

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY
COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2018 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Peter Adamson, Steve Bard, Ivor Beynon, Keri Bidgood, Gill Clark (Vice Chair), Roger Clark, Tracey Dyson, Julie Holt (Chair) (in the Chair), Mark Lewis, Perry Morgan, Gary Oakley, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall, Graham White and Trudy Williams

Officers: Steve Edwards, Deputy Clerk and Richard Gwinnell, Town Clerk

Others: Councillor Nigel Daniels, Leader of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)
Councillor Garth Collier, Deputy Leader of BGCBC
David Watkins, Team Manager, Leisure Services and Facilities, BGCBC
Police Constable Andy Davies, Heddlu Gwent Police

ABSENT: None

86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

No apologies were received. Everyone expected was present.

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following personal interests were declared when the relevant items arose:

Councillor	Agenda Item	Minute no.	Type of interest	Reason for interest
Roger Clark	4: Community Asset Transfers	89	Personal only	He was the Chairman of Abertillery BG Rugby Football Club, which was in the process of a Community Asset Transfer
Allen Rees	4: Community Asset Transfers	89	Personal only	His wife was the Treasurer of Friends of Six Bells Park, which was in the process of a Community Asset Transfer

88. POLICE UPDATE

PC Davies circulated an update on relevant issues, including updates on crime and anti-social behaviour issues (and the Police response) in the ALCC area, Gwent Police's Twitter account and "Gwent Now", a community messaging system designed to keep residents (if they subscribed) up to date on local issues.

PC Davies responded to questions about:

- the dispersal orders in place in Abertillery

- the plans to increase Police staffing and patrols over half term, Halloween and the fireworks period around 5 November
- the joint work taking place between the Police and Fire Service around bonfires and fireworks
- the rules around fireworks; in short people were allowed to set off fireworks on their own property e.g. in their gardens but it could be an offence to set them off in back lanes, in the street or on other people's property
- the need for people to ring the Police straight away if they observed criminal or anti-social behaviour, so that it could be dealt with straight away
- the greater the threat / risk / harm, the higher the priority the Police gave the call
- parking on pavements; the Police needed to receive a complaint and needed to see for themselves that an obstruction was being caused, before issuing a ticket
- sheep wandering freely around the area; discussions had been held with the farmer who owned the sheep and he had regularly collected them in and taken them back to the farm, but a local person was leaving the gates open deliberately due to a land dispute, so the farmer could not keep the sheep in all the time
- the Police and the Council did not have a compound to take the sheep to
- the farmer should not be prosecuted; it was not his fault that someone left the gate open deliberately
- leaving a gate open was not a crime either; the person could not be prosecuted
- the local Police were spending a great deal of time working with the farmer almost daily about sheep on the loose
- dogs could be shot for chasing sheep on private farmland, but not on the highway or on public land
- CCTV cameras; some were capable of being monitored but many were not.

PC Davies was thanked for his report and left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Williams entered the meeting during the above Police update.

89. BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (BGCBC) REPRESENTATIVES - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS AND OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES

Councillors Roger Clark and Allen Rees declared interests in this agenda item, as listed on page 1 of these minutes.

The Chair welcomed the BGCBC representatives. The BGCBC Leader confirmed that he was happy to discuss any matters raised by ALCC members at this meeting (not only community asset transfers).

The following is a summary of the key points discussed. Questions, comments and replies on each topic are listed en bloc, in the interests of brevity.

Community Asset Transfers (CATs)

Questions were asked about / comments were made by ALCC members (main points):

- Six Bells Park: two groups were due to take over the café, bowling green, pavilion etc, but who was going to take care of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), the tennis courts and other areas of the park?

- football, rugby and other clubs were taking over sports grounds, but what about other play areas, playing fields, trees etc; who would be responsible for those?
- Abertillery Park: would the trees and terraces be blocked off and go to ruin?
- would there still be public access to sites handed over to clubs or groups?
- sites would inevitably be fenced off by new owners; this would stop public access for dog walkers, people with disabilities and others
- some sports areas were closing down because clubs could not take them on
- whether news about CATs could be shared on ALCC's website?

