

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 20 October
2022 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Michaela Assiratti, Barrie Page, Josh Rawcliffe, Ben Owen-Jones.

Via videolink: Peter Adamson

Officers: David Cartwright, Clerk

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

None

25. MINUTES – 10 AUGUST 2022

26. The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and correct record.

27. DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2023-24

Barrie Page reported that the Council had consulted with a potential contractor for the Christmas lights central contract who had advised that a budget of £25,000 to £40,000 would be required to fulfil the Council's requirements in 2023-24. As the lights infrastructure required an overhaul, repairs and maintenance, Cllr Page proposed that the budget line be raised to £40,000.

The Committee agreed that no development of the Abertillery War Memorial site would be planned for 2023-24 but that an increase in the maintenance budget would be wise to take account of possible increased costs in hot weather.

The Chair reported that an initial meeting of potential partners and stakeholders in the Loneliness Project had already produced outline plans for more than half-a-dozen initiatives. A number of other organisations and groups had expressed an interest in the project since. Consequently, the signs were that the project was likely to generate multiple opportunities for grant support.

Peter Adamson left the meeting at 7.10pm.

Ben Owen-Jones confirmed that there had been little progress so far in the project to develop a new Council website but believed there would be in 2023-24. He recommended that indicative amounts of £8,000 for website development and £2,000 for a launch event be kept in the draft budget proposals pending further work on costings.

Although there had been no expenditure on a Fun Run so far in 2022-23, Ben Owen-Jones reported that he had held a number of conversations with interested parties regarding a potential event in Soffryd in 2023. He recommended that provision for a Fun Run in 2023-24 remain in the Committee's draft budget proposals.

The Chair reported that the experiences of 2022 had demonstrated the difficulties in staging an outdoor cinema event. She proposed that this budget line be replaced with provision to fund weekly summer cinema events for children in The Met in 2023-24.

The Chair proposed that funding for Party in the Park in 2023-24 be increased to accommodate more participative children's and family activities and the use of an event organiser to book acts for the main stage. Other Members indicated a preference for using an increased budget to improve attendance by families from outside Abertillery and to undertake an evaluation of the event.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree its draft budget proposals for 2023-24 (attached) for discussion at the Finance and Grants Committee on 27 October 2022.

28. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the following grants in respect of Christmas light displays and to authorise officers to make payments to the respective organisations:

- a) Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association (£3,000)
- b) Brynithel Community Centre (£1,500)
- c) Swffryd Community Centre (£1,500)
- d) Bournville Community Centre (£1,500)

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the following grants in respect of Christmas light displays and to authorise officers to make payments to the respective organisations from the Christmas lights central contract budget:

- e) Aberbeeg Tenants and Residents Association (£1,500)
- f) Pentre Tyleri (£1,500)

29. WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk reported that work to replace uplighters had been completed. A request from a member of the public to erect scaffolding within the War Memorial site would be considered by the Full Council at its October meeting.

30. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The committee nominated the Chair and Michaela Assiratti to organise the display of commemorative poppies.

31. CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the provision of chocolate gifts for children performing in the concert and to authorise the expenditure of up to £75 from the Committee's 'Musical concerts' budget.

32. LONELINESS PROJECT

The Chair noted that she had already covered this item during discussions on the Committee's draft budget proposals.

The meeting ended at 8.16 pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk