



## **Bargoed Town Council**

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### **Minutes of the Community Engagement Committee Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Present: Councillors C Andrews; M Ingram-Jones; R Price; D Ingram-Jones.

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor C Andrews

1. Apologies for Absence.

No apologies received.

2. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate. No declarations received.

3. Press and Public Participation Session. No enquiries.

4. To appoint a Deputy Chair to the Community Engagement Committee and approve bi-monthly committee meetings for the first six months of the committee.

RESOLVED to approve Councillor M Ingram-Jones as deputy committee chair. The committee spoke about the best day and time for future meetings of the committee resolving to change the time of the meeting to 2pm every other month on a Monday. The next two meeting dates will be 25<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

5. To receive and approve draft unapproved minutes of the Community Engagement Committee Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.

Due to no members being present at the previous meeting of the committee this item was deferred to the next meeting in September.

6. To receive verbal feedback from members who supported the delivery of the first Youth Engagement session with year 12 students at Heolddu Comprehensive School 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Councillors Andrews and Price reported:

Both members felt perhaps there was too much talk about politics when they did their section of the agenda with the students, and possibly the activity would benefit from an icebreaker. Doctor Llewellyn was very good and had the students quite engaged at the end of his section; but the CTG lead had them really engaged from the beginning, and maybe some of his strategy would be best employed at the next session. Thanks to the grant from town council, the CTG group will be working with the town centre management team to stage a first ever STEM festival over two days

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CEC committee minutes

in the autumn, one day at the school and the second in the town centre. Members felt this was a positive start to youth engagement with town council but lessons have been learned.

7. To discuss arrangements for the pizza evening with youth representative candidates Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

The clerk advised of expressions of interest received to date. Committee members to follow up on potential youth representatives and request a reference. Members spoke about possibly changing the time of year of recruitment to avoid exam clashes and end of school year. April was mentioned for 2024.

The arrangements for 2023 will be amended to invite the two candidates to an informal chat with committee members 4pm on 12<sup>th</sup> July, with a recommendation being made to the full council meeting 19<sup>th</sup> July. The clerk was instructed to cancel both the pizza evening and the special meeting scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

8. To plan the town council drop-in sessions at Bargoed and Aberbargoed libraries with a view to identifying objectives and engagement activities.

Objectives: to collect residents ideas on what they would like to see in their community; what they would like from town council and what they are unhappy with.

Councillor R Price left the meeting at this point.

Method of interaction: Flip chart paper, blu-tak and post it notes with pens. Members to join the County Ward Members drop in sessions at Bargoed library 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (2-3pm) and Gilfach YMCA 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (12-2pm) in the first instance, as a trial session. The committee to review their planned way forward after these two sessions.

The clerk was instructed to secure two town councillors for each session.

9. To provide instruction for the Dementia Friendly Bargoed working group.

Deferred to next meeting.

10. To consider plans for residents consultation, including topics, consultation methods, timescales, aims and objectives.

The committee spoke about prioritising community groups and other organisation's activities with members physically attending to engage with residents rather than inviting residents to come to town councillors. It was felt this is likely to be more effective than expecting residents to make an effort to come to them.

The deputy committee chair will design a simple document using MS Forms which provides information about the role of town council and what Bargoed Town Council does on the one side, with a short questionnaire on the other side which will collect ideas and suggestions from participants. This document to be reviewed and approved at the next meeting in September 2023.

The committee enquired about a budget for community engagement activity. The clerk advised there is no specific provision in the budget but a request can be made to allocate funds once the committee has identified an activity and sought quotations.

This concluded business of the agenda. The meeting closed at 16.00pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CEC committee minutes