Councillor Daniels and the other BGCBC representatives responded (main points):

- BGCBC would remain responsible for all areas not transferred to clubs
- this included play areas, although play area provision was under review
- anything inside the red line was what the club wanted; they would be responsible
- anything outside the red line would remain the responsibility of BGCBC
- BGCBC had already committed not to hand over any liabilities
- trees and hedges at most sites were outside the red line
- they would therefore remain the responsibility of BGCBC
- every site was different; talks were continuing with individual clubs about each
- in Abertillery Park the rugby club wanted the pitch, the stand and the changing rooms, not the whole site
- the terraces, trees etc would remain with BGCBC and would be maintained
- public access to the terraces, trees etc would be maintained by BGCBC
- very few areas had official rights of public access; access would remain on those
- people should not be walking dogs on sports pitches; people had lost their eyesight due to dog faeces not being picked up
- if BGCBC intended to transfer a site, they had to advertise; people could object
- clubs and groups were entitled to protect their assets
- sports grounds were protected; they should only be used for sports
- many places were protected with dog exclusion orders for example
- BGCBC was not "washing its hands" of these sites, but had to save £millions in order to continue to afford vital education, social and other statutory services
- the Leader and Deputy Leader had personally met every club at least once
- BGCBC had spent a great deal of time preparing for CATs
- transferring responsibility for all the sites would save around £400,000 a year
- BGCBC had committed only to hand over sustainable assets as far as possible
- some clubs would have much improved viability and funding options after taking over full responsibility for their sites and activities
- clubs would have much more freedom to raise funds and improve the sites
- it would be better if clubs could work together (e.g. at Six Bells Park) to improve the site, raise funds etc, but this was not always possible
- CAT presented lots of opportunities for growth and improvement of facilities
- only one club would cease operating next year, but that was due to its lack of members, not due to the CAT of their pitch
- ALCC could put a link on its website to the BGCBC website, which contained details about community asset transfers, of course.

BGCBC Budget

Questions were asked about / comments were made by ALCC members (main points):

- whether the money saved by BGCBC as a result of transferring these assets to clubs could be spent on improving children's play areas?
- children's play areas were very important
- if BGCBC paid foster carers more, fewer of them would go to the private sector
- paying foster carers less was a false economy.

Councillor Daniels and the other BGCBC representatives responded (main points):

- BGCBC spent over £90 million on education and social services alone, out of a total budget of around £140 million
- BGCBC had to save another £15 million going forward
- £3.8 million had to be saved in a single year
- non-statutory services were hit much harder by cuts (than statutory services)
- BGCBC could no longer afford to run all the statutory services it was responsible for, let alone non-statutory services
- spending on looked after children was potentially unlimited
- social services would like to pay foster carers more, but did not have the money
- approx. £400,000 would be saved as a result of the proposed community asset transfers across the whole of the BGCBC area
- BGCBC was trying to plan for the next four years, not just one year at a time
- it had 32 issues to deal with in a recent "budget choice" meeting, including CCTV
- play areas would be reviewed soon
- the harsh reality was that the team who maintained play areas were made redundant in 2013 and there had been no investment since then
- some play areas would have to be closed and the equipment removed, as they were too high a risk
- the best that could be hoped for was a "worst first" programme of investment in play areas, but this was going to be some years in the future, if at all
- play areas were important, but there was no money and nothing had been spent on them for many years
- the Welsh Government was investing in the NHS, not local government.

Trinity Chapel / Regeneration Spending

Questions were asked about / comments were made by ALCC members (main points):

- whether the Leader could give an update on progress with Trinity Chapel?
- that community groups were interested in using the building; who should they call to enquire about it?
- whether the front of the building could be used for advertising?
- when the building would be finished?

Councillor Daniels responded (main points):

- substantial investment had been made in Trinity Chapel

- the Coalfields Regeneration Trust wanted to see a community shop, credit union and other things in there
- there was a lot of local opposition to this
- his own view was that the building needed to be marketed and filled
- it should be a proper “community services one stop shop”
- the building needed more money spending on it, when it became clear what any future occupants needed
- it needed fitting out internally, but this could not be done until it was known who was going in there and what space they required
- additional money would have to be found, to finish the building works
- £13 million had been spent on Abertillery, principally to increase jobs and footfall
- these aims had not been achieved
- banks were closing; the town had an excellent library, but in the wrong place; Careers Wales and others could use space in the building
- he would be happy to hear from any interested community groups
- people often used empty shop windows to advertise, without permission.

