

MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 29 June 2026 AT 6:30 pm at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery and via video conferencing (Zoom).

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Tracey Dyson, Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link) and Josh Rawcliffe (via video-link).

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

Absent: Lucy Harmer, Mike Whatley, Peter Adamson (non-voting member) and Bruno Gôes Maciel.

12. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Lucy Harmer, Cllr Mike Whatley and Cllr Peter Adamson (non-voting member).

13. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

14. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 10 April 2026

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

15. Summer 2026 Newsletter

The Committee were pleased with the new interactive elements of the newsletter.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to publish the Summer 2026 Newsletter with the following amendments:

- Change the photo of the Viaduct Run medal to a photo of the Crumlin Viaduct.
- Add the amount raised by Party in the Park for the Chair's Charity.

16. Community Engagement

The Committee noted that several changes had been made to the budget and grants policy since the survey document was drafted, with the removal of annual grants and changes to the allocation for Christmas Lighting and Extra-Curricular School Transport Grants. The survey will be amended by Cllr Barrie Page to reflect these updates.

The survey will be conducted online and with paper copies. Copies will be distributed to shops, community centres, Abertillery library, doctor surgeries and other venues. A cover page with a QR code to the online version will be included on each paper copy.

The survey will begin rolling out in July, with the Abertillery Job Fair serving as a trial to test whether the questions are easy to answer and provide useful results. The survey will have an end date in September so it can be analysed by Cllr Barrie Page and used to inform committees during the budget-setting process.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree to begin the community consultation survey with these amendments, and following this rollout procedure.

17. Councillor Surgeries

Cllr Barrie Page has previously attended two surgeries with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Councillors – one in Cwmtillery, and one in Brynithel. These surgeries were put on hold during the Senedd Election period.

The Committee discussed whether to proceed with these surgeries or whether to begin hosting its own. They noted the importance of having a member of staff present, and possibly having police presence.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to proceed with two more surgeries with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Councillors, and to host a drop-in evening in September with members of the Community Empowerment Committee, as council representatives.

18. Date of next meeting

As needed.

The meeting ended at 7:26pm.

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

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

Dated:.....