

MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 09 September 2024 AT 6.00 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery and via video conferencing (Zoom).

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Josh Rawcliffe, Ben Owen-Jones (Via Video-Link), Tracey Dyson, Peter Adamson

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

Apologies: None

Absent: None

Members of the Public: Alana Insley

22. Apologies for absence

None.

23. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

24. Minutes

22 July 2024: The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record.

25. Off The Streets

Alana Insley, project manager of Off The Streets, discussed her recent progress report as presented to Councillors. Councillors asked the following questions: -

Cllr. Dyson – Why is there is a reduction in the number of girls attending?

A number of older girls are choosing to spend time with their friendship groups outside of Off The Streets. In addition, Aneurin Bevan have lost staff who were specifically trained to work with girls and this has had an impact on the sessions and support they offer to Off The Streets. Off The Streets are encouraging girls to bring friends to their sessions in the hope of increasing numbers again.

Do you get feedback from the parents about the young person's behaviour at home?

Yes. The feedback from parents tends to be positive and they believe Off The Street sessions that their child is attending is making a difference to their behaviour.

Cllr. Dyson offered support in the way of providing a drug and alcohol talk to the young people at Off The Streets through her work.

Cllr. Adamson - How many staff are employed?

There are 4 people employed by Off The Streets, including Alana, and they are each contracted/paid 12 hours per week.

Cllr. Owen-Jones asked if the names of the young persons contained in the report could be removed and/or changed in future reports. Alana agreed to do this.

Initial:

Date:

Cllr. Page – What are your biggest expenses?

The two biggest costs for Off The Streets are staff and food for the sessions.

Alana left the meeting at 6.30pm.

There was further discussion around the possibility ALCC paying for First Aid training courses.

26. Newsletter Summer 2024

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept and publish the Autumn newsletter.

Cllr. Adamson requested that the next edition of the newsletter contains more Welsh. The Committee **RESOLVED** to make the Council name bilingual in future editions.

27. Budget 2025/26

The Committee reviewed their budget for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to add a £5000 budget line for a new ALCC website

The Committee **RESOLVED** to add a £1000 budget line for Councillor Surgeries

The Committee are waiting for figures from Kristian Gay at BGCBC before they can decide on the budget line.

The Committee will wait until the next meeting to decide the budget line for Off The Streets.

There is the possibility of adding a new budget line for school extra-curricular activities, such as providing transport, as suggested by Cllr. Rawcliffe. Cllr. Rawcliffe will investigate costs for this and report back at the next meeting.

The final budget for this committee will be agreed at the next meeting.

28. Website

The Committee decided on the following requirements for a new ALCC website:

- Search facility
- Events page
- Surveys and polls
- Mobile user friendly
- Accessibility compliant/menu
- WCAG compliant
- User friendly with staff training available
- 'Check a trade' page for local tradespeople
- Robust security

The Committee **RESOLVED** for the clerk to contact new potential website providers and arrange presentations.

Cllr. Ben Owen-Jones left the meeting at 6.56pm.

Initial:

Date:

29. Councillor Surgeries

The Committee discussed the possibility of starting Councillor Surgeries. There was a discussion about where these events would be held, safety for Councillors and those attending. Cllr. Peter Adamson asked if the meetings could be held in conjunction with BGCBC councillors.

The Committee **RESOLVED** for the clerk to meet with borough councillors Joanna Wilkins and Malcolm Day to discuss the current Cwmtillery meetings that they hold at Caffi Tyleri. The clerk will then feedback to the committee who can redraft a process to recommend to Full Council.

30. Date of Next meeting

TBC

The meeting ended at 7:17pm.

These minutes were produced by Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk).

Signed:.....

Dated:.....