

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 14 April 2025
AT 6.02 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Peter Adamson, Ralph Henderson (MBE), Chris Hill, Josh Rawcliffe and Nick Simmons.

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

Absent: Mark Lewis and Rob Phillips

Other: Neil Hirst (TAFY)

1. Apologies for Absence

Rob Phillips

2. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

Peter Adamson and Nick Simmons for the grant funding item concerning Ffrindiau Tyleri as they are members.

3. Minutes 3 March 2025

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

4. TAFY End of year 1 update.

Neil Hirst from TAFY provided a written report which he went through. The highlights are listed below.

- The changing seasons are causing issues with the plants with some being early but can not be planted outside as there is still a chance of overnight frost. Also, some of the plants in the tubs have already gone.
- TAFY have over 4,500 plants ready for baskets and tubs.
- The new planting and the hanging baskets should be going out in Mid-May.
- He also gave an overview of the work that had been done at the underpass mural site.
- The four planters in Bournville will be raised in May to try and alleviate the problem of the sheep eating the plants.
- Neil thanked everyone for the positive comments they had received about the work on the underpass as this had been done by volunteers not paid workers.

In answer to a question from the Committee, Neil said we could explore the possibility of TAFY selling surplus plants to Community Groups who are looking after barrels.

The Clerk stated that a congratulatory letter about the mural work from the Council was not appropriate as that project had a steering group which had Council representatives on it and any letters should come from that group.

Neil Hirst left the meeting at 6:30 pm

Initial:

Date:

5. **Wales in Bloom Update**

Ralph Henderson gave an update on the various sites that will be used across the whole of the Council area. He asked about clustering the tubs that are part of our central contract to create and better display. The Clerk requested that a formal plan identifying which tubs to be moved to be presented at a future committee meeting.

The Committee will have to plan a year on year budget to manage this project going forward. There is £750 in this year's budget for Wales in Bloom.

Erika Davies stated that the entry fees have been paid for the Town category and 2 Hotels/Guest House and Public house and restaurants. The garden category is free to enter.

The judging will take place in July.

A film is being made about Wales in Bloom.

Peter Adamson left at 6:51

6. **Blaenau Gwent Transport Questions**

The Committee were not happy with the response received from BGCBC about making Gladstone Street and Oak Street one way. Chris Hill will be speaking with Malcom Day the BGCBC Councillor who lives in that area as he feels he may be supportive.

The Officers confirmed that a representative from BGCBC will be invited to this committee to talk about parking issues.

The Clerk suggested that they best advice is that if anyone sees illegal parking they should report it to BGCBC and it would be hoped that pressure could be applied that way, if the number of reports were significant.

It was also suggested that the Officers put this information out on Social Media.

7. **Abertillery Town Shop Window**

The Officers said that they need further clarification about any potential competition to get a better gauge of shopkeeper's willingness to take part. The Chair said someone would need to speak to Councillor Lucy Harmer as it was her original idea.

8. **Free Defibrillator Update**

Erika Davies gave an update on the free unit that will be placed at Aberbeeg Community Centre, there has been a small delay but it is likely to be in place by the end of April.

9. **Grant Funding**

Nick Simmons left the room

The Committee **RESOLVED** to give permission for the Clerks to pay the £10,000 grant funding to Ffrindiau Tyleri

Nick Simmons returned to the room

The Committee **RESOLVED** to give permission for the Clerks to pay the £5,000 grant funding for the Adam Street Apiary.

10. **Chris Warner update**

The Clerk stated that he had been emailing Ken Skates about the railway issue but had not received anything other than a single holding reply. The Clerk would liaise with Josh Rawcliffe outside of the meeting to see in any pressure could be applied via Plaid Cymru members of the Sennedd to get a reply.

11. Date of Next Meeting

As needed.

The meeting ended at 7:36pm

These minutes were produced by Steve Edwards (Clerk).

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

Dated:.....