

MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 10 April 2026 AT 6:15 pm at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery and via video conferencing (Zoom).

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Peter Adamson, Tracey Dyson and Josh Rawcliffe.

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

Absent: Lucy Harmer, Ben Owen-Jones and Bruno Gões Maciel.

Other: Cllr Steve Bard (left after agenda item 4).

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Lucy Harmer.

2. Declarations of interest or dispensations

The following personal interests were declared:

Cllr Barrie Page – Agenda Item 4: Governor of St. Illtyd Primary School.

Cllr Josh Rawcliffe – Agenda Item 4: Governor of Abertillery Learning Community.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 2 February 2026

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

4. School Transport Funding

The Committee welcomed Cllr Steve Bard, Chair of the Finance & Governance Committee, to discuss the allocation of School Transport Grants for 2026-27.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend the following to Full Council:

- To amend the section 4.5a of the Grants Policy to remove 'for children qualifying for free school meals'.
- To add 'The maximum grant amount for a School Transport Grant is £1666' to section 4.5 of the Grants Policy, and to amend the policy to reflect this change.
- To move the £10,000 from the 'School Transport Grants' budget line to the Section 137 budget line.

Cllr Steve Bard left at 7:04pm.

5. Spring 2026 Newsletter

The Committee **RESOLVED** to publish the Spring 2026 Newsletter.

The Committee discussed adding more interactive elements to future newsletters, such as QR codes/links to photos and videos.

6. New Website – Cllr Peter Adamson

Cllr Peter Adamson raised an issue with 'Additional Documents' not showing on meeting pages on mobile devices. The Deputy Clerk will contact Her Web Solutions to fix this.

The Committee discussed adding more interactivity to the site, such as links to relevant local resources. Cllr Peter Adamson will liaise with officers to discuss potential

implementations. The Clerk reminded the Committee that accessibility is the priority and adding more functionality may compromise this, especially on older devices.

7. Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Working Group discussed their initial ideas for a community consultation survey.

The Committee agreed that the initial survey should be broad and simple. It should prioritise short-form questions to ensure it is easy to fill out, which should encourage more responses. Future surveys can delve into more specific topics and be more targeted.

The Committee agreed that the survey should aim to see how aware constituents are of the Council and its projects, and what they would like us to prioritise.

The Committee also discussed the involvement of Millie Dyson, a local student, to create a survey for local youth. Cllr Josh Rawcliffe will liaise with her.

8. Youth Teams

The Committee **RESOLVED** for officers to research potential grant funding sources for the BGCBC Detached Team and Off The Streets. They will report back to the Committee at their next meeting.

9. Lanyards

The Committee **RESOLVED** to purchase lanyards and ID card holders for Councillors and members of staff (Local Government Act 1972, s.111).

This payment will be made from the Council's 'Stationery and Postage' budget line.

10. Authorisation of Spending

The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to spend up to the following amounts from the 2026-27 (net) budget lines:

- BGCBC Detached Team - £65,000
- Off The Streets - £65,000

11. Date of next meeting

As needed.

The meeting ended at 7:52pm.

These minutes were produced by Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

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

Dated:.....