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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND
LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 28 July 2021 at 7:00pm
Virtually and in the Council Chamber at
Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Gary Oakley (Chair), Nick Simmons (Vice Chair), Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson,
Mark Lewis, Bev Lucas, Perry Morgan, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Bernard Wall, Graham
White

Officers: Steve Edwards-Clerk Sian Hookins-Admin Assistant

Others: None

ABSENT: Vanessa Bartlett, Roger Clark, Glyn Smith

86.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

None

87.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

88.Chairman's Statement

The Chair respects the right of any individual, no matter what disability they may have, to be able to attend and have equal participation in any Council Meeting and would strongly condemn any view that was contrary to that.

The Chair also apologised that this statement had not been made at the previous Council Meeting

89.Minutes:

Full Council 23rd June 2021

RESOLVED – to amend the minutes "assistant Clerk" to "admin assistant"

90.Recommendations from Finance and Grants Committee

RESOLVED – To accept the recommendations apart from (f) "War Memorial budget" which was deferred to the September meeting with further information from the Leisure and Tourism Committee.

91.Ward Grants

RESOLVED – to accept that ward grant applications to be submitted to Finance & Governance committee for approval and submitted to Full Council if it falls outside of a Councillors Ward

92.Defibrillators

RESOLVED – to purchase 2 additional defibrillators and appropriate signage and for the Planning and Environment Committee to decide appropriate locations

93. Councillor Vacancies

RESOLVED – to accept the proposed policy and procedure with the addition of IT literate being added to the policy

94. One Voice Wales

The council have not renewed the One Voice Wales membership and wish to defer decision to September

RESOLVED – the clerk to find out information about other organisations for September meeting

95. Solar Farm Grant Working Group Recommendations

RESOLVED – The Council accepted the Working group recommendations.

96. Painting of Town name sign and street bench

RESOLVED – to be sent to the Planning and Environment Committee

97. Promotional Video

RESOLVED – to be sent to the Planning and Environment Committee

98. Grants – Penybont Crafters

RESOLVED – To accept the application for funding.

99. Re-Rendering of Wall backing onto War Memorial

RESOLVED – to be sent to the Leisure and Tourism

100. Date and Time of Next Meeting confirmed to be 29th September 2021 @ 7pm

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

Minutes produced by Sian Hookins, Admin Assistant

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY
AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 8 September at 7:00pm
in the Council Chamber at
Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Gary Oakley (Chair), Nick Simmons (Vice Chair), Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson, Mark Lewis, Bev Lucas, Perry Morgan, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall, Graham White

Officers: Steve Edwards-Clerk

101. Apologies for absence and welcomes

There were no apologies for absences.

Councillor White attempted to raise an item that the meeting was unlawful as the Chair had not previously signed his Declaration of Office. The Chair requested that Councillor White stay on the agenda. He refused to do so and began to act in a challenging and disruptive manner talking over the Chair.

The Chair stated that if he continued disturbing the meeting, he would move a Motion to have him removed.

At this point Councillor White left the meeting.

The Clerk stated that the Declaration of Office had been signed by the Chair.

102. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None

103. Resolution to exclude the Press and Public

The Council **RESOLVED** to exclude the Press and Public by virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

104. Wales Audit – Report for 2014-2105

It was noted that three current Councillors, Rob Phillips, Glyn Smith and Bernard Wall were Councillors at the time of the events detailed in the Audit Report.

The Council **RESOLVED** that a reply be sent to Wales Audit with the three points detailed below. The Chair requested that the votes be recorded (**FOR:** Gary Oakley (Chair), Nick Simmons (Vice Chair), Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson, Mark Lewis, Bev Lucas, Perry Morgan, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Glyn Smith. **ABSTAINING:** Peter Adamson, Bernard Wall.)

1: The Council was extremely concerned that none of the three current members, who were also members during the 2014/2015 year have been directly spoken to by Wales Audit concerning the very serious matters detailed in the report. It is the strong council view that Wales Audit should speak to Glyn Smith, Rob Phillips and Bernard Wall to consider their evidence before issuing a final report.

2: The recollections from Glyn Smith and Rob Phillips are that they would not have acted as they did in approving the payments if they had not had the legal advice that Mr. Bartlett had presented to them, and from the conversation that had been had with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Councils Legal Officer at the time.

3: There are two typographic errors in the report.

Para 38: "31 October 2019" should read "31 October 2014".

Para 70: "On 13 October 2019" should read "On 13 October 2014".

Meeting ended 8:10 pm

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards Clerk



Blaenau Gwent Youth Service



Detached Team Monthly Update

The purpose of this report is to provide Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council members a brief monthly synopsis of the work delivered by the Detached Youth Team within the Abertillery area.

