

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 8 May 2026
AT 6:00 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Peter Adamson, Richard Catlin, Ralph Henderson (MBE), Chris Hill and Josh Rawcliffe

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk) and Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk)

Absent: Mark Lewis, Nick Simmons and Rob Phillips

1. Apologies for Absence

Nick Simmons and Rob Phillips

2. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None

3. Minutes – 13 February 2026

The Committee **RESOLVED** to make one amendment to the minutes, item 61 “Mount Pleasant in” should be Mount Pleasant Inn”.

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

4. Planning

There are no planning issue to consider. The plans to close Roseheyworth School are being dealt with by full council.

5. Working Groups

The item was deferred until the next Committee meeting. The Committee wish to invite Alison Tippings (BGCBC Heritage) to discuss walking trails and Karen Williams (BGCBC Town Centre Manager) to discuss empty properties and absent landlords to be invited to the Committee’s next meeting. Also to ask Karen to supply a list of empty properties.

The Committee wished to keep the working group concerning the Local Development Plan open for the time being as a new LDP is currently being drawn up.

6. Defibrillators

There is an issue contacting the landlady at the Mount Pleasant Inn to discuss the installation of a unit at the Inn. The Clerk is planning to visit on Tuesday 12 May, failing this, officers will ask Steve Bard to contact the Manager.

7. Abertillery Subway Mural

The Council currently have a contracted agreement with TAFY for the monitoring and removal of graffiti at the underpass. TAFY have had discussions with the Officers concerning the value for money for the Council of the current agreement and have suggested two options rather than carry on with current agreement. A bi-monthly check and clean which would cost £450 per annum or a quarterly check and clean which would cost £300 per annum.

Initial:

Date:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that we mutually terminate the current, bi-weekly, agreement with TAFY and set up a new agreement. This will save the Council £1,700 which can be used for repairs to the Mural.

The Officers gave an update of the damage in the subway. There are faeces on the wall and parts of the mural have been gouged out. This looks like a deliberate attempt at damage. There was brief discussion about installing CCTV but there is no capacity to monitor it or who would take any further action. The police should be notified of the damage and Barrie Page has spoken with Rachel at the BGCBC youth team and asked her to keep an eye out on the anti-social behaviour at the subway. The Council already has a quote to repair 3 sections of the mural identified at a site visit on 19 March 2026 but there has been further damage since then.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the repair quote of £1,250 be accepted and the repair work carried out. Any additional damage that is identified can then be quoted for, and brought back to Full Council for a decision to repair.

8. Community Transport Scheme

The Committee noted the costings and usage to date. It was also noted that there is a bigger demand for the services but there is a lack of volunteer drivers to cater for that service.

9. Town in Bloom Community Tubs

The Committee looked at a request for a Community Tub at the bus stop opposite 17 Tillery Road. There was a central contract tub there but this was moved as part of the Wales in Bloom project. A resident has said that she will look after the single tub. The cost is £150 for a new pre-filled tub and then £75 per year for the upkeep.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to order a new tub for that area

The Committee **RESOLVED** to temporarily move the 4 tubs from outside the old library across the road by the Bush Hotel. This is because the current building work at the library has pushed the tubs further into the walking area and there is no longer a 1.5m gap. The tubs will be moved back when the work on the old library is completed. The tub moving will be carried out by TAFY.

10. Allotments

The Clerk gave an update on the 6 allotments that the Council has an interest in. We do not have any current lease agreements with any of the allotment groups and only one lease agreement with a landlord (for Adam Street) which is in place until 2029. The Clerk had not requested any annual allotment payments from any of the groups as he felt this would de-facto mean we would have landlord obligations and we did not have any legal agreements to ask for rent.

There was a discussion concerning if the Council would still want to have an interest or be responsible for any allotments.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that where possible the Council gives up any interest in allotments and arrange for allotment groups to arrange leases with the landlords direct.

11. Spending Authorisation

The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise payments up to the following amounts from the 2026-27 net budget lines.

Initial:

Date:

Town in Bloom Central Contract - £12,467

Town in Bloom Community Tubs - £3,000

Town in Bloom Maintenance - £800

Wales in Bloom Contest - £8,000

Abertillery Subway Mural Maintenance - £1,600 (Ear Marked Reserves)

Community Transport - £1,500

12. Wales In Bloom

Ralph Henderson gave a brief update.

The Volunteer planting day on 3 May was a great success.

A lot of work is being done to build the infrastructure for future years. There has been a significant uptake in the interest this year following last year's success.

There seems little progress in involving the schools this year, this is because there are two new deputy heads who are heavily involved in other issues concerning the school being in special measures.

There is an issue at the St Pauls site with sheep who had gained access and eaten plants.

Wales in Bloom judging is on 9/10/11 July 2026

There is a close working relationship with Karen William the Town Centre Manager

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 1st June 2026 at 6pm

The meeting ended at 7:00 pm

These minutes were produced by Steve Edwards (Clerk).

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

Dated:.....