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:……