Month Report focuses on – August

Statistics

Number of individual young people engaged - 118
(Young person provides their details)

Accumulative number of young people engaged - 523

Number of activities provided by the Team – 20

Outputs

Synopsis of work delivered by Detached Team

Throughout the month the team assisted in delivery of the Summer programme which consisted of a variety of activities for young people throughout the Borough. As part of the programme the detached team delivered activities within the Abertillery area.

The programme delivered and catered for a variety of young people with some activities for small groups such as DJing and jewellery making while others were on a mass scale including Inflatables down on Abertillery park and football with Cardiff City on the 3G at the sports centre.

Each day throughout August an activity was available for young people. Staff assisted with the delivery of each activity ensuring that they ran with no issue.

Positive Stories

The number of young people engaging and in particular young people that were new to the team was pleasing. A high percentage over 60% had not taken part in activities or any service with the youth service before. This provided staff the opportunity to engage and consult with them regarding future work and programmes.

Feedback from the young people and parents alike was all positive with 80% of young people participating in 3 or more activities and 95% stating that they would participate in future activities provided.

In addition to the feedback regarding the summer programme, the activities also provided the opportunity to engage with the groups regarding community based issues and young people were quick to explain how they wanted more places to go, but to also be left alone at time. They wanted areas that they could meet without persecution. They explained that they understood how large groups could be perceived as being ASB but wanted to dispel those myths.

Based on the concerns from the previous report the detached team were successful in working in partnership with Abertillery Sports Centre and gaining access to the 3G during certain down time for young people. Young people were grateful and used this opportunity.

Feedback

Young people were excited to be told that the youth club would be re-opening at end of September and that the Detached team would assist in their transition to club while still supporting ths within the community that did not want to attend.



Off The Streets Detached Project **Monthly Report - August 2021**

Overview of project and activities carried-out this month -

August was a very busy month for Off The Streets due to it being the six weeks of summer holidays. We did however aim to continue to embed our online presence using social media platforms such as Facebook and TikTok. We use these in order to best reach young people in the most relevant way for them.

We showcased our work and activities this month via TikTok, including pictures and videos taken at the Clwb Llan Multi-Skills Activity Days, Tuesday detached sessions at Swffryd, Wednesday detached sessions at Llanhilleth and Thursday centre-based sessions at Aberbeeg.

Overall we received a total of 114 views and although these can't be specifically measured in terms of understanding exactly who views them individually, a large proportion of our children and young people use this platform to engage with us.

We have continued to use the project's Facebook 'like' page to raise awareness of events, informative posts and videos, our completed and upcoming work activities, support services and also broader, uplifting content.

During August we used our reach to raise awareness of;

- Community Voices, Community Choices funding
- Playday 2021
- Reusable and sustainable period products
- Llanhilleth Multi-Skill Activity Days
- International Youth Day
- Left Handers Day
- Never Give Up Day
- Multi-project work with Swffryd Community Centre
- Dragons Rugby Event at Abertillery RFC
- Dance/Parkour sessions with Ffin Dance

Overall, we reached a total of 4,291 people this month via the page.

We have continued to work alongside other organisations and projects this month, including;



Llanhilleth Institute / Clwb Llan - This month we supported Clwb Llan to facilitate activity sessions over a three week period for children and young people of Llanhilleth and the immediate surrounding areas. These sessions were part of the Multi-Skills Days and aimed to provide young people with opportunities to engage in different activities, learn new skills and to access a free meal.

Swffryd Community Centre - Off The Streets supported the community centre this month to facilitate a Family Activity Day whereby children and their parents were provided with the opportunity to engage in various activities together and to access a free meal. Off The Streets staff held sports and crafts sessions and also procured an Animal Encounters company to provide the children and young people with an informative and fun session learning about and playing with animals.

Sustainable You, Sustainable Me - Deb took part in Plastic Free Period Ambassador Training this month so as to further enhance her own and young people's knowledge of reusable period products, as well as to be able to pass the message of sustainability on to the local young people. This training has supported the continuation of Off The Streets work in encouraging our young people to make more sustainable choices.

Aberbeeg Community Centre - Off The Streets has continued to work with Ebbw Fach Community Group & Aberbeeg Community Centre so as to hold a presence within the local community and to provide opportunities of engagement for the local children and young people. The Centre has now become a base one evening per week so as to hold a youth club whereby young people can freely access the session to take part in activities, receive advice and support and to access a free meal.

Off The Streets has also continued to work with the centre to further their reach within the local community in terms of publicising the Centre itself and events. Staff and young people attended the Summer Fete at the centre to support the community group but also to raise awareness of our own project.

The community garden and mural at the centre is now complete.