Play areas review and activities for young people

Questions were asked about / comments were made by ALCC members (main points):

- the timescale and further details of the play areas review
- whether community groups were likely to come forward to take on play areas?
- whether BGCBC would invest in improving play areas before they were handed over, if anyone wished to take them on?
- whether play areas were inspected regularly?
- that play areas were local assets, which should be maintained by community and town councils, as they were in England
- ALCC should be considering taking on play areas in future
- there was a lack of things for young people to do
- did the Leader agree that this led to vandalism and anti-social behaviour?

Councillor Daniels and the other BGCBC representatives responded (main points):

- considerable work had already been done and a report was in the draft stage
- some play areas were clearly already redundant
- this issue was due to be considered by BGCBC in the near future
- they were happy to come back and discuss it further with ALCC in due course
- groups were unlikely to take on play areas; the liability was too great
- town and community councils could take them on if they wished
- some residents at Oxford Place were keen to take on their local play area
- there were health and safety, insurance and other implications to deal with
- Tredegar Town Council was considering taking on playing fields
- BGCBC would treat play areas / fields like the other sites being transferred
- play areas were still inspected, as required under insurance terms
- The Blaina Institute was a good example of what could be achieved
- the Leader did not agree that there was a lack of things to do, or that this was responsible for anti-social behaviour problems amongst youths

- there were plenty of things for young people to do in the area
- there were dozens of clubs, groups, sports, drama groups, youth clubs etc
- most young people caused no trouble at all, but there were a few who did, no matter what was provided for them.

Ebbw Fach Trail

Questions were asked about / comments were made by ALCC members (main points):

- the trail was about to be relaunched
- could all the relevant groups be brought together under one umbrella, with Blaenau Gwent CBC steering progress?
- the volunteers involved were doing an excellent job.

Councillor Daniels and the other BGCBC representatives responded (main points):

- officer time was not available to invest in this
- huge amounts of work were needed in other areas, for example social services
- a great deal of work had been done to prioritise BG's limited resources
- there had to be a thorough rationale for spending money
- the Valleys Task Force may be approached to see if they could help.

Evening car parking in Abertillery - and car parking enforcement

Questions were asked about / comments were made by ALCC members (main points):

- whether the top level of the car park on Division Street could remain open at night or until 10pm at least?
- people were staying away from Abertillery due to the lack of parking
- traders reported that this was a key issue affecting their businesses
- the Council should be promoting shops
- whether automatic barriers could be installed and programmed to close at 10pm?
- people parked on pavements as there were insufficient car park spaces
- whether clubs could be given keys, to close the car park after hours?
- whether parking restrictions would be enforced; for example on Roseheyworth Road and Gladstone Street, which were over-parked for much of the time
- anti-social behaviour had been a problem in the car parks 20 years ago, but that was 20 years ago; the people concerned were now grown adults
- a byelaw had been brought in, so that people could park their car but then were prevented from sitting in their car; this was designed to resolve the problems
- the byelaw had never been enforced
- the issue of anti-social behaviour was a policing issue, not a reason to close down public facilities
- whether a warden could be employed to close the car park at 10pm
- whether BGCBC could keep the car park open overnight
- the majority of people wanted the car park open overnight; members were elected to act on what the public wanted, so the car park should be open
- if it was found that the anti-social behaviour problems returned, the decision could then be reviewed

- the car park should be open on a trial basis at least
- the male voice choir had lost members due to lack of parking
- the choir had requested special late opening of the car park on Tuesday and Friday nights for over two months, before their tour in France last summer
- the car park had been left open all night for two months on Tuesdays and Fridays
- there had been zero complaints
- a councillor who rented out his house occasionally camped in the car parks
- young people talked in their cars and one or two might drive too fast or loudly on occasion, but he had never seen any real anti-social behaviour problems
- there were problems at the Glandwr Street car park, but that could be because it was a quiet area, next to the park, away from any shops and pubs
- why not try opening the car park in town again for a six month trial?
- the choir had been offered space in the school but there was no storage space
- many people in the choir were elderly and could not walk far from their cars.

