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:……