

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 10 October 2023
AT 6.00pm in the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Michaela Assiratti, Steve Bard, Barrie Page and Josh Rawcliffe.

Officers: Steve Edwards, Clerk

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Mark Lewis and Ben Owen-Jones

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

None.

26. MINUTES – 11 JULY 2023

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

27. PARTY IN THE PARK BUDGET 2024-25.

The Clerk reported that the costs for the Abertillery RFC “Party in the Park” were £13,000 and a grant of £5,000 had been given to assist a separate “Party in The Park at Llanhilleth RFC.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to put forward a budget request for £15,000 for the Abertillery RFC Party in the Park and £5,000, subject to an accepted delivery plan, for the Llanhilleth RFC Party in the Park. **(NOTE: subsequent to the meeting an accepted delivery plan for this event was received from Offthestreets who manage the event).**

28. FUN RUN BUDGET 2024/25.

The Committee acknowledged the success of the inaugural Swffryd Fun Run and the contribution made to its success by Councillor Ben Owen-Jones. The Committee **RESOLVED** to put forward a budget request of £5,000 for a Fun Run in 2024/2025. The Committee did have some concerns about Councillor Ben Owen-Jones paying for things out of his money and then reclaiming from Council, for clearer governance and oversight all invoices should be paid directly by Councils officers.

29. LONELINESS PROJECT

- The Committee acknowledged the early successes of this project. The Committee **RESOLVED** to put forward a budget request for £7,500 for 2024/2025.
- The Committee **RESOLVED** to pay a grant of £1,000 to the Six Bells Tennis Club to provide heating, cleaning and beverages as per their grant request.
- The Committee **RESOLVED** to pay a grant of £1,000 to Zion Miners Chapel provide food for their various activities as per their grant request

30. CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME BUDGET

The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise Officers to pay the following annual Christmas Lights grants for 2023/24 and to propose the same budget amounts for 2024/25

- Llanhilleth TRA £3,000
- Brynithel Community Centre £1,500
- Swffryd Community Centre £1,500
- Bournville Community Centre £1,500
- Aberbeeg TRA £1,500
- Pentre Tyleri £1,500

The Committee **RESOLVED** to put forward a budget request of £30,000 to fulfil the central Christmas Lights Contract and £1,000 for lights overhaul and maintenance. If this £1,000 is not spent in the current year then it will be put into ring-fenced reserves to build a pot for any future Christmas Lighting maintenance and repair.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to put forward a budget request of £1,500 to cover the Christmas Lighting Electricity costs in 2024.

31. CINEMA PROJECT 2024/25

The Chair reported that the current costs for the 2023 events were £6,126 and we await costs of the bus hire. He also stated the interest shown from Nantyglo and Blaina Council to have a day put aside for them (which they would reimburse us for) if we ran a similar project in 2024.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to put forward a budget of £10,000 for next year's project

32. ANNUAL FUNDING 2024/25

The Committee **RESOLVED** the following budget requests for 2024/25

- Abertillery Rock and Blues £2,000 (This is per a previous Council decision to award an annual grant)
- Zion Miners Chapel £2,000, this will be subject to no other Council grant requests coming from them during the year.
- Abertillery RFC £2,000, to be used to assist with insurance costs in putting on musical concerts and events.
- St Davids Day and Christmas Musical Concerts £500 to cover any incidental expenses.

33. WAR MEMORIAL

- There was discussion concerning the current state of the fencing and paving at the War Memorial and it was agreed that these need to be looked at and repaired. The Committee **RESOLVED** to put in a budget request of £20,000 to do this work. The Clerk to obtain some estimates.
- The Committee **RESOLVED** to increase the maintenance of War Memorial site budget request from £2,500 to £3,500 as they are mindful of the increase in petrol costs that all businesses are having to deal with.
- The Clerk stated that BGCBC will once again be dealing with the road management of the Remembrance Sunday Event. However, it was not clear if this would continue into 2024, so the Committee **RESOLVED** to put in a budget proposal of £3,000 to cover off this. This amount will also include the costs of purchasing wreaths from RBL.

34. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Two new projects were discussed, but no budget proposals were put forward for 2024/25. These will require some scoping work to be carried out by the Councils Officers and to then bring back to full Council.

- Play day events for young children that could tour various locations around the holiday during school holidays.
- The taking over of the Weatherspoons pub, to be used as a social hub, possible tie in with youth training schemes.

The meeting ended at 7.11 pm.