Ffin Dance - Off The Streets has begun working with Ffin Dance in order to provide the children and young people with opportunities to upskill themselves by way of hands-on, psychical activities. Ffin Dance are looking to join a few of our sessions in each area to teach the young people dance, drama and parkour skills.

Numbers of children & young people engaged -

During August the project engaged with 52 new young people via our Detached Sessions at Llanhilleth and Swffryd, the Multi Skills Activity Day at Llanhilleth and the Family Fun Day at Swffryd Community Centre.



Off The Streets Detached Project
Monthly Report - July 2021

Overview of project and activities carried-out this month -

July has been a busy month in terms of planning and preparing for the six weeks holidays.

During July we continued to embed our online presence within our digital work, utilising both social media platforms Facebook and TikTok. We use these specific platforms in order to further our reach in ways that are most convenient and relevant to children and young people.

The young people of Llanhilleth posted videos of themselves doing choreographed dance routines during our sessions. In total, there were 379 'views' for our videos and although these can't be specifically measured in terms of understanding exactly who is viewing them, a large proportion of our children and young people view, 'like' and engage with us via this platform.

We have continued to use the project's Facebook 'Like' Page of which is accessible for anyone with an interest in our work. This page enables us to post our completed and upcoming work activities, informative posts and videos, support services and how to access them, and also broader, uplifting content.

During July we used our reach via our Facebook Page to bring awareness to;

- Thankyou Day
- National Picnic Month
- Samaritans Talk To Us Month
- Plastic Free July
- World Chocolate Day
- National Doughnut Week
- World Youth Skills Day
- Samaritans Awareness Day 24/7
- International Day of Friendship

We also used the page to bring awareness to Harm Reduction Thursday, support for depression, Youth Work in Wales awards, Gwent Police's information around sexual exploitation, Clwb Llan



activities, Aneurin Leisure activities, Swffryd Community Centres work. Throughout the month, the Facebook page reached 2,414 people.

We continued to work with other organisations throughout June also.

Aberbeeg Community Centre - We supported Aberbeeg Community Centre to plan their upcoming Summer Fete. Our young people were also involved in this process so as to bring understanding of what young people would like to see.

Aneurin Leisure - The coaches from Aneurin Leisure have continued to support our sessions and provide sports activities for the children and young people.

Clwb Llan - We have continued to work closely to work with Clwb Llan to plan the summer Multi-Skills Days to provide the children and young people of the local area with opportunities to engage in a weekly basis throughout the six weeks holidays.

Numbers of children & young people engaged -

During July the project engaged with 26 new young people via our Detached Sessions at Llanhilleth and Swffryd.

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Town in Bloom, September 2021 review

- Contract awarded end of May 2021 to the Willows Garden Centre, Usk, for the full allocated amount of £27,000 excluding vat.
- Contract to provide 120 wooden planters & 80 baskets throughout the 5 wards of the ALCC area. Contract includes maintenance & watering and a mix of insect friendly seasonal and perennial plants displayed throughout all four seasons. Tubs are meant to last 10 years and are now the property of the Council.
- Contract to continue into future years, if agreed by Council.
- Roll out began in June.
- Currently have planters in all 5 wards:
Tubs by area:
Llanhilleth 30, Six Bells 11, Aberbeeg 16, Cwmtillery 26, Abertillery 47 = 130

Settlement breakdown:

A/beeg – 11, A'tillery – 47, Bournville – 6, Brynithel – 5, Cwmtillery – 20, Llanhilleth 14, Six Bells – 11, Sofrydd – 16.

- Baskets only in Abertillery town: Somerset Street, Church Street, Right hand side of Tillery Street. (50)

Problems encountered:

- Unable to hang baskets in Abertillery town arcade. Contractor works at night and Borough Council were unable to give us access to the arcade in the night time hours. Contractor compensated us for not providing 80 baskets by giving us an extra 10 tubs.
- Sheep in the town, and in Bournville, have eaten plants in the tubs. Councillor Lewis is trying to resolve the problem through his contacts with the borough and others. Bournville is hit particularly hard by the sheep problem. Contractor is aware of the problem and the team are trying to find solutions, going forward, to providing Bournville with its fair share of floral displays.
- Damage & theft: 3 tubs tipped over, contractor attended to the problem and re-located the tubs. 1 tub stolen.

Success of the project.

- Councillors Lewis and Adamson have received compliments from members of the public and other councillors on the roll-out of displays. We also feel the presence of displays on our streets has encouraged residents in the area to plant displays of their own to the overall benefit to the ALCC environment.
- A special thanks to the Wellbeing working group chair, Nick Simmons, who has given Councillors Adamson & Lewis a free hand in developing the project so far. Thanks also to the Council staff who have played their part in making the Town & Village in Bloom project a reality.

