



Minutes of the Events and Environment Committee Meeting 6th November 2024

Present: Councillors R Carroll; S Hamer-Thomas; D IngramJones; P Collins; H Llewellyn; Y Price.

Also in Attendance: Mr T Oliver, Clerk.

Meeting Chair: Councillor P Collins

- 1. To receive Apologies for Absence. [Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record to be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Clerk.]**

An apology was tendered by Councillor J Bissex (medical appointment).

- 2. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate. [Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Clerk.]**

Councillor S Hamer-Thomas declared an interest in item 11 (The Parent Network).

- 3. Press and public participation. (Members of the public who wish to speak on any item on the agenda should contact the Clerk prior to the meeting).**

There was no press or public participation.

- 4. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Events & Environment Committee 2nd October 2024.**

Members reviewed minutes of the Events & Environment Committee dated October 2nd, 2024, and made an amendment to item 10 'To discuss participation statistics from the CCBC Sports Development Team on the Summer Sports Scheme along with information from the clerk on October Sports provision, and provide instruction to the clerk for 2025 budget planning'. The amendment Members proposed was the Committee instructed the Clerk to communicate with officers at CCBC that the same level of funding as 2024 will be maintained for 2025 and for the funding to be used as a subsidy that is applied to each place on the Sports Scheme, as opposed to "officers to make suggestions about how they feel spaces can be fairly subsidised". Members unanimously approved the amendment and the minutes.

5. To carry out an evaluation of Bargoed Scarecrow Trail 2024 initiative and provide instruction to the Clerk of requirements for 2025.

Members of the committee carried out an evaluation of Bargoed Scarecrow Trail 2024 and noted that although a disappointingly low number of businesses participated there were some very impressive designs. Members noted that this was the first year the trail was promoted in Bargoed and believed that the project could be continued next year with the hope of it growing. The committee welcomed another opportunity to engage with the local schools, encourage High Street footfall and provide more opportunities for families to engage with the Town Centre.

6. To review floral display quotations and provide instruction to the Clerk.

The Clerk gave a verbal update concerning floral display quotations, noting the suppliers that the Town Council is in discussion with and that its current contractor has frozen the prices in their quotation for the next financial year. The Committee decided to wait for all quotations to be received before making a decision.

7. To review quotations for VE Day flags and provide instruction to the Clerk.

Members reviewed 3 quotations for VE Day flags from JW Plant & Co LTD, Flying Colours Flagmakers and Newton Newton Flag & Banner Makers. The Committee instructed the Clerk to purchase 2 5x3 eyelet and 1 6x4 rope and toggled 'The VE-Day 80 Flag of Celebration' from Newton Newton Flag & Banner Makers. Members RESOLVED to spend up to £80.

8. To finalise arrangements for Remembrance Memorials and to advise the Clerk of any Member requests or requirements.

Members finalised arrangements for Remembrance Memorials noting that Councillor M Ingram-Jones would be in attendance in Aberbargoed, Councillors H Llewellyn, R Carroll, D Ingram-Jones and P Collins would be in attendance in Bargoed and Councillor H Llewellyn would be in attendance in Gilfach. The Committee did not advise the Clerk of any requests or requirements.

9. To review youth budget and provide instruction to the Clerk.

The Clerk noted that there is £3,000 available in the Town Council's Youth Budget and asked Members for instruction of how the amount is to be allocated. The Committee instructed the Clerk to consult with the Youth Representatives to gain their input into the discussion.

10. To review CTG stats and provide instruction to the Clerk on the future provision.

The Committee reviewed CTG statistics from April to July 2024 and details of the most recent updates. Members noted the good service that is being provided to young people and discussed ways that attendance could grow. Members postponed the decision on future provision until the next report and full set of statistics are published.

11. To evaluate committee budget requirements for 2025-2026.

Councillor S Hamer-Thomas removed herself from the discussion at this point due to the declaration of interest minuted in item 2. Members evaluated Committee budget requirements for 2025-2026 and RESOLVED to move the budgeted figure of £2,000 from the youth budget to the summer picnic in light of the extra costs that could be incurred such as venue, toilet facilities, field and live action dinosaur show (Councillor R Carroll moved and Councillor Y Price seconded). The Committee also instructed the Clerk to investigate other Town Councils and review how they apportion their projects budget. Councillor S Hamer-Thomas returned to the meeting.

12. To receive verbal reports from the Clerk regarding:

I. The importance of taking photographs in the community.

The Clerk spoke with Members about the necessity of taking photographs in the Community at upcoming events for both the Annual Report and Town Council's social media channels. The Committee committed to taking photographs when opportunities arose and to send them via email or Whatsapp.

II. Collaboration with Parks Services: November Fruit Tree Planting Initiative with Primary Schools.

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the recent meeting with Parks Services and the fruit tree planting initiative that was agreed upon. Park Services will be sourcing 16 apple trees at approximately £150 to £160 each which can be planted in both Bargoed and Aberbargoed. Once a planting date has been confirmed, the Clerk will liaise with local primary schools to invite their participation in the project.

III. Update on proposed concrete plinths or plastic benches in Aberbargoed.

The Committee received a verbal update from the Clerk on the Park Services assessment of the proposed concrete plinths or plastic benches in Aberbargoed. Members noted that Parks Services advised on not going ahead with the plans due to the high level of antisocial behaviour taking place in the village.

IV. Feedback from Sports Development about provision in Aberbargoed. An instruction to the Clerk is needed in regard to February 2025 Sports provision.

The Clerk updated the Committee that there was no October half-term delivery of the Sports Development programme in the Hanger and asked Members if they would like to pursue provision for the scheme in February 2025 instead. The Committee instructed the Clerk to make arrangements for February 2025.

The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11:56am.