

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 26 June 2026 at
5:00pm in the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Lucy Harmer, Barrie Page, Josh Rawcliffe, Ralph Henderson MBE, Frankie Baker (late; see minutes) and Ben Owen-Jones. (via video-link).

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

Absent: Steve Bard, Chris Hill and Jackson Powell (Youth Representative).

Other: Chris Wilkins (Abertillery Blaenau Gwent RFC) and Joanna Wilkins (Cwmtillery Ward Cllr, Blaenau Gwent Council).

10. Apologies for absence

Chris Hill.

11. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

12. Minutes – 2 June 2026

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes from 2 June 2026 were a true and correct record.

13. Public Questions

None.

14. Loneliness Grant application

The Committee **RESOLVED** to award the grant of £300 to Ebbw Fach Community Group to purchase plants for their Community Garden – (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19).

15. Summer Cinema

The films have been selected, following consultation with Off the Streets and ALC Senedd, with only 3 showings per week this year - Tuesday 10am, Tuesday 2pm and Thursday 2pm. The previous Thursday morning session supervised by BGCBC Youth service has been removed because of low take-up. There was a discussion about holding an evening showing next year for older teenagers and maybe a cult film, Labyrinth was mentioned as the type of film to show.

There will be advertising on social media and on our website. Information about the relaxed sessions will also be forwarded to relevant groups.

16. Viaduct Run – Ras Draphont

Cllr Frankie Baker arrived at 5:18pm.

Chris Wilkins (Abertillery Blaenau Gwent RFC) and Joanna Wilkins (Cwmtillery Ward Cllr, Blaenau Gwent Council) arrived at 5:18pm.

An update was given from Cllr Ben Owen-Jones and Deputy Clerk Molly Jones. A new 5 mile race is taking place this year, alongside the 5k and fun run. The event has received three sponsorships, totalling £700. Around 30 entries had been received so far, but previous years have seen many people registering on the day or a few days prior.

The event is due to be underbudget.

17. Town Centre Events

The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to make payments up to a total of £13548.98 from the Town Centre Events budget line.

This includes the £3548.98 which Full Council resolved to allocate to town centre events this year (24 June 2026, minute ref.62).

The Committee **RESOLVED** to allocate the following budgets to each event:

- Abertillery Job Fair - £1,000
- Halloween Event - £3,000
- Winterfest/Christmas Event - £7,000

18. Party in the Park 2026

Deputy Clerk Molly Jones explained that the event budget had been reduced to £12,000 this year, as a flat 20% was deducted from the usual £15,000 budget due to the removal of VAT from budgeting this year. The RFO had authorised spending up to £15,000 inclusive of VAT, as many vendors do not charge VAT.

The total spend for the event was £12,908.79 excluding VAT, and £14,623.90 including VAT.

Public feedback for the event was mostly very positive. A few comments were received about having more promotion for the event, such as banners, and a few issues were raised with the lack of parking/access issues on Glandwr Street. Chris Wilkins said there is potential to use the field beyond the pitch as overflow parking.

There was also an issue with the access road to the pitch, from Old Blaina Road, as the climbing walls could not make it onto the pitch. A £1,000 (50%) refund is being made for this. Joanna Wilkins, Cwmtillery Ward Cllr for Blaenau Gwent Council, has raised this issue with Blaenau Gwent CBC and they will be completing repairs on the road in September.

The event was well attended, with MJ Events Support reporting 500-600 attendees on the pitch at any one time (from hourly photographs). The RFC agreed that the event was growing each year.

Security will need to be increased next year in line with the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. Bag checks will need to be implemented.

Cllr Tracey Dyson noted that the inflatables provider was excellent this year. Cllr Josh Rawcliffe noted some issue with the delivery/pick-up and taking down of the gazebos and tables which will be rectified next year.

Chris Wilkins requested confirmation of if council would like to book the RFC for next year's event. The officers will contact them regarding this ASAP.

19. Date of Next meeting

As needed.

The meeting ended at 5:47 pm

Minutes produced by Molly Jones, Deputy Clerk.

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

Dated