



Bargoed Town Council

Minutes of the Events and Environment Committee Meeting 15th June 2023

Present: Councillors R Carroll; R Price; T Williams; J Bissex; P Collins; D Price (joined remotely); S Hamer-Thomas (joined remotely)

Also in Attendance: Councillor J Davies; Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk

Meeting Chair: Councillor P Collins

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
Councillor D Ingram-Jones (away)
2. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate. Councillor Collins declared an interest in item 7.5
3. To appoint a Deputy Chair to the Events & Environment Committee for 2023-2024.
RESOLVED to appoint Councillor D Price as deputy committee chair.
4. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Events & Environment Committee meeting 9th February 2023.
Councillor D Price moved, Councillor R Carroll seconded. RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Members extended their thanks to the full council for dealing with all business of the committee since its last meeting.
5. Press and Public Participation Session.
No enquiries received by the clerk.
6. To evaluate the OAP event at the Arthur Balfour Conservative and Workingmen's Club Friday 3rd March 2023 and plan the date, budget and format of the next activity for older people.
The committee thanked Councillor Williams for stepping in and finding a local artist at short notice; and comments moved on to congratulating Mr Cox for a fabulous performance. Members expressed concern about food quantity at OAP events, views were mixed as some members feel it important to have sufficient catering to afford participants the opportunity to take left over cold buffet home, and also that the event does not run the risk of having too little food supplied. An alternative option was suggested for the bingo tickets with prepared packs of 3 games mentioned. Some members felt a refundable deposit should be considered to try and avoid the large number of non-attendance. Also that takeaway cartons should be provided at the next event, which should be an hour longer.
7. Items from the clerk that require a decision or expenditure resolution:
 - 7.1 order for remembrance wreaths RESOLVED up to £90 expenditure authorised for 3 wreaths
 - 7.2 order for lamp post poppies RESOLVED up to £100 expenditure authorised for at least 20 poppies
 - 7.3 confirmation of locations for the raised beds from the community gardening project as recommended by the biodiversity working group: (Aberbargoed Awaken house of prayer, Blaen Y Cwm Flats, Aberbargoed Primary School, Caerphilly Youth Service @ Hangar; Bargoed St Gwladys Infant School, Heolddu Big Box Bite, Park Primary School; Gilfach Fargoed Primary School; Park ward Community Orchard)

The clerk advised of feedback from the Hangar that the four beds in Yew Street park are being maintained by the youth service participants and Heolddu Big Box Bite is not yet able to proceed due to fencing not being in place.

Members RESOLVED to approve all locations except the Hangar, with beds being held until the big box bite is ready to proceed, and the remaining beds being investigated for possible use on Royale Square.

7.4 to confirm the expenditure limit and authorise the purchase of additional topsoil and food growing plants/shrubs for the community gardening project. RESOLVED 12 x 1 tonne bags of topsoil to be purchased at an approx. cost of £80 each, which will fill the raised beds and each organisation to be encouraged to provide their own plants if possible. Members advised for health and safety purposes two wheelbarrows should be purchased to assist with the topsoil installation RESOLVED £100 expenditure. Councillor Williams will liaise with local volunteers to assist with the delivery and set up in the community.

Councillor Collins introduced the next agenda item and withdrew from any discussion on this item.

7.5 to confirm the expenditure limit and authorise the clerk to purchase plants for the town council display boxes on Hanbury square, outside the town hall and the 10 winter barrels throughout Bargoed town centre. (volunteers will be required to help plant up the barrels and boxes)

The clerk reminded members of their environmental policy and the resolution of council that wherever possible local suppliers should be used.

Members talked about the importance of their floral displays, both for environmental purposes and for the wellbeing of residents. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should source sufficient plants and shrubs to refresh the winter barrels in the town centre, the two large display boxes at Hanbury square and the barrier boxes outside the town hall. Town centre traders to be approached in the first instance. Expenditure of up to £500 authorised.

Councillor Collins resumed chair of the meeting.

7.6 to receive an update from the clerk and authorise expenditure for the summer sports scheme delivered by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

The clerk explained that the previous two years council budget for the summer sport scheme was reallocated for other purposes as Welsh government funding was secured to deliver the sports provision through the six weeks holidays. This is not in place for the summer 2023, therefore members are asked to authorise the expenditure for the following provision:

- 16 free spaces a week across the 6 weeks of summer sport scheme at Heolddu Leisure Centre
- 16 free spaces a week across the 2 weeks of community scheme at Aberbargoed Hangar
- 3 sessions of skateboarding 10am to 2pm (2 hours at each of the two community skateparks – Aberbargoed and Bargoed parks.
- Equipment
- Promotional flyers

Total cost is £7320.

Members spoke about the available budget of £6,000 noting that they did not make provision for the skateboarding in their budget calculations as they felt there may be sufficient scope elsewhere in the budget.

