

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 Gôes 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:.....

**MEETING OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES SUB COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND
LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 13 April 2026 at 17.30 at the Council
Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Frankie Baker, Richard Catlin and Steve Bard

Apologies: None

Officers: Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk).

1. Appoint a Chair

The Deputy Clerk asked for the meeting to start with agenda item 5 first so that a Chair could be selected for the meeting.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED** the election of a Chair.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None.

4. Minutes 28 January 2026

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

Minutes 25 February 2026

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record with the following amendment –

The minutes numbers are changed from 1 & 2 to 6 & 7, to reflect that fact that they are a continuation from the previous meeting.

5. Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

The Committee **RESOLVED** that, by virtue of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

6. Disciplinary and Grievance

The Committee **RESOLVED** to set a date and time for the disciplinary meeting.

The meeting ended at 18.05

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

Minutes produced by Erika Davies, Deputy Clerk.

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY
AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 15 May 2026 at 6:12 pm at the
Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Bard (Chair), Lucy Harmer and Bruno Gões Maciel

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk)

Absent: Frankie Baker, Nick Simmons and Mike Whatley,.

10. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mike Whatley

11. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None.

12. Annual Return (AGAR) 2025-26

The Committee reviewed the draft Annual Return and **RESOLVED** to recommend it to Council.

13. Report of Accounts and Annual Return

The Committee reviewed and **RESOLVED** to recommend that Council note and accept the Responsible Finance Officers Report Report.

14. Date of Next Meeting

As required

The meeting ended at 6:41pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

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

Date.....

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 1 June 2026
AT 6:02 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Peter Adamson (non-voting), Richard Catlin, Ralph Henderson (MBE), Chris Hill (via video link), Mark Lewis and Josh Rawcliffe.

Nick Simmons and Rob Phillips from 6:52 pm

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk)

Absent: None

14. Apologies for Absence

None

15. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None

16. Minutes – 8 May 2026

The Committee **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes as a true and correct record.

17. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

18. Planning

There were a number of discussions concerning the following:

The Community Assist Transfer of Pentrifi Tyleri and where the borders were.

The future of the Llanhilleth Pit Head Baths and the increased costs that will impact the viability of the project. The Clerk will raise this with BGCBC.

Some work activity had been reported for the Dolls House in Abertillery. There had not been any planning applications received concerning any changes of use so there was no action for Council to take.

19. Working Groups

A Working Group was set up to look reviewing empty commercial properties and absent landlords. It consists of Richard Catlin, Ralph Henderson, Chris Hill and Mark Lewis. It was agreed that a baseline map of the area showing empty properties would have to be created. A survey was previously done three years ago where a SWOT analysis had been done but this would now be out of date. It was agreed that empty residential properties would be out of scope for the time being.

A Working Group was set up to review walking trails in the area. It consists of Chris Hill, Rob Phillips, Ralph Henderson, Mark Lewis and Peter Adamson. They will look at links with the Welsh Tourist Board and BGCBC. It will also chase BGCBC to release Alyson Tippings to attend meetings.

Initial:

Date:

20. Litter

The Committee are concerned about the amount of litter that is occurring throughout our area.

Nick Simmons and Rob Phillips joined the meeting.

An idea put forward would be to provide a reward for children doing litter picking but it was pointed out that the Council had no budget line for this for 2026/27. There is also the issue in ow to deal with soiled adult nappies and needles if found.

The Clerk was asked to speak with BGCBC to see if they were aware of littering hotspots.

Members were asked to report any cases of littering to BGCBC via the official app, Nick Simmons is going to set up a Ward login and provide details to other members so they can use that rather than their own personal logins.

At this point it was street litter that the Committee were concerned with and fly-tipping is a separate issue

21. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6th July 2026 at 7pm. The Clerk reminded the working groups that any reports/papers should be with the Clerk by 29 June to be included at the next meeting

The meeting ended at 7:09 pm

These minutes were produced by Steve Edwards (Clerk).

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

Dated:.....

Initial:

Date:

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 02 June 2026 at
6:04 pm in the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Lucy Harmer, Barrie Page, Josh Rawcliffe, Ralph Henderson MBE, Frankie Baker and Chris Hill (via video-link).

Youth Representative: Jackson Powell

Officers: Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk).

Absent: Steve Bard and Ben Owen-Jones.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None

3. Minutes – 10 April 2026

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes from 10 April 2026 were a true and correct record.

4. Public Questions

None

5. Loneliness Grant application

The Committee discussed the grant application of £3036 for the older persons lunch club and whilst they felt it was a worthwhile cause and a good long-term plan, the ethos of the Loneliness Project was to help groups start-up and not to continue to fund basic costs (i.e. staff wages). As this particular club has already been funded through Loneliness Project, an amendment was made to the motion to reduce the amount awarded by 50%. The Committee **RESOLVED** to award the grant with the following amendment –

Award 50% of the amount requested (£1518) – (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19).

6. Assets purchased for Six Bells Party/Parti Chwe Chloch

The Committee **RESOLVED** to keep the 11 x cushions, 2x throws and 1x ground sheet that were purchased for the Six Bells event. These can be used for future events and borrowed by any community groups that may need them. The Deputy Clerk advised that the rug had already been disposed of as it was beyond further use due to it being wet and muddy from the event. The banner is to be disposed of as it has the date and partners printed on it so will not be able to be used again.

7. Town Centre Events

Full Council agreed the virement of £10,000 from the Ffrindiau Tyleri budget line to the Leisure & Tourism Committee to spend on hosting town centre events (27/06/26).

Working groups were set-up for each of the events planned.

- Summer Job Fair – Tracey Dyson, Josh Rawcliffe, Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson MBE and Steve Edwards (Clerk).

Initial

Date

- Halloween – Tracey Dyson, Josh Rawcliffe, Frankie Baker, Ralph Henderson MBE, Jackson Powell (YR) and Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).
- Christmas – Tracey Dyson, Josh Rawcliffe, Lucy Harmer, Frankie Baker, Jackson Powell (YR) and Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk).

8. UK Town of Culture 2028

Ralph Henderson MBE commented on the amount of fantastic local talent but that not enough people know about it or the USP's of our beautiful area.

If the Community Council is successful in its bid for the UK Town of Culture 2028, focus needs to be on the arcade in Abertillery town. Thought needs to go into how the Community Council connects with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to link-up the area and get people working together to create amazing spaces. Heritage is key to the towns success and will go a long way to boost the local economy.

9. Date of Next meeting

As needed.

The meeting ended at 7:13 pm

Minutes produced by Erika Davies, Deputy Clerk.

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

Dated

**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 (Cwmtilerry 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 (Cwmtilerry 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