Councillor Daniels and the other BGCBC representatives responded (main points):

- if car parks were open until 10pm, someone would have to be employed to come and lock them up at that time
- this was not going to happen; people may wish it could, but it could not
- BGCBC opened the car park late, if it received a “special events” request
- the car park was regularly left open for events at The Met for example
- anti-social behaviour problems had been experienced in car parks for years
- those problems had not gone away
- the Police had dealt with issues in the past, but with little success
- there were many residents close to or overlooking car parks, who did not deserve to be disturbed all night
- 8 members of BGCBC who were local to Abertillery had voted not to open the car park late into the evening or overnight
- there had been several meetings on this issue over several years
- Tredegar was now asking for their car park to be closed at 7pm due to issues with anti-social behaviour in the evenings there
- automatic barriers broke; there was no spare money to fix them when they did
- there were many other places to park in the evening in Abertillery
- the real issue was that people wanted to park right outside, and not walk more than a few yards from their car to the door
- people could park at the back of Iceland during the evening
- the Leader had spoken to many of the shopkeepers; only one had raised this issue and special arrangements had been reached for them
- clubs could not have keys; this would cause a liability / insurance issue
- staff who came to lock the car park late at night had been attacked in the past
- it was very difficult to get some young people out of the car park at closing time
- the Police were due to stop yellow line parking enforcement in December
- this responsibility would return to councils, including BGCBC
- there were many yellow lines in Abertillery which did not need to be there and restricted parking unnecessarily
- this meant other areas suffered with over-parking problems
- BGCBC would take over civil parking enforcement in 2019

- it would be looking to remove unnecessary yellow lines wherever possible and consequently free up many more parking opportunities
- it did not make sense to give out parking tickets on one street but allow parking violations on another; that was just shifting the problem
- some young people were committed to causing problems
- the Police could move people on, but they then went somewhere else
- there was little the Police could do to prevent this recurring over time
- the majority of people wanted the car park closed at night
- elected councillors, who represented local people, voted unanimously to close the car park at night, most recently only 3 or 4 months ago
- Tredegar opened up their car park at night; it was closed again within a week due to the anti-social behaviour which occurred
- the late-night problems in Abertillery were currently worst at Glandwr Street
- if the car park at Division Street was reopened at night, the problems would move there
- 8 local members unanimously voted for the status quo (i.e. closure) recently; and no further vote was planned
- unless something radical changed (e.g. a local community organisation took on responsibility for the car park) the car park would not be reopened at night
- Abertillery Learning Community had offered rehearsal space to the choir
- there were plenty of other alternative parking spaces available
- even more would become available over time, due to the yellow lines review.

CCTV

Questions were asked about / comments were made by ALCC members (main points):

- the latest position with CCTV cameras in the area
- other organisations also needed to upgrade their CCTV
- whether BGCBC could collaborate with other community organisations to extend CCTV coverage and get a better deal?

Councillor Daniels and the other BGCBC representatives responded (main points):

- CCTV was one of 32 recent “budget choices” considered by BGCBC
- BGCBC had been paying £81,000 a year to Newport City Council and £43,000 a year to BT for CCTV (an overspend of £26,000 per year)
- there were 63 CCTV cameras across the BGCBC area
- only 48% were working and none transmitting images (they were only recording)
- the server which sent images to the Newport control centre had been inoperable for some time and was beyond repair
- the analogue cameras were now too old to fix
- BGCBC decided earlier today to purchase and install 36 new Wi-fi enabled, wider angle cameras, at a cost of around £150,000, which needed to be found
- 8 of these new cameras would be installed in Abertillery town centre
- 4 cameras would be deployable for special operations
- the Police supported this course of action
- more cameras could be purchased at a later date, at around £1,600 each.

Public Toilets

Questions were asked about / comments were made by ALCC members (main points):

- the public toilets in Abertillery had been vandalised extensively, to the point where the operators could no longer continue
- the public toilets consequently closed down some months ago
- the Ebbw Vale toilets had CCTV; could this be done in Abertillery?
- the previous operators worked very hard to keep the toilets open
- were the public toilets the responsibility of BGCBC?
- ALCC previously paid £2,000 a year to local people to operate the toilets
- whether metal toilets could be provided; they may be harder to vandalise
- public toilets were being vandalised everywhere; this was a common problem
- the toilets in Porthcawl had recently shut down; this was on the TV news.

