



Bargoed Town Council

Minutes of the Events and Environment Committee Meeting 13th October 2022

Present: Councillors R Carroll; P Collins; J Davies; R Price; D Price; T Williams.

Also in Attendance: Mr J Raffell, Aberbargoed Fire Station; Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk

Meeting Chair: Councillor D Price

1.To welcome a visitor from the Fire Station Aberbargoed to discuss community engagement activities.

The chair welcomed Mr Raffell and invited him to speak. Joshua conveyed apologies from Daniel Pendry who is the officer leading on activities in the community and provided Members with a brief overview of some of the activities being delivered from the station. **Safe Havens** is an initiative supporting victims of violence and domestic abuse where the station provides residents with a safe space, until the relevant authorities turn up to keep them safe. **Fire safety home visits** last year 295 visits were carried out, 366 visits this year. In addition to regular fire safety home visits the service also offers a specific **hard of hearing service** and additional equipment is able to be provided such as vibration pads for beds. **Op Ban** will be running from 28th October through to 6th November 2022 where the fire service will be on patrol with Gwent Police in areas known to be high risk during Halloween and Bonfire periods. Specific areas of interest in the Bargoed area include the Park estate, Bargoed grandstand, Bargoed former colliery sites including fly tipping opposite Bargoed train station.

The fire station is keen to:

- take the fire engine to any local events and encourage engagement with young people.
- work with stakeholders to identify empty properties in the high street to liaise with owners and make the properties secure, reducing the fire risk.
- promote the availability of resources for community organisations such as the training room and the two air-conditioned meeting rooms at the station.
- promote the fire cadet scheme the service has in operation.
- work with Bargoed Town Council to put a Christmas Tree outside the fire station and engage with all six primary schools in the area to design Christmas baubles.

The chair invited questions from Members.

Q: Do any of the schools carry out visits to the fire station?

No, only the cadet scheme operating now.

Q: Do all three emergency services in the area regularly communicate?

Yes, this has slowed due to covid but there are new principles in place and things are beginning to get back up and running again.

No further questions.

Members spoke about the Christmas tree project RESOLVING to support the cut tree project in principle, subject to costs. The clerk was instructed to liaise with suppliers and the fire station to take the project forward. The meeting instructed the clerk to liaise with CCBC regarding the possibility of the fire engine having a presence at the Winter Food and Craft Fair in December 2022. The clerk is to liaise with Daniel Pendry for attendance at a future meeting of the committee and to arrange for fire service initiatives to be promoted via the town council social media and website.

The chair thanked Mr Raffell for attending the meeting and he left.

2.Apologies for Absence

Councillor J Bissex; Councillor D Ingram-Jones.

3. Declaration of interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.

No declarations made.

4. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Events & Environment Committee meeting 21st July 2022.

Councillor Davies moved the minutes as a true record, Councillor R Price seconded. The chair signed the minutes in the presence of the committee.

6. Press and public participation session.

No enquiries received.

7. To receive a verbal update from the Clerk on preparations for planned activities prior to the Christmas recess and to approve expenditure for the cut tree on Miner's square in Bargoed.

The clerk confirmed the orders for selection boxes has gone in to Morrisons; confirmed Santa's magical sleigh will be at the Winter Food & Craft fair for the last 90 minutes of the event at a cost of £500; CCBC has been notified of the budget available for the giant snow globe and the life-sized nativity scene for Royale Square, and the roller rink has been confirmed. There is a £500 underspend on the approved budget for Christmas activities.

Following confirmation from the diocese, the contractor has visited St Peters in Aberbargoed to survey equipment needed and advised of additional extension leads and 25mtrs of Icicle lights required. The clerk sought permission to order the additional equipment. RESOLVED to approve £1,100 for cut tree on miners square and authorise up to £500 + vat for additional equipment.

8. To evaluate the recent Silver Sunday afternoon tea event and retrospectively authorise additional expenditure of £25 for bingo prizes.

