

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 8 JUNE
2022 AT 6.00pm in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Rob Phillips; Nick Simmons; Peter Adamson; Josh Rawcliffe.

In the absence of the Clerk, the Committee appointed Cllr Josh Rawcliffe to record the minutes.

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

3. Minutes – PlaCE Committee 25 May 2022

Consideration of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

4. Budget and Expenditure 2022-23

Consideration of the Committee's budget and expenditure to date was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

5. Terms of Reference

The Committee's considered its Terms of Reference and its strategies and plans for 2022-23.

Planning

The Committee agreed that the Clerk should be asked to write to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council requesting that the Community Council be formally included in the public consultation, monitoring and review of the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan.

The Committee believed that that the Community Council should be closely involved in considering the community benefits, including employment benefits during construction, of large developments such as the proposed Mynydd Carn y Cefn wind farm.

Community Asset Transfers

The Committee agreed that the Clerk should be asked to write to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council requesting that the community council be given greater – and earlier – involvement in consultation regarding Community Asset Transfers.

The Committee believed that the Community Council should request details of all Community Asset Transfers currently proposed within the community council area as well as a list of previously transferred assets.

Environment

The Committee noted that that 'the environment' was included in the Council's duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and noted the Council's on-going investment in the local environment through the Town In Bloom project.

The Chair urged the Committee to explore improving the built environment through the restoration and preservation of the subway mural in Abertillery and to consider the potential of a Community Asset Transfer.

Josh Rawcliffe suggested continuing to apply pressure on Blaenau Gwent Borough Council to implement an effective CCTV system to safeguard the built environment from vandalism.

The Committee noted that a community council must take steps to meet the objectives included in the local well-being plan if its income or expenditure exceeds £200,000 for the three years prior to the publication of the plan. This may include Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council when the local well-being plan is updated in 2024.

It was suggested that, with new borough councillors in place, the Council had an opportunity to become more active on, participate in and contribute to the Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board.

Transport

The Committee noted that there was a need for improvements to local public transport and agreed that a community transport scheme could be highly beneficial. The Committee agreed to pursue this idea and to work towards drawing up proposals for such a project.

The Committee agreed to take an active role in working alongside other stakeholders to secure restoration of the rail link to Abertillery.

Town In Bloom

Councillors agreed that Peter Adamson would continue to act as the committee lead for Town In Bloom and would work together with Josh Rawcliffe.

The Committee decided that a formal programme should be agreed with The Willows for public engagement, the delivery of which will be evaluated when the tender comes up for renewal in 2023.

The Committee discussed the possibility of local allotments associations and other community groups growing plants for use in Town In Bloom displays and even eventually taking over delivery of the project in the long term.

Commerce

The Committee agreed to ask the Clerk to draft a letter to the two existing commerce societies in Abertillery town centre urging unification between them. The Committee proposed to arrange a meeting with them and the town centre manager.

Defibrillators

The Committee agreed that its defibrillator budget should be used primarily to fund the installation of external cabinets to enable defibrillators to be available for public use.

The Committee agreed that it would explore steps to increase public awareness of AED locator apps.

Borough councillors

The Committee agreed to ask the Clerk to invite borough councillors to PlaCE Committee meetings

Meeting closed at 19:36

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

Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk, from notes taken by Cllr Josh Rawcliffe..