

Draft Unapproved Minutes of the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee 8th September 2025

Present: Councillors D Ingram-Jones; C Andrews; J Bissex; M Ingram-Jones; J McCarthy.

Chairperson: Councillor M Ingram-Jones

Also Present: Mrs. H Williams (Clerk)

1. To receive Apologies for Absence.

Councillor Andrews advised of late arrival, no further apologies received.

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 the minutes of the committee meeting 7th July 2025.

Councillor D Ingram-Jones moved, Councillor Bissex seconded the minutes were approved and signed by the chair in the presence of the meeting.

4. Press and public participation.

No enquiries received.

5. To receive a verbal report from the Chair with feedback and updates on:

a. Administration, website & socials: The chair advised Members caution when considering committee activities so as not to create too many additional administrative burdens for the clerk while there is no deputy clerk in post.

Councillor Andrews arrived 13.05pm

Members were asked to support the clerk with report and publication production where possible. The chair moved on to provide the committee with two questions to be used as a pop up on the town council website for the purpose of consulting on town council priorities. Members approved the questions, instructing the clerk to liaise with the website management team for their inclusion as soon as possible. The report continued with an update on the town council Instagram page having now been created, which is linked to Facebook. Councillor Bissex Foster has offered to conduct a piece of research into demographic use of social media platforms. Members requested this includes Bluesky and is reported back to the next meeting of the committee. The chair sought opinions on the scheduling of committee meetings. Members opted for 6 weekly meetings on a trial basis, next meeting 20th October 2025.

b. Scarecrow Trail – the update is that only 2 traders are interested in participating, with a 3rd asking for information. Members discussed the merit of developing a new strategy for trader engagement, perhaps incentivizing participation with small grants or provision of equipment etc. It was **RESOLVED** that the 2025 Scarecrow Trail is to be cancelled as soon as possible.

c. Civic Activity – the Mayor has had a few engagements with a local event and also a 100th birthday celebration. Members requested the image be circulated along with a reminder about the availability

of visits from the Mayor at local celebrations/anniversaries etc.

d. Noticeboards – no update on the Park estate. Members to meet with CCBC Team Manager regarding noticeboards in the town centre as soon as possible. A working group session to be held.

e. Schools – St Gwladys are happy to accept e-bulletins; Aberbargoed primary no response to date; Bro Sannan, YGGB, Gilfach Fargoed, Park primary schools not yet contacted.

The chair moved on to discuss the Community Clean Up initiative discussed at Full Council, noting concern about asking schools to be involved in cleaning up back lanes. The committee suggested this to be a Spring initiative, and that it should not focus on lanes. Item to be revisited in January meeting.

Digital Photo Book also to be postponed – A Member suggested engaging with a local resident who has experience of producing this type of publication to seek his voluntary support. Members to include the item on the next meeting agenda to consider the project budget. The clerk to invite Mr James to the next meeting.

f. Youth Representatives – the chair advised that both Youth Representatives are going to University and that no young people have come forward for the role this year. Members spoke about engaging with Year 10 students during PSE lessons, and distributing information packs to Year 11 students. Packs to include information on local volunteering opportunities that could be beneficial with Welsh Bac programmes. Members to be requested to share ideas for information to be included in the packs via Teams. Schools to be contacted as soon as possible for dates to be arranged in January 2026. The December 2025 committee agenda will include Member delegation for school visits.

Councillor Andrews left the meeting 13.55pm

6. To receive a briefing note on the Participatory Budgeting Programme being managed by GAVO and discuss the importance of Member involvement.

The clerk drew Members attention to the PB information circulated to them electronically, and the deadline of 15th September 2025 for wellbeing proposals to be in from voluntary organisations. Members were encouraged to make every effort to attend the meetings in Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre. Councillor D IngramJones volunteered to support any organisations who may need assistance to complete the proposal forms. The Clerk was instructed to re-distribute the priorities list and the proposal form to all Town Councillors as soon as possible.

7. To discuss minute references 9 and 10 from the last meeting and receive a proposal from the Clerk on how to move forward.

The chair advised that this was the point in the last meeting that Members struggled and that the items need further attention. The clerk suggested a positive way forward would be for Teams to be used by Members, with full council being requested to share one community activity for Teenagers and one community wellbeing activity each. If data is collected until the start of November a working group session can be convened end of November to discuss suggestions to take forward to the next committee meeting. Members endorsed this proposal.

8. To consider the use of Canva software and approve the purchase of a license for the town council use of Canva Pro for its publications.

RESOLVED to approve up to £150 expenditure.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2:31 PM.