MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 18 September 2026 AT 6:03 pm at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery and via video conferencing (Zoom).

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Tracey Dyson, Lucy Harmer Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link) and Peter Adamson (non-voting member via video-link))

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk)

Absent:, Mike Whatley, Josh Rawcliffe and Bruno Gòes Maciel.

19. Apologies for absence

None

20. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

21. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

22. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 29 June 2026

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

23. Autumn 2026 Newsletter

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

The Committee **RESOLVED** to publish the Summer 2026 Newsletter. They also suggested that each Councillor should have 10 copies to distribute across their areas.

24. Community Surveys

There was no update from Josh Rawcliffe concerning the Youth Survey. The Community survey will close at the end of September, there has been a number of hard copy and website completed surveys, which will need some analysis.

The Committee may look at doing videos and photo feedback at future events, but would need to ensure that we did not use any under 18s

25. Community Engagement Strategy

As part of the Finance and Governance Toolkit, which the Council is working its way through, there needs to be a Community Engagement Strategy. The Clerk will draft one for the next Committee meeting.

26. Youth Service Abertillery Event

Barrie Page gave a brief rundown on the event which he had found interesting. He raised an issue that the Youth service may have with the detached teams van. It is now 16 years old, to replace it is likely to cost £100,000 as it has a custom interior. If the van breaks down this will have an impact of the detached teams work.

27. Budget 2027-2028

The Committee agreed a first draft of the budget for 2027-2028

- BGCBC Detached Team: No change, stay at £65k
- Off The Streets: No change, stay at £65k
- New Website Cost: Budget line to be removed
- Extra-Curricular School Transport: The funding is being moved into the Section 137 budget but the Committee would like to ensure it is increased from £10k to £11k so Bro Helyg Welsh School could be included.
- Councillor Surgeries: The budget line to remain but with £0 budget for 2027-2028.

This would mean the overall budget for the Community Empowerment Committee would be £130,000, a reduction of £10k from previous year.

28. Community Engagement Strategy

The Committee agreed that BGCBC Detached team and the "Off the Streets" budget should remain at £65,000 each. The Committee would also like the Extra-Curricular School Transport budget that had been moved into the Councils section 137 budget be increased from £10,000 to £11,000 to include £1,000 for Bro Helyg school.

29. Date of next meeting

As needed.

The meeting ended at 6:55 pm.

These minutes were produced by Steve Edwards (Clerk).

Signed as a correct record by the Chair:……

Dated:……

MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 6:34 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Richard Catlin, Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson (MBE),Chris Hill (via video link), Nick Simmons and Rob Phillips

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk)

Absent: Josh Rawcliffe, Mark Lewis, and Peter Adamson.

32. Apologies for Absence

Mark Lewis and Peter Adamson

33. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None

34. Minutes – 6 July 2026

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

35. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

36. Planning

The Committee would like a list of recent planning applications in the Councils area. It was mentioned that all planning applications can be viewed on Blaenau Gwent Borough council Website.

37. Working Groups

Empty Properties Working Group: Chris Hill reiterated what was said at the previous meeting. It was agreed that empty buildings impact the social structure of the area. There was report due back to BGCBC at the end of October, there also could be some thing we could do with Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

Walking Trails Working Group: Rob Phillips gave an update.

Four hubs had been identified (Six Bells, St. Micheals, Cwmtillery Lakes). The group is looking at launch event/festival and would also like to co-opt local people to help.They will have to look at Notice Boards at the hubs.

38. Defibs

The Clerk gave an update on the proposed installation of a Solar Powered Defib Unit at St Illtyds. BGCBC had put forward a number of objections/issues on the units location. The Clerk is in dialog with them to sort it out.

39. Town in Bloom

The Clerk, Lucy Harmer and Ralph Henderson had met with TAFY to discuss the issues around Tubs and Baskets. There are some health and safety issues around some of the current locations, also there is an environmental impact in the amount of driving it is taking to water the dispersed tub locations.

