

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 11 October 2024
AT 6.00pm in the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Ben Owen-Jones (Via Video Link), Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson MBE, Mark Lewis, Barrie Page, Josh Rawcliffe and Steve Bard.

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

Apologies: None.

Absent: None.

36. Apologies for absence

None.

37. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

38. Minutes – 03 September 2024

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

39. Loneliness Project

The Committee **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £1580 to Ebenezer Baptist Church towards rent and foods for its different groups. (Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

Councillors asked that the Loneliness Project and available funds are promoted on our social media platforms and with the BG Wellbeing Friends network.

40. Christmas Carol Concert

The Committee **RESOLVED** to spend up to a maximum of £180 on selection boxes again this year to give as gifts to the young performers at the Christmas Carol Concert (approximately 85).

41. Party in the Park

The Committee has previously discussed the idea of hosting Party in the Park as a joint event with Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council, which would allow for extra funding and volunteers to help improve the event. Steve Edwards (Clerk) has been invited to a Committee meeting at Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council on 22nd October to discuss in further detail.

42. Summer Cinema De-Brief

The officers provided attendance figures and costings for the Summer Cinema programme, which ran across the 6-week holiday at The Met.

The Committee noted that the sessions run by Off The Streets did exceptionally well, with up to 60 people attending. The autism-friendly sessions had the lowest attendance, although the Committee agreed that providing these sessions made a significant difference to those requiring them, and their families.

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It was agreed that for the 2025 programme, we would extend the invite to The Autism Society and Pen-y-Cwm school. In addition, Officers are to collect feedback from the families attending these screenings to see what difference, if any, it is making to them.

ALC Senedd has asked if they can have more notice to choose the films for next year so they can have greater input from children in the campuses, to which the Committee agreed. Councillor Lucy Harmer asked if we could do a poster with all the information on which can be distributed to the children at the end of term to ensure everyone was aware of the films, dates and times.

43. Six Bells Park Centenary

The Committee **RESOLVED** that they will introduce a one off £10,000 budget line for this 2-day event in May 2025. This will need to be approved by the Finance Committee and Full Council before it is finalised.

44. War Memorial Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the terms of the proposed contract. Officers will proceed to draft a tender document.

45. Budget 2025-26

The Committee reviewed their budget from 2024-25 and **RESOLVED** the following proposals for 2025-26:

- To keep the Christmas lights central contract budget at £30,000 (as per the contract with Blachere Illuminations Ltd).
- To keep the Christmas lights overhaul and maintenance budget at £1,000 and to set aside £2000 in Ear Marked Reserves in case of any additional works that need to be done (Councillors are aware of a faulty socket on Somerset Street).
- To keep the same annual Christmas light grant amounts. All will be reviewed for value for money 2025.
- To introduce a new budget line for Friends of Blaenau Gwent Village and Roseheyworth Park for Christmas lights in the area, with a budget of £1,500
- To reduce the budget from £1500 to £750 for Christmas lights electricity costs.
- To introduce a one off £10,000 budget to cover the 2-day Six Bells Park Centenary event in May 2025.
- To keep the Remembrance Sunday budget at £300.
- To decrease the War Memorial site development budget from £10,000 to £5,000 for the costs to replace the broken paving.
- To keep the War Memorial site maintenance budget at £3,500. This is subject to a successful tender application for a new contract. If additional funding is required, Officers will bring it to Full Council for review and approval.
- To keep the Loneliness Project budget at £7,500.
- To increase the Community Fun Run budget to £6,500, and change the budget line to Viaduct Run – Ras Draphont.
- To keep the community summer cinema project budget line at £10,000.

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- To separate the Party in the Park budget line into two, with a £15,000 budget for Party in the Park and a £5,000 budget for Llanhilleth Summer Fete.
- To separate the musical concerts budget line into two, with a £750 budget for Council musical concerts and £2,000 funding for Abertillery RFC musical events.
- To keep the budget for grant funding for Zion Miners Chapel at £2,000 and for officers to request information from the chapel about what the previous funding has been used for.
- To keep the budget for grant funding for Abertillery Rock and Blues Festival at £2,000.
- To include a budget of £1,740 for Six Bells Tennis Club, as per an agreement to pay an annual grant for the toilets.

With all of the above proposed changes, the Leisure & Tourism Committee budget for 25/26 is set to increase to £115,040. An increase of £9,240.

46. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 7:49pm.

Minutes produced by Erika Davies, Deputy Clerk.

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

Dated