Councillor Daniels and the other BGCBC representatives responded (main points):

- re-opening the public toilets would mean having to find a new operator
- the previous operator ran the public toilets under licence from BGCBC
- BGCBC gave a small financial contribution to those operators
- public toilets were the responsibility of BGCBC
- BGCBC was looking at the feasibility of several projects, including public toilets across the whole BG area
- to reopen all public toilets across BG would cost approx. £95,000 a year
- the Ebbw Vale toilets had recently reopened (paid for by the Business Forum)
- the Blaina public toilets were closed
- in Tredegar, the Town Council ran the public toilets
- £12,000 had previously been spent replacing copper piping with plastic, due to metal thefts and vandalism
- the likelihood of vandalism rendered such piecemeal investment unsustainable
- different materials had been trialled elsewhere, without success
- many public toilets were closing, due to vandalism.

Conclusion

The Chair and others thanked the BGCBC representatives for their time and answers.

Councillor Daniels stated that he and his colleagues would be happy to return in future to discuss issues of mutual interest with ALCC on request. The Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council representatives then left the meeting.

The Chair stated that the meeting was running significantly over time but that in her view the time was very well spent. She suggested that the Leader and other reps of BGCBC be invited back to future meetings but that they be extraordinary meetings, arranged just for that purpose (not general meetings with many other agenda items). Other members supported this proposal. It was also stated that the discussions held with BGCBC reps this evening were vastly more effective than the quarterly consultation meetings.

Council RESOLVED to invite the Leader and other relevant representatives of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to attend future extraordinary ALCC Council meetings, twice a year if possible, with dates and times to be arranged.

90. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2018

Council RESOLVED (with one member voting against and all others who attended the meeting voting in favour) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record, for signature by the Chair.

91. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no public questions for this meeting.

92. COUNCIL ACTION LIST

The Clerk highlighted:

- members allowances; these would be paid automatically to each member, early in the new year, in line with the decisions of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, unless members wrote to him, electing to forego their allowance on an individual basis (the Clerk was asked to email members, reminding them of this)
- Wetherspoons had been approached about siting a defibrillator in The Pontlottyn but as yet no response had been received
- £6,398.17 had been transferred from reserves to the current account, to pay for the WW1 Party in the Park costs
- the Council had been charged approx. £200 less than quoted by two suppliers, so there was a small excess now in the current account, from reserves
- BGCBC had replied about the zebra crossing at Alexandra Road, Six Bells
- that reply had been sent by email to all members yesterday
- a letter had not been sent to BGCBC requesting reinstallation of CCTV in the area, as ALCC had been able to raise this directly with the Leader of BGCBC earlier in this meeting.

A question was asked about progress on devising grants criteria. The Clerk stated that some work had been done but was not complete. This was on the list of things to do but there were higher priorities, so this may take some further time. Former Councillor Leadbeater had been working on this but he was no longer a member of the Council. The Deputy Clerk had also done some work on this.

The Vice-Chair proposed and after discussion:

Council RESOLVED:

- (1) to note the progress reported
- (2) to establish a Grants Criteria Working Group, to devise suggested criteria for giving grants in the future and report back to the Council with recommendations
- (3) that the Working Group comprise Councillors Gill Clark, Tracey Dyson, Perry Morgan, Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons.

93. SHOP LOCAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

Councillor Lewis, Chairman of the SLWG reported (and answered queries) that:

- the banner design was currently with the printers
- a Facebook page had been set up to speak directly with traders
- businesses were coming on board, with about 40 signed up so far
- ALCC members would be given access to the new page as soon as possible
- this was a work in progress; no one was being excluded
- people needed to be patient.

Debate ensued, with several members commenting that:

- a Facebook page set up by the Council should be administered by the Council, not by individual councillors
- councillors could be liable for what was said on the Facebook page
- some councillors had already requested access to the new Facebook group, but had not been given access
- involving more members would be an advantage
- officers of the Council should have access to the Facebook group
- officers should “admin” the Facebook group
- officers were there to advise, not to be on working groups or committees
- officers could not advise if they couldn’t see what was going on.

Councillors Bard and Morgan (members of the SLWG) commented that:

- Councillors Bard, Lewis and Morgan were administering the Facebook group
- it was a discreet Facebook group, for the SLWG to communicate with traders
- the SLWG was only doing what Council had already agreed
- nothing was being said which should not be said
- so far, only issues such as progress with the banners had been discussed on the new Facebook group
- Councillor Phillips was on the working group; he was an Abertillery member
- other members could have access to the Facebook group, when it was set up and working properly
- it was a private Facebook group, but was not doing anything wrong
- there seemed to be a level of undue criticism of whatever the SLWG did
- others could have access to the new Facebook group in due course.

