. A decision to be made at future Committee meeting.

- The Council had originally installed a unit at Bethany Chapel, Six Bells. Six Bells Regeneration had assumed the guardianship of this unit on the Circuit (The national database used by the Ambulance Service for Defibrillators). This guardianship had fallen by the wayside and the Officers were taking steps to bring it back under the guardianship of the Council.

#### **34. Energy Learning Network**

The Chair gave an update.

- This network has turned out to be more of a marketing operation than any meaningful consultation.
- Aberbeeg Community Centre have an Air Source heating system where one of the units has now packed up and their electricity bills have increased to £500 per month. They also have an estimate for £2,000 to replace the system. They had not been told that these systems require regular servicing every 6 months at an estimated cost of £600 per service.
- Ralph Henderson said he was investigating Hydro systems and he was in discussion with Llangattock Council who are moving forward with some hydro schemes as part of their drive in making the village the only carbon neutral village in the country.

#### **35. Preparation for meeting with Nick Smith MP**

The Clerk took a note of the various subject areas that the Committee wished to ask Nick Smith about

- 1: Abertillery Railway station
- 2: Devolution of the Crown Estates
- 3: SPF funding.
- 4: Winter Fuel payments cuts.
- 5: E-Car Charge Points for terraced properties
- 6: Off-road vehicles that are causing damage and chaos in our area.
- 7: Does he have regular contact and Meetings with his Welsh Government Representative.

The Clerk would formally draft the questions and circulate to the Committee and to Nick Smith's Office prior to the agenda for the meeting going out. At the meeting all questions would go via the Chair.

**36. Town in Bloom**

The Committee **RESOLVED** for Off The Streets to take over care of the following Tubs in Swffryd. 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; and 88

**37. Wales in Bloom**

Ralph Henderson gave a brief overview of the awards evening in Wrexham, where Abertillery had received a silver gilt in the small town category. Ralph had become one of four Community Champions. The judges were impressed by the Community involvement feel from the entries in our area.

**38. Budget Proposals 2026-27**

No changes to the budget proposals.

**39. Date of Next Meeting**

31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

The meeting ended at 6:31 pm

*These minutes were produced by Steve Edwards (Clerk).*

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

Dated:.....

Initial:

Date: