

Minutes of the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee 2nd December 2025

Present: Councillors D Ingram-Jones; C Andrews; S HamerThomas; J Bissex; M Ingram-Jones: J McCarthy; H Llewellyn.

Chairperson: Councillor M Ingram-Jones

Also present: Mrs H Williams (Town Clerk)

To receive Apologies for Absence.

No apologies received by the clerk.

To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.
No declarations made.

Press and public participation.

No enquiries received by the clerk.

1.To receive, review and approve draft unapproved minutes of the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee 30th October 2025.

Cllr D IngramJones moved, Cllr C Andrews seconded; **Resolved** to approve the minutes as a true record of proceedings.

2.To receive **updates** from the Chair on:

(i) St David's Day responses – two organisations responded, one advised of capacity issues and they potentially wouldn't be delivering their event next year; the other advised they would consider delivering an event if town council could manage tickets and marketing and also advise of participant numbers expected.

Members debated the situation, reviewed available budget for older people and considered the most positive way forward.

Resolved to attempt to engage the services of Gilfach workingmen's club to deliver a St David's Day event on behalf of Bargoed Town Council.

(ii) Town centre initiatives December 2025 – the Mayor has extended an invitation to the new Leader of CCBC to accompany him in presenting prizes at town hall for the festive window display competition and the children's artwork competition on Friday 5th December at 3pm. Members require the purchase of two additional prizes for the 2nd & 3rd place entries for both competitions. **Resolved** to instruct the clerk to obtain additional chocolates for both.

(iii) Noticeboards – no response from CCBC Highways re Aberbargoed options yet, Park Estate officer is in communication with the clerk and is investigating both funding opportunities and also a suitable location. Members discussed the estate and the most appropriate footfall was identified as the top of Heol Fargoed.

(iv) Town Council Priorities consultation activities – the clerk has prepared hard copies for three events in December for Members to take away and use. **Resolved** to instruct the clerk to repost the priorities to social media and to the town council website, and encourage all Members to share the website link.

3. To receive an update from the Clerk and finalise arrangements for the Flossy & Boo performance Sunday 14th December (including refreshments, shopping, taking supplies to the centre, volunteers

etc).

The clerk advised of the current situation regarding take up of tickets for the performance event. Members spoke about their initial intention of the event being free to attend, and that considering the extreme financial hardship being experienced by a large number of families residing in the Park ward, the committee feel tickets should be free of charge. Members **Resolved** to instruct the clerk to liaise with the Headteacher at the federated school in Park Crescent about distributing tickets to resident families from the Park ward without delay.

The clerk was instructed to book 50 child buffets and 35 adult buffets with Four Seasons Catering in Bargoed; and to purchase sufficient cakes, fruit shoots, juice, tea & coffee making supplies and cups for the participants. Table cloths and refuse bags also to be sourced as necessary.

Councillors IngramJones; Bissex-Foster and Park ward Members to be asked to arrive at 1.30pm to set up the venue and allow caterer access.

4. To receive recommendations from the Policy & Resources Committee and provide instruction to the Clerk regarding the distribution of the remaining selection boxes. Members are encouraged to consider community engagement opportunities when distributing the remaining supplies.

The clerk advised of a critical situation with a pre-Christmas event in Aberbargoed with school children providing entertainment, and in collaboration with the Mayor and ward Members, thirty selection boxes had been donated to support ACAT with this event. Members **Resolved** to approve this decision retrospectively.

Members discussed the recommendations along with the resolution of full council in respect of the donation to the self care project at Heolddu Comprehensive School, noting while no voluntary organisation is able to submit a funding application in the time scale, the sentiment of the full council meeting was to support the initiative. Members **Resolved** to support the distribution of selection boxes as per the P&R recommendations, and to instruct the clerk to purchase self care products from local traders to the value of a small grant of £250 as a donation to the Heolddu project.

5. To discuss Member involvement in the production of the 2025-26 Annual Report, consider printed copies and distribution to increase community engagement.

The committee **Resolved** to instruct the clerk to obtain quotations for printing 200, 300, 400, 500 copies of a 24 page annual report. Discussion ensued about using the gazebo at events to distribute annual reports; of obtaining a quote for one per household with delivery costs, and also the environmental impact of such decisions.

The committee chair has access to the document which is in need of significant work by the working group. The two IngramJones Councillors will start inputting images into the document, and arrangements to be made for a working group meeting

6. To consider the craftwork displays in the community and discuss the provision of additional supplies of wool to the organisations who make the decorations.

The clerk advised of other organisations such as St Peters Church, Ty Fry Bungalows Residents, A&A Club, Bargoed Library Crochet Club and St Gwladys Church Hall Craft Club all contributing to this project with Cartref Community Hall co-ordinating the activity.

Resolved to instruct the clerk to source the 12 packs of wool requested by Cartref Community Hall for a new set of community craftwork displays to be produced for the 2026 season.

7. To receive feedback from the Clerk on the half barrels for primary schools, consider expenditure and provide instruction.

The clerk provided an update on a quotation from the barrel supplier, and information on his relocation as well as confirmation of 5 primary schools advising of accepting barrels which would lead to 10 additional barrels for the town council floral displays use. Members **Resolved** to instruct the clerk to liaise with the supplier to revisit the quotation on the basis of 5 schools rather than 6 and request a breakdown of costs for the compost.

8. To hear from Councillor D IngramJones with an update on the Morrison's Artwork request. Councillor IngramJones briefed Members on activity to date and the lack of interest from Cartref Community Hall. The clerk advised of having fed back progress to date to the store manager and his response that he is in the process of communicating a request to head office for their support.

Members spoke about other organisations who could potentially be approached to lead the application to the Police and Crime Commissioner funding opportunity. **Resolved** to approach Caerphilly People's First and the Gilfach YMCA. Councillor IngramJones will liaise with Councillor Andrews in taking the next steps with this project.

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 5.25pm.