Following a motion from Councillor Gill Clark and an amendment from Councillor Simmons:

Council **RESOLVED** that ALCC officers be given access to the new shop local ALCC/ trader Facebook group, as soon as it was established.

94. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 1(z)

Council **RESOLVED** (with one member voting against and another stating that he could not stay) to suspend standing order 1(z) to extend the meeting for longer, but only to

deal with any urgent issues (as shown below), and to defer any other issues to a future meeting.

95. FINANCE ORDER

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the payments listed in the Finance Order.

Councillor Adamson left the meeting at this point.

96. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Council **RESOLVED**:

- (1) that the following members lay wreaths in the following areas:
 - Councillors Roger Clark and Perry Morgan: Bourneville
 - Councillors Keri Bidgood and Gill Clark: Llanhilleth
 - Councillor Allen Rees: Soffryd
 - Councillor Mark Lewis: Blaenau Gwent
 - Councillor Julie Holt: Abertillery
- (2) to obtain 40 large lamp post poppies from the Royal British Legion (RBL)
- (3) to donate £120 to the RBL Poppy Appeal, in return for 40 lamp post poppies
- (4) that members be asked by email to volunteer to put up the lamp post poppies
- (5) to note that Councillor Morgan has lamp post poppies for Bourneville already
- (6) to note that poppies are also being made by school children for the event
- (7) to attempt to obtain 10 "Lest We Forget" banners, poppies on sticks or anything else suitable and available before the event
- (8) to set a budget of a further £100 for these additional poppies/banners/goods
- (9) that poppies and banners be supplied for every ward.

97. WINTERFEST, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Councillor Phillips gave an update on progress with preparing for Winterfest this year and on what was planned where. Councillor Simmons asked for a volunteer who owned a van, to help move items from the Factory Unit and bring them to town for Winterfest.

The Clerk reported progress on obtaining lanterns and booking activities in Market Street. Reindeer were not available this year, unless the Council was willing to pay at least £1,000 for two reindeer for four hours. It was proposed instead that the Council hire owls from The Owl Sanctuary at Ebbw Vale and Disney Princesses (if available and within budget). He reminded Council of the overall and remaining budget. He also reminded members of the budgeted contribution to the Abertillery Amateur Dramatic and Musical Society (AADMS) Christmas pantomime and advised that AADMS had not yet requested this contribution.

Councillor Bard reported that the Community Christmas Concert would take place on Sunday 23 December 2018 at St Michael's Church. The date and the use of the church had already been agreed with partners. There would be bands and choirs as usual. He was the Musical Director. He suggested that the Chair meet with representatives of the bands and choirs involved to plan the event, as the event was traditionally used to raise funds for the Chair's Charities. He was happy to attend that meeting if requested.

Council **RESOLVED**:

- (1) that the updates be noted
- (2) that owls, Disney Princesses and anything else suitable be booked to add to the previously booked ALCC-provided activities on Market Street
- (3) that the budgeted amount be paid to AADMS for the Pantomime on request
- (4) that the Clerk work with the Chair to set up a meeting with relevant partners if needed to plan key elements of the Christmas concert.

98. PLANNING APPLICATION: HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE (HWRC)

The Clerk reminded members of the need to respond by 2 November 2018 to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's pre-consultation (before BGCBC submitted a formal planning application) on the proposed HWRC to be developed at Roseheyworth Industrial Estate.

Several members commented that they welcomed and supported the HWRC and that such a facility was desperately needed in the Ebbw Fach valley. One member expressed support in principle but stated that he had concerns about the access to the site.

The Clerk stated that ALCC would be consulted further in due course when the planning application was submitted and would have a chance then to comment on the detailed issues, including the access road. At this stage, BGCBC was consulting on the principle of the development.

Council **RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Clerk write to BGCBC, expressing ALCC's overwhelming support in principle for the proposed HWRC.

99. DEFERRAL OF FURTHER BUSINESS

The Council **RESOLVED** to defer any further business remaining on the agenda and to hold a further meeting on 7 November 2018, immediately after the "budget issues" meeting that evening, to consider those deferred items and any other necessary business.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

NB these minutes are a summary of the proceedings and record of the decisions taken. They are not intended to be a verbatim record.

Minutes produced by Richard Gwinnell, Clerk