



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Community Engagement Committee Meeting 27th November 2023.

Present: Councillors D Ingram-Jones; DT Williams; C Andrews; M Ingram-Jones

Also in Attendance: Mr T Oliver, Clerk

Meeting Chairperson: Councillor C Andrews

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Community Engagement Committee Meeting.

1. To receive apologies of absence.

There were no apologies of absence tendered.

2. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on the Agenda.

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

3. Press and Public Participation Session.

There were no members of the press or public present.

4. To receive verbal updates from the Clerk.

- The Clerk gave a verbal update on the next stages of recruiting a second youth representative to Town Council.
- Lewis School, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and Heolddu School have been contacted. Only Heolddu have responded.
- The Clerk advised that contact with one Youth Representative has been limited and elusive, and that the council will need to replace the other active Youth Representative next year due to age.
- The Committee RESOLVED that two new youth representative posts would be advertised from January and that members would share the opportunity at a Youth Forum. Members expressed their desire to increase the Town Council's engagement with young people.
- The Committee asked for the Youth Representative vacancies to be promoted on the VZTA app.

- The Clerk gave a verbal update on the Town Council's mailing list for voluntary groups, businesses, and public organisations.
- The Town Council currently has 155 entries in its directory and is in need of new entries from Aberbargoed and Gilfach.

- The Committee agreed to collecting details of local organisations to increase the database.
5. To receive and approve the draft unapproved minutes of the Community Engagement Committee Meeting 25th September 2023.
- The minutes were received and approved by the Committee.
6. To receive updates from the Chairperson.
- The Chairperson gave a verbal update on the community engagement drop-in session held at Gilfach YMCA on November 10th 2023.
 - Attendance at the community engagement drop-in session was poor. The Committee discussed ways of engaging with the public through partnering with existing voluntary organisations.
 - The Committee expressed a desire to hold a community engagement drop-in session in the Park Estate and Aberbargoed.
 - The Committee RESOLVED to reach out to local voluntary organisations to further the community engagement drop-in sessions in Aberbargoed and the Park Estate.
 - The Chairperson gave a verbal update on the Progressive Leadership Programme for Councillors in Wales and shared key resources with the Committee. The programme explores the latest thinking in political leadership and equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to rise to contemporary challenges.
7. To discuss instruction from full council regarding community engagement for identification of long-term projects, identify actions to be taken and edit the draft questionnaire as appropriate to make it fit for purpose.
- The Committee discussed potential engagement ideas for the Winter Fair 2023 but on reflection decided to aim for a community engagement initiative at the Spring Fair 2024 to identify long-term projects.
 - The Committee asked for the cost of a leaflet drop to every household to be reviewed.
 - The Committee gave feedback on the draft questionnaire and decided to edit it as appropriate.
 - The Committee RESOLVED to produce the online questionnaire by the next meeting and to use it at the Spring Fair in 2024.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 2:25pm.