



Bargoed Town Council

Minutes of the Events and Environment Committee Meeting 30th November 2023

Present: Councillors R Carroll; T Williams; P Collins; S Hamer-Thomas; D Ingram-Jones; J Bissex; R Price

Also in Attendance: Town Clerk: Mrs H Williams.

Meeting Chair: Councillor P Collins

1. **To receive Apologies for Absence.** All members present.
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 19th October 2023.**
Councillor Carroll moved, Councillor R Price seconded. The minutes were approved and signed by the chair.
4. **Press and Public Participation Session.** No enquiries received by the clerk.
5. **To receive an update from the chair on:**
 - 5.1 Heolddu Big Box Bite (members are requested to consider double up on raised beds)
The chair advised having visited the site. He reminded members of the raised beds still to go out into the community, and that Park ward members advised that the community orchard beds will not be ready for planting until late March. Members spoke about the big box bite initiative and RESOLVED to provide the four remaining raised beds with two tonne of top soil to support the initiative. Clerk instructed to pay for the top soil at the earliest convenience.
 - 5.2 Yew Street Park Food Growing Area, Aberbargoed
The chair updated members that fruit bushes are still to be purchased for planting in the food growing beds. Members instructed the biodiversity working group to action this as soon as possible.
 - 5.3 Community Orchard, Park Estate
Park ward members volunteered to work with the chair to install new and improved raised beds at the orchard ready for spring planting. The clerk was instructed to support the delivery of the activity within the available budget allocated.
6. **To consider quotations for the replacement large planters for Hanbury Square and authorise expenditure as necessary.**
Councillor Carroll temporarily left the meeting.
Members reviewed images and quotations for replacement planters. The committee discussed self-watering options and also the impact of planters on pop up community events. Councillor Carroll returned to the meeting. The committee reviewed the projects budget to determine available funding. Members RESOLVED to order 3 hexagonal self-watering planters from Amberol which will be placed together as a triangle in the centre of Hanbury square. This will allow for gazebos to be placed around the perimeter of the square. Expenditure of £1,650 authorised with an additional £200 available for perennials to support the additional space. The clerk updated members of Caerphilly County Borough Council agreement for town council to plant up the two beds around the miners heads, and that the parks department had been instructed to clear and prepare the beds for planting. Members noted the need to include additional budget for 2024-25 for the provision of shrubs and flowering plants for the summer.

7. **To consider quotations for the 2024-25 floral displays along with replacement liners for barrier baskets as discussed at the last meeting.**

Members reviewed the floral display specifications circulated to local nurseries and service providers with invitations to provide quotations. The committee spoke about options for separate provision of different elements of the floral display service however in this instance members felt the option more costly. The move to year round floral displays using shrubs and bulbs along with over-wintering of some of the summer plants was deemed a cost effective long term solution to improving displays in the community.

Members RESOLVED to proceed with the order for replacement liners for the 50 barrier baskets from Amberol, authorising expenditure of £2,215 ex vat. and RESOLVED to accepting the quotation from JS Lee for the 2024-25 summer and winter floral display provision. Members instructed the clerk to include £14,235 net of VAT into the draft 2024-25 budget to support floral display provision across the community.

8. **To receive information on Pre-Christmas activities and confirm arrangements for the OAP Pantomime and CCBC/BTC Winter Fair.**

The clerk provided an update to the committee on successful distribution of selection boxes to all primary schools and arrangements being in place for collection of supplies for primary school aged children who are home schooled. The OAP pantomime still has approximately 30 tickets available. Cllrs Carroll, Williams and Davies will support the chair in being on the door for the event (arriving on site 12 noon).

The winter fair arrangements: Cllrs Carroll and Collins dealing with replenishment of selection boxes for Santa on Hanbury square; all members are requested to support with the children's activities in the grotto tent in the emporium car park if they are in attendance.

This completed the business of the agenda. The meeting was closed at 11.38am