The chair apologised for not being present for the event and extended her thanks to those Members who delivered the event, for their time and all the work they put in. Exceptional feedback has been received from participants, with residents advising the refreshments and the entertainment were both exceptional. Residents applauded the move to supporting local businesses with the bingo and draw prizes and encourage Members to continue to do this at future activities.

The chair invited the committee to discuss:

1. What worked well

The buffet was excellent; everything worked well; members worked well together; the venue.

2. What didn't go so well

A little congestion with the skittle alley when getting refreshments; unforeseen issue with additional bingo prizes being needed.

3. How can the activity be improved

Invite participants to go for refreshments in table order to reduce the congestion; more volunteers to deliver teas to the tables; add an extra hour to the event – maybe 4pm-7pm instead of 4pm to 6pm. Additional prizes to be prepared prior to the event.

4. Would members like to deliver this type of event again? If so, when, and where?

Yes, an Aberbargoed venue would be preferable, the Arthur Balfour Conservative and Workingmen's Club will be the first choice. A date around 5th March 2023 was deemed to be a suitable time.

Clerk instructed to liaise with the Aberbargoed venue and check for calendar clashes prior to the next meeting.

The chair once again thanked Members, particularly for their quick thinking in dealing with multiple bingo winning calls and requested the committee retrospectively authorise the additional £25 expenditure to decide on reimbursements to relevant members.

Councillors Davies, Collins and Carroll declared an interest in the additional expenditure and took no part in the decision.

Remaining members unanimously RESOLVED to authorise the expenditure and instruct the clerk to reimburse the three members appropriately.

9. To provide authorisation for the biodiversity working group to commence delivery of the community gardening project funded by the grant from Cwtsh with a total available budget of £6,520.

Members spoke about this project for additional green spaces activities, more raised beds, barrels, extension to the community orchard and the yew street park growing area. The committee RESOLVED to delegate project management to the Assistant Clerk with the biodiversity working group providing direction, support, and human resources. RESOLVED to authorise expenditure within project budget for the purchase of equipment, volunteer expenses, plants and consumables as follows:

Tools & raised beds, barrels, compost, topsoil, gloves £3013; fruit trees / bushes / plants / shrubs / bulbs etc £2,000; H&S equipment £108; Consumables & repairs/renewals £450; Volunteer costs £500; lockable storage boxes £450 ex vat.

10. Items from the clerk as follows:

10.1 Confirmation of 10 winter barrels & mixed planting for summer quotations 2023.

The clerk confirmed that JS Lee will shortly be taking in the remaining floral displays and preparations are underway for the ten winter barrels to go out in Bargoed Town Centre. Mixed planting of both decorative and native plants will be used for the summer quotations for 2023. This will lead to greater longevity for the displays.

10.2 OVW online conference on creating resilient spaces for nature 27th October 2022.

Noted. Members commented on the length of time these events run and how big a commitment it is for members.

10.3 Feedback on minute reference 8 from previous meeting – youth activities.

The clerk reported on a visit carried out during council recess to obtain information from CCBC youth service lead explaining that there is no venue in Bargoed, and the YMCA activity is difficult to deliver due to manning levels. The youth service will be happy to work with town council should funding be made available by town council.

Information has been obtained about Caerphilly Table Top and Gamers (CTG) who deliver STEM/strategy/maths related gaming activities at Caerphilly library, and also the annual Caerphilly Comic Con. The organisation would like to work at Bargoed library, initially delivering a one off event and subsequently delivering a monthly club one Saturday per month 10-4pm. The library manager is also keen to work with town council on this event as it is believed a Comic Con event has the potential to draw large numbers of people to the town centre.

This committee has already budgeted for the provision of the Owls at the library annual Harry Potter event with a £300 sum authorised for the activity, however the library suggests two events would enable greater involvement from schools and a weekend event for parent involvement. This would cost an additional £130, with £430 total required budget.

Members spoke at length about youth activities, consulted the remaining budget availability and talked about how best to move forward. The clerk was instructed to liaise with the youth representatives and seek their input on youth activities.

