

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 3 September 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 (arrived during item 30; see minutes), Mark Lewis, Barrie Page, Josh Rawcliffe.

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

Apologies: Michaela Assiratti, Steve Bard.

Absent: None.

24. Apologies for absence and welcomes

Apologies were received from Michaela Assiratti and Steve Bard.

25. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

26. Minutes – 25 July 2024

The Committee made an amendment to remove Erika Davies and Molly Jones from the 'present' section of the minutes, as they did not attend the meeting.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that, with this amendment, the minutes were a true and correct record.

27. Loneliness Project

Cllr Mark Lewis mentioned that there are other funding opportunities available to community groups which could be worth exploring. The Committee agreed that they would be happy to promote these opportunities and assist groups that required support applying for them.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £1500 to Aberbeeg Sewing Circle towards rent, machine servicing, materials and sewing kits (Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

The Committee **RESOLVED** to postpone a decision on the Ebenezer Baptist Church grant, and for officers to request information regarding which groups the funding would be benefiting.

28. Christmas Carol Concert

The Committee agreed to give out selection boxes again this year, but did not decide on an amount to spend due to waiting for costs of the boxes and figures from the choirs.

29. Party in the Park

The Committee 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.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to ask Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council if they would like to help run Party in the Park as a joint event.

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30. Summer Cinema De-Brief

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

Cllr Ralph Henderson MBE arrived at 6:26pm.

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.

The Committee discussed whether to continue running sessions supervised by the Blaenau Gwent Youth Service, and Cllr Tracey Dyson stated they could discuss this with Kristian Gay from the service at the Full Council meeting on September 25th.

The Committee agreed to review the figures again once all of the costings have been received, which will inform the direction of the programme next year.

31. Sir David Brunt Blue Plaque

The Clerk provided some information about a blue plaque being installed in Llanhilleth for Sir David Brunt, a local meteorologist involved in the D-Day landings. The plaque was requested by Llanhilleth TRA and the project is now being completed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

32. Six Bells Park Centenary

The Committee agreed that they would like to support the centenary in principal, but that they would need a proposal and budget request from the Park.

Cllr Ralph Henderson MBE told the Committee that he would discuss this with the committee at Six Bells Park.

33. Concerts Risk Assessment

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the Christmas Concert risk assessment, with an amendment to change the term 'calculated' to 'assessed' in Section 3. This will be a working document that may update during the planning process.

34. 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 increase the Christmas lights overhaul and maintenance budget from £1,000 to £2,000 due to ongoing issues with a faulty socket on Somerset Street.
- To keep the same annual Christmas light grant amounts.
- To propose a new budget line for Friends of Blaenau Gwent Village and Roseheyworth Park for Christmas lights in the area, with a budget of £3,000.
- To wait for actual 2024-25 costs for Christmas lights electricity to be confirmed by officers for the next meeting before deciding the budget amount.
- To keep the Remembrance Sunday budget at £300.

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- 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.
- 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 wait for actual 2024-25 costs for the community summer cinema project to be confirmed by officers for the next meeting before deciding the budget amount.
- 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.

35. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 7:24pm.

Minutes produced by Molly Jones, Deputy Clerk.

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

Dated