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Minutes of the Community Engagement Committee Meeting 26th February 2024. Present: Councillors D Ingram-Jones; C Andrews; M Ingram-Jones, J Bissex. Also in Attendance: Mr T Oliver, Deputy Clerk; Mrs H Williams, 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 and approve the draft unapproved minutes of the Community Engagement Committee Meeting 27th November 2023.
 - The draft unapproved minutes were received and approved. The motion was moved by Councillor D Ingram-Jones, seconded by Councillor M Ingram-Jones and carried with unanimous votes.
- 5. To receive verbal updates from the Clerk.
 - The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update on the launch of Bargoed Town Council's account on the VZTA App, noting that it helps the Town Council increase its community engagement through the ability to publicise its events and promotions to local residents.
 - The Deputy Clerk presented the applications received for the two Youth Representative vacancies advertised throughout January and February 2024. Members reviewed applications and asked if more than two Youth Representatives could be appointed. The Clerk advised that:

"A law, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 ss.118-121, gives community and town councils the power to appoint up to 2 youth representatives (aged 16 to 25) to join the council to represent the interests of young people who live, work or receive education or training in the

area."

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Signed:	Date:	Page 1

- Members decided to host an informal lunchtime gathering on April 4th with all the applicants and RESOLVED to spend up to £50 on lunch.
- The Deputy Clerk presented an opportunity for members to engage with schools alongside a local educational organisation. Members were happy to help in this initiative but wanted the full proposal from the organisation to submitted first.
- The Deputy Clerk thanked members for their efforts in collecting contact details for businesses and voluntary organisation in Bargoed, Aberbargoed, and Gilfach, noting that this will enhance the Town Council's ability to engage with the community.
- The Deputy Clerk updated members that the Town Council has been unable to contact a voluntary organisation via its chairperson to arrange an engagement drop-in session in Aberbargoed. The Committee decided to ask a member of Bargoed Town Council to approach the organisation to ask if the Community Engagement Committee could be formally invited to an upcoming meeting.
- 6. To receive updates from the Chairperson.
 - The Chairperson gave a verbal update on developments with a community organisation in Bargoed to host a community engagement drop-in session in the Park Estate. Members reviewed a potential date and time and will now seek permission to attend.
 - The Chairperson gave verbal feedback on the Youth Forum held at Ty Penallta on February 8th 2024. This was an opportunity to network with Youth Workers and advertise the Youth Representative vacancies. It was noted that there were no young people in attendance from Bargoed, Aberbargoed or Gilfach. However, it was a successful forum and beneficial for building connections across the County Borough.
- 7. To discuss and plan community engagement initiative(s) at the Spring Fair 2024.
 - The committee decided to use the questionnaire at the Spring Fair as an opportunity engage with the community.
 - The committee decided to extend the invite to this initiative to the whole council in order to engage with and get feedback from as many local residents as possible.
- 8. To review the online questionnaire and assess whether it is appropriate to use at the Spring Fair 2024.
 - Members reviewed the questionnaire and decided to add the Deputy Clerk as a collaborator for the final editing.
 - Members agreed on setting up a working group to finalise the questionnaire and instructed the Deputy Clerk to make arrangements.
- 9. To review quotations for a leaflet drop to every household.
 - The Deputy Clerk presented quotations for a leaflet drop to every household in Bargoed, Aberbargoed, Gilfach and Park Estate. The Committee did not authorise any expenditure and will review further engagement options at the next meeting.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 2:36pm