The clerk advised of the underspend on the earmarked reserves for community grants for coronation events. Members RESOLVED to approve the £7320 expenditure requesting £1500 virement of funds from the earmarked reserves.

7.7 to consider a proposal from the Youth service for additional activities for young people throughout the summer school holidays and authorise expenditure for resources to support the activities - RESOLVED to approve a grant of £1,500 to support the provision of 6 youth sessions throughout the summer holidays at the Hangar Aberbargoed, the YMCA in Gilfach and outdoor community locations across Bargoed. Cooking, Arts and Crafts, Sporting and social activities will be provided. The clerk was instructed to secure a schedule of activities along with promotional materials from the Youth service. Members also spoke about the

importance of funds being available to support additional delivery of youth activities in the Easter school holidays as this was very well received in the holidays earlier in the year.

8. To receive a verbal report from Councillor Williams on the Geocache loop at Bargoed Urban Park with feedback from Ian Thomas on the geocache trail in Bargoed Woodland Park. Members required to make a decision on the budget available and to authorise the clerk to replenish stock.
Councillor Williams advised that he visits the Urban park geocache to undertake maintenance work approximately once every two weeks. Gwent Wildlife Trust officers are still actively supporting with the maintenance and promotion of the two geocache locations, and Gilfach Scouts are currently supporting the woodland park trail. Since setup in August 2022, until 1st June 2023 76 families have visited the urban park loop and since October 2022 44 families have visited the woodland park trail, so both are doing very well.
RESOLVED to approve expenditure of up to £200 for replenishment of equipment. Clerk to work with Cllr Williams in sourcing materials.
9. To discuss the area surrounding the miners heads on Hanbury square in Bargoed. Members spoke about the watering schedule and approved continued inclusion of the cancer garden at the miners heads on Hanbury square, Bargoed in the schedule. Councillor D Price advised she will continue to personally fund provision of the plants for the cancer garden. Some members spoke about their intention to volunteer their time to support with planting. The clerk reminded the committee that the miners heads statue and its surrounding gardens is a Caerphilly County Borough Council area and any member involvement is their own personal decision to volunteer with the cancer garden, and not an indication of Bargoed Town Council taking responsibility for the area.
10. To consider options for delivery of a Teddy bears picnic in Bargoed Urban Park and a Family Fun Day at Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre.
The clerk advised that both these activities have been raised by members in recent weeks, and that the family fun day is listed on the forward work plan. The committee spoke about timescales, capacity issues and the availability of resources at Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre. Members instructed the clerk to liaise with the parent network in the first instance and make enquiries about their capacity to deliver a teddy bears picnic in Bargoed park during the August school holidays. A family fun day could potentially be delivered in the early Autumn if the parent network and the community centre both had capacity.
RESOLVED to approve £2,000 initial budget for the teddy bears picnic.
11. To discuss provision of:
11.1 a Christmas grotto in the community – RESOLVED not to proceed this year.
11.2 selection boxes for primary school children in December 2023 – RESOLVED - £2,500 expenditure authorised – the clerk was instructed to liaise with members regarding wholesalers who may be able to be approached to supply town council.
11.3 chocolates for Santa’s magical sleigh at the winter fair 9th December 2023 – RESOLVED £2,500 authorised expenditure for confectionary for Santa’s magical sleigh at the Winter Fair 2023. Clerk to contact wholesalers.
12. To receive a verbal update from the clerk on:
12.1 the site meeting on the Park estate – Cllrs Williams, Collins, D Ingram Jones were present – WHQS happy to fund a tree at Ty Clyd grounds, town council will need to provide the tree lights and the installation/take down each year which will run at a maximum of £500. The tree at Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre is beyond salvage. CCBC officers are investigating removal and groundwork options. Members spoke at length about whether two trees are needed on the Park estate; the issues of animals destroying equipment and damaging the tree at the community centre and also the underground spring in the area. Members felt more information is needed prior to committing funds. The clerk will bring the item back to the next meeting once updated information has been secured from Caerphilly County Borough Council.
12.2 the power supply at St Peters Church garden, Aberbargoed – RESOLVED to approve Zenner Electrical to undertake the repair work with £120 expenditure authorised.

12.3 new figurines for Gilfach ward and multi-coloured strings for the catenary wire in Bargoed – the clerk advised these have all been received at Elsbury. A new star will need to be fabricated for the cone tree, costs not yet obtained.

12.4 option and costs for installation of lights on the tree at Lowri Plaza/Bargoed Fish Bar in Bargoed – a resolution and instruction is required from Members – the committee reviewed images and plans of the area along with estimated costs for the installation of 3 x dummy poles with a power supply taken from the CCTV post. Members talked about appropriate use of public funds and determined that this project is not viable. The initial quotation is in excess of £7,500 ex vat and this does not include installation of catenary wire, purchase of lights, additional labour costs. Members RESOLVED not to consider this project again as it has been discussed several times.

The chair thanked all present for their input and closed the meeting at 11.46am.
Next meeting 20th July 2023