TAFY are also of the opinion that all the hanging baskets have reached the end of their useful life, a combination of hot dry weather and then rain over the years have made the plastic brittle so the hanging baskets will need replacing.

The Committee agreed that the Tubs should be clustered, that we could cull about 40 Tubs. There is also some concern about the longevity of remaining tubs. The long hot dry spells are making the wooden slats shrink.

The Committee agreed the following.

The number of tubs in the central contract should be reduced and clustered so we get "more bang for our bucks". Tubs should be removed from bus stops. The Committee needs to now the costs for replacing all the hanging baskets.

The Committee **RESOLVED** the following:

- That the 6 tubs outside the Stute that previously belonged to Ffrindiau Tyleri be adopted by Abertillery Aspiration.
- That 11 tubs (7 in St Micheals and 4 in Six Bells School) be taken out of the Central contract and adopted by Abertillery Aspiration.
- That Abertillery Aspiration be reimbursed £450, from the Community Involvement budget as they had effectively been managing the 6 tubs from outside the stute.

There was no update from "Off the Streets"

40. Subway Mural

The Clerk stated that the repairs had been carried out on the mural, the graffiti had been cleaned off by TAFY, and the excrement had been cleaned off by BGCBC street cleaning team.

41. Car Parking

The Committee were aware of the issues of lack of Car Parking in Abertillery Town Centre. The Committee **RESOLVED** that as a first step the Officers should write to BGCBC to see if the car park at Foundry Bridge could remain open after 7pm.

We would also need to ensure that any future plans for Abertillery Town Centre considers the parking situation.

42. Budget 2027-2028

The Committee did not agree a draft budget for 2027-2028 as it needs to know some costings for replacement of tubs and baskets.

The "In Bloom budget lines to merged into one with the exception of the Community Involvement budget line.

To ensure that the Ffrindiau Tyleri Grant funding was picked up by the Leisure and Tourism Committee.

The number of new Defibrillators for 2027-2028 be reduced from 2 to 1.

There needs to be consideration for new budget line for Walking Routes/festival.

43. Date of Next Meeting

As required

The meeting ended at 7:54 pm

These minutes were produced by Steve Edwards (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 02 October 2026 at 13:02 in the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery

PRESENT:

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

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

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

The Chair apologised for the late start, explaining that a previous meeting had overrun.

39. Apologies for absence

Chris Hill, Steve Bard and Jackson Powell.

40. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

41. Minutes – 14 August 2026

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

42. Public Questions (standing order 3d)

None.

43. Budget Setting

This was the first budget setting meeting for the Committee. After discussion around current and predicted spending, the initial following budget proposals have been allocated for 2027/28. Further discussion and another meeting will be held to refine these figures after more information is submitted.

All figures are exclusive of VAT.

- Christmas Lights Central Contract: £38000
- Christmas Lights Maintenance: £800
- Christmas Lights Lamppost Testing: £0
- Christmas Lights Electricity: £1000
- Christmas Lighting Grants: £5000
- Remembrance Events: £300
- Abertillery War Memorial – Development: £4000
- Abertillery War Memorial – Grounds: £3500
- Loneliness Project: £7000
- Viaduct Run: £6000
- Summer Cinema: £7250 (waiting for costs from Awen for final figure)
- Party in the Park: £15000
- Off the Streets Summer Fete: £4000
- Musical Concerts: £650
- Six Bells Park Bilingual Event: £4000

- Brynithel Rugby Club Event: £3000
- Blue Plaques: £2000
- Job Fair: £0
- Halloween: £3000
- Winterfest: £8000
- Late Night Christmas Market: £3500
- Town Centre Market: £5000

44. Date of Next Meeting

As needed.

The meeting ended at 14:24

Minutes produced by Erika Davies, Deputy Clerk

Signed as a correct record by the Chair……

Dated ……...