

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 8 December
2025 AT 6:00 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Peter Adamson, Richard Catlin, Ralph Henderson (MBE), Chris Hill, Mark Lewis, Nick Simmons (From 6:06 pm) and Rob Phillips

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

Absent: Josh Rawcliffe

44. Apologies for Absence

Josh Rawcliffe.

45. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None

46. Minutes – 17 October and 31 October.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to amend the minutes of 31 October so at the top of page 3, a question from Barrie Page “millions of pounds to turn off” should be “billions of pounds to turn off”

The Committee **RESOLVED** to confirm the two sets of minutes with the amendment as a true and correct record.

Nick Simmons entered the meeting

47. Planning

The Clerk reported back about the lack of consultation with the permanent closure of traffic to Somerset Street and how this does not bode well for the implementation of the Charter we have signed up to with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The Borough Council had apologised and hopefully rectified for the future.

The plans for a Sports Bar in the old Peacock store in Church Street were welcomed, and the Clerk reported back on an initial conversation that had been had with someone concerning opening an indoor market in the bottom level.

There was a concern raised by Nick Simmons about the Consultations for “The Deal” and how Councillors were excluded from being one of the 40 paid members of a Citizens Assembly. Questions were passed to the Chair from Nick Simons to ask David Leech (Deputy CEO of Borough Council) when he attends the next Council meeting.

It was reported that K-Style Muay Thai club had been granted retrospective planning permission to change their premises from Retail to Leisure.

48. S6 Biodiversity Report.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend the report to Full Council with a single amendment on dates.

49. Defibrillators

Molly Jones confirmed that the Council had no legal powers to pay for ongoing electricity costs for any defibrillator. The Clerk also mentioned that there would be a

Initial:

Date:

financial concern for any on-going open ended commitment. This would make it difficult now to place a standard defibrillator setup at a location in St Illtyds.

The Council has purchased a defibrillator in the officer that had to be sited. The Committee referred back to its previous discussions and **RESOLVED** to site the purchased unit at the Mount Pleasant Inn in Brynithel. It will consider siting a solar power unit in the St Illtyds area in 2026/27 as it was felt that there is a need in that location.

The Committee will conduct a review of the Councils Defibrillator policy in 2026/27.

50. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

The two current Council representatives, Barrie Page and Peter Adamson, will draft a report/job description to bring back to the Committee to then make recommendations about the Councils future participation in the forum to see if there is any value in sending ALCC representatives.

51. Review of Meeting with Nick Smith MP

The general view was that we did not get much out of the meeting, there was some concern that Rose Leadbetter, a Blaenau Gwent Councillor had attended and answered some of the questions.

The main point arising was about the lack of progress concerning a train station in Abertillery. Ralph Henderson and Chris Hill will draft a letter to the Ministers of Transport in the UK Parliament laying out the case for a train station and also asking for a formal answer to the amount of progress so far. The letter will be copied to various other including Nick Smith.

Chris Hill was trying to broker a visit from Ken Skates, the Welsh Rails Minister to discuss the railway station issue.

Richard Catlin mentioned a meeting of a Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council committee, part of which would be discussing the Abertillery Placemaking Plan. The Clerk agreed to share a link to the meeting with the Committee Members.

52. Walking Trails

Chris Hill explained his idea of making Abertillery a destination Town for walking. There was some discussion on the potential input from Alyson Tipplings at Blaenau Gwent Borough. It was agreed to set up a working group to report back to the Committee to explore how to set Abertillery as a walking destination. The working group will consist of Chris Hill, Rob Phillips, Ralph Henderson and Mark Lewis. They will also look to co-opt Councillor Ivor Beynon into the group

53. Wales in Bloom

Ralph Henderson had been in conversations with the Wales in Bloom judge and there are three areas that we should be looking to improve on for next year entry.

- Sustainability
- Biodiversity
- Centres of Excellence

There is already some ongoing prep work being undertaken and new sites been surveyed. There is also agreement now to have planters in front of the new library and that use can be made of Trinity Square.

54. Community Transport

There was a discussion concerning the take up of the scheme and if the data we currently receive was in breach of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations). It was agreed that we will ask for future reports not to have any individual names on it.

Molly Jones stated that the current costs for anyone using the service was 45p per mile plus a booking fee. The Council currently provide a 25% subsidy of the mileage costs for passengers in the ALCC area.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to increase the subsidy to 50%.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to release £1,000 from the allocated grant funding to the Car Scheme.

55. Date of Next Meeting

TBA

The meeting ended at 7:42 pm

These minutes were produced by Steve Edwards (Clerk).

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

Dated:.....