The committee RESOLVED to allocate an additional £130 to complete the Owls funding requirement instructing the RFO to vire funds from another budget line.

The clerk was instructed to liaise with Bargoed library and the CTG group to obtain full costings for the provision of an introductory event, a regular monthly session, and a Bargoed Comic Con event. The committee will revisit this item at the next meeting.

Assistant clerk instructed to liaise with CCBC Sports Development team to ascertain costs for delivering skateboarding sessions in both Bargoed and Yew Street Park, Aberbargoed skateboard parks during February half term holidays.

10.4 Food co-operative at Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre.

Concern was expressed about this item. Members feel due to the recent bereavement it would be insensitive to attempt to obtain information at this time. A member spoke about the initiative being a commercial venture rather than a social enterprise as the food co-operative was initially set up many years ago. The committee felt there is value in a food co-operative being operational during the cost-of-living crisis but for the time being they would like to hold off approaching the community centre.

10.5 Keep Wales Tidy garden packages

RESOLVED not to make an application this year as capacity is a problem.

10.6 Cinema activities for oap and young people

The clerk provided information from contractors advising that the preferred venue for an indoor matinee cinema event for older people needs a new projector and screen at an estimated cost of £3,000. A one-off outdoor cinema event would cost in the region of £1,500

Members spoke about the opportunities for local organisations to apply for grant funding through the CCBC Community Empowerment fund with the support of the CCBC ward members. The committee instructed the clerk to make the Aberbargoed venue aware of this opportunity and to liaise with the relevant ward member to take this forward.

The committee also spoke about other funding opportunities for voluntary organisations working on projects supporting addressing loneliness and isolation issues. RESOLVED town council to work with local organisations to facilitate their accessing grant funding if necessary.

Members RESOLVED to deliver an outdoor cinema in the carpark adjacent to St Gwladys Church Hall (opposite Murrays) February half term holidays 2023. Councillor R Price to liaise with Assistant clerk and youth representatives regarding movie choices. Assistant Clerk instructed to secure CCBC permission, obtain supplier quotations, and identify relevant licenses. Flyers to be produced upon securing a date.

10.7 Poppy displays and wreaths at remembrance services

Ward members will put out poppy displays with effect from 1st November 2022. Clerk to advise the mayor. Cllr Davies to lay wreath in Aberbargoed; the mayor to ensure both Gilfach and Bargoed wreaths are taken to the relevant services. Clerk instructed to make a £100 donation to the Bargoed RBL as per previous year. The clerk advised this decision would need to be ratified at the next meeting due to it not being on the agenda for this meeting.

10.8 Future committee meetings

Members considered availability if future meetings were to be moved to an evening session. This would create problems for several members. RESOLVED to keep the committee meeting at 11.30am

11. To provide instruction to the clerk and the biodiversity working group on the section 6 biodiversity and ecosystem resilience duty.

RESOLVED Cllr Davies and Cllr Collins delegated to work with the clerk in updating the action plan and producing this year's biodiversity report for approval by council before the end of year deadline.

12. To consider the success of the knitted/crochet decorations and discuss opportunities for regular coffee & craft sessions throughout the winter.

The success of the knitting/crochet flowers activity is unprecedented with several residents seeking information about how to obtain tuition and other ward areas also asking about expanding the activity to put displays in other areas. Members talked about how to use this initiative to help with the cost-of-living crisis, get people into warm spaces and encourage greater involvement in both making flowers and sewing them onto nets ready for next year. The availability of grant funding for voluntary organisations delivering projects around the loneliness and isolation themes, as well as the Cwtsh funding of up to £3,000 were also considered. Members talked about the possibility of town council hiring premises and providing the craft equipment such as netting, wool and supporting local organisations to secure funding that will enable soup, sandwiches & hot drinks to be provided. The committee instructed the clerk to reach out to suitable venues across the four wards and enquire if the organisations would like to get involved in such an initiative. Costs and expressions of interest to be brought to the next meeting for consideration by the committee.

The chair thanked all Members for their input and closed the meeting at 13.20pm