



Bargoed Town Council

Minutes of the Events and Environment Committee Meeting 12th January 2023

Present: Councillors R Carroll; J Davies; R Price; T Williams; J Bissex; S HamerThomas; P Collins; D Price; D Ingram-Jones.

Also in Attendance: Ms Emily Janes (Caerphilly Observer); Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk
Meeting Chair: Councillor D Price

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

no apologies

2. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.

No declarations made.

3. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Events & Environment Committee meeting 24th November 2022

Councillor D Ingram-Jones abstained – not present

Councillor Davies moved; Councillor Carroll seconded. The chair signed the minutes in presence of the meeting.

4. Press and Public Participation Session.

One member of the press was in attendance. No requests received from members of the public wishing to speak on any item.

5. To receive feedback comments from residents and review the pre-Christmas activities with a view to considering plans for the 2023 season.

Feedback from businesses at the North of the town centre was not positive at all. One remark being they felt they were the “forgotten end of town”. Road closure issue – one local business sent in a written complaint which was responded to by CCBC. Members felt the 2018 event which was the last one which had the whole town closed off was a fabulous occasion and this should be the way forward for future events.

One member advised a resident has commented that the only festive lights they can see through the town centre are the strings across the street.

Roller rink feedback is not positive. Low take up and it doesn't increase footfall to local businesses.

Mixed messages regarding animals as while there were no donkeys at the event there were still birds of prey.

Not enough selection on the stalls and what was there by way of handmade jewellery etc was very expensive. These sorts of high-cost stalls do not go down well in this area. A greater variety of stalls is needed.

One member spoke about how negative members were being when the South end of the town where the majority of the event took place was absolutely fabulous. Council should learn from other areas, use every building, encourage greater involvement from local businesses from the early planning stages. Bargoed Town Council should work closer with CCBC events team to get shops involved. The Elf trail prior to the winter fair worked exceptionally well, this is the kind of activity that needs to be featured in a winter event, and maybe best dressed window competition; best fancy-dress competition; Santa was fabulous, maybe music and choirs should also be a feature.

Members spoke at length about this item and resolved to request a full road closure, discontinue activities underneath Morrison's supermarket and focus on a bigger, better event in the town centre.

A working to be set up specifically for Christmas activities of Santa; Winter joint event with CCBC; Festive Lighting.

Clerk instructed to return the feedback form to CCBC events team as soon as possible.

6. To receive an update from the Clerk in respect of the CTG activities at Bargoed library.

The clerk confirmed a list of dates has been circulated to all members and will be added to the town council website and Facebook page as soon as a notice has been received from the library manager. A member requested the information be circulated to all the schools in the area. RESOLVED £300 to be provided to the library service for promotional flyers for these activities.

7. To receive verbal feedback from the biodiversity working group and delegate expenditure within project budget to the Clerk.

Councillor Collins reported on behalf of the biodiversity working group with an update of a total project budget of £6520 for the community gardening biodiversity activities. Plans so far are to install raised beds at the front of the carpark at Awaken House of Prayer church in the centre of Aberbargoed village; enhance both Gilfach and Aberbargoed memorial gardens with better planting and maintenance; Yew Street park and the Community Orchard on the Park estate to be expanded and replanted; St Gwladys Church Hall Raised food growing beds to be supported; Bargoed town centre to be improved with additional barrels and half basket displays; a conversation is happening with United Welsh Housing Association regarding a possible display at Blaen y Cwm Flats. The biggest challenge is securing additional volunteers. The working group has a list of organisations for the clerk to contact and promote the opportunities. Social media and the website will also be used. RESOLVED to delegate expenditure within the project budget to the Clerk who will work closely with the working group to ensure the timely ordering of equipment and tools to commence the project as soon as possible.

8. To receive updates for the OAP Afternoon Tea & dancing in March 2023, approve the catering, and delegate members to support with the entertainment requirements.

Councillor Hamer Thomas left the meeting prior to this item being discussed.

The clerk confirmed the Arthur Balfour in Aberbargoed has been secured for Friday 3rd March from 4pm – 7.30pm. Catering for 125 people. RESOLVED to secure a buffet from Clive's bakery in Aberbargoed at £8 per head to include scones. Expenditure authorised for the buffet totalling £1,000. Club to be asked to provide Tea & Coffee. Tickets will not be required – a sign in list will be manageable as there is only one entrance to the club. RESOLVED Cllrs Davies and Carroll to support the clerk in securing vouchers and shopping cards from town centre businesses for the prizes at the event. Notices to be produced in house. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Williams regarding obtaining costs of an artist to support the event. Confirmation will be given at the next meeting.

9. To discuss the promotion and encourage greater involvement in the knitting and crochet displays across the community.

Thanks to Mrs Pam Farrant for the merry Christmas crochet display and to the resident who made the post box topper which was sadly stolen. A big push is needed by social media and noticeboards to encourage greater involvement in the knitting and crochet activities to brighten up the community. All members are asked to share the town council social media posts.

The chair thanked the visitor for attending and closed the meeting at 12.25pm