



Minutes of the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee 19th January 2026

Present: Councillors D Ingram-Jones; M Ingram-Jones; H Llewellyn; J McCarthy.

Present Online: Councillors C Andrews; S HamerThomas.

Chairperson: Councillor M Ingram-Jones

Also present: Mrs H Williams (Town Clerk); Mr C Gapper (Deputy Clerk).

To receive Apologies for Absence.

Councillors J Bissex (hospital); R Price (work). Councillor Price requested the committee notes her availability is better on Tuesday & Thursday. Councillor McCarthy advised of a late arrival.

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 2nd December 2025.

Resolved – to approve the minutes as a true record of proceedings. Councillor D IngramJones moved, Councillor Llewellyn seconded.

In the absence of Councillor McCarthy the chair sought approval from the committee for a motion to continue with the business of the agenda and revisit item 2 upon his arrival.

Resolved to approve continuation of the meeting at item 3 onwards.

3. To receive updates from the Chair on the Half Term Family Event and the St David's Day event for older people, discuss eligibility, promotion and marketing, prize draws, tickets, catering and volunteer issues, authorising expenditure as appropriate.

The chair advised of a change of venue to due building works at the preferred venue, the Arthur Balfour Conservative and Workingmen's Club in Aberbargoed has been secured for Thursday 19th February 2026 from 2.30pm to 6pm; and Circus Bezercus has been booked through the Night Out Scheme with the Arts Council for Wales. The scheme has not yet confirmed funding support. Members reviewed the short promotional video agreeing it is suitable for families. One hundred tickets have been requested from the Night Out team.

Members spoke about catering, refreshments and prize draw.

Resolved Four Seasons Catering 50x children and 30x premium children buffet options.

Resolved to authorise £1,000 expenditure

Resolved to instruct the Clerk to liaise with the venue regarding soft drinks for children, tea & coffee provision and room set up. Prize draw requirements 4 x Iceland vouchers, children's arts and games sets – total value £100.

Officers to promote the event via the community noticeboards and the six primary schools.

Councillor McCarthy joined the meeting 15.29pm

Members spoke about the St David's Day event 1st March 2026. The Clerk advised specific timings, entertainment and catering have yet to be confirmed by the contracting venue.

Venue – Gilfach Workingmen's Club.

Resolved – eligibility is residents over 55 years of age from any of the four town council wards.

Resolved 100 residents to be catered for. Prize draw 5 x £20 Iceland vouchers.

Resolved to authorise £1,500 expenditure

Members reverted to agenda item 2 at this point in the meeting.

2. To hear from Councillor McCarthy regarding a motion to consider the creation of a community cinema for Bargoed.

Councillor McCarthy explained his experience with this type of project and confirmed that Members had all read the motion proposed. He provided additional information about the ability to tailor the cinema to different demographics and discussed various items such as ideas for launch events, suitable community venues, potential partner organisations, licensing and ticketing along with the public demand for paid for cinema which was explored locally in the past.

Members spoke about the proposal noting that the motion is to commit to an investigative working group which will look into feasibility of such a project.

A member asked about the option of looking at mobile cinema providers.

The chair requested a vote on whether Members were happy to support the motion and set up a working group to look into the feasibility of community cinema.

Resolved to support the motion, with Councillors D Ingram Jones, M Ingram Jones, Hamer Thomas and McCarthy forming the group. An initial, online working group chat will be held at 2pm Saturday 21st February 2026, with the Deputy Clerk providing Teams set up.

4. Consider recommendations to Full Council in regards to an Events strategy for Older People. Members discussed the way events are currently managed, how to expand participation, deliver things differently and the priorities that drive delivery of the community activities.

The chair requested all Members post their ideas on Teams by Thursday 12th February 2026 to enable discussion at the next meeting.

5. To receive feedback from the Clerk on the provision of barrels for five primary schools and provide instruction.

The Clerk provided an update on the compost, storage and delivery of 30 half barrels to the five primary schools that expressed an interest.

Resolved to authorise £2089.80 expenditure and instruct the clerk to order 40 half barrels, of which 10 will be kept to support the town centre floral displays.

6. To discuss recent town council involvement in the self care initiative at Heolddu Comprehensive School and consider opportunities for taking this work forward.

Members instructed the clerk to liaise with Heolddu school to enquire about whether there is a need to run this scheme throughout the year.

7. To provide confirmation to the Clerk on Members intentions for their consultation work on the Town Council priorities.

Resolved to continue the consultation work throughout 2026 with a view to final engagement after the Christmas activities.

Members noted that the Annual Return to be completed by Full Council in May 2026 will make it clear that the work on setting town council priorities is still continuing with residents being consulted.

8. To receive feedback from the Annual Report working group on progress made to date, along with information from the Deputy Clerk on printing quotations. Members are required to confirm a resolution on the number of printed copies required, authorising expenditure as necessary. The Clerk requests details of planned working group activity along with requests to be made to Full Council Members in support of Annual Report completion.

The Deputy Clerk provided the meeting with quotations from printing companies, noting a huge difference in cost ranging from £224.60 to £410.77 for 200 copies; £340 to £640 for 300 copies and £410 to £650 for 500 copies.

Members debated options, noting the importance of distributing annual reports in hard copy at the big town centre events as well as through various digital tools.

Resolved to order 300 hard copies in English. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to liaise with the local printer to enquire about price matching prior to ordering the copies.

The chair fed back on the work of the working group to date advising it was the feeling of Members that the document should be more heavily populated with images than text. Target completion date is Thursday 9th April for the Full Council to approve its publication at their meeting 15th April 2026. The chair will write an introduction and the Mayor has been asked to provide a short piece on the role of the Mayor.

Members of Full Council are to be reminded of the importance of uploading images to Teams for inclusion in the Annual Report.

16.20pm Councillor Llewellyn left the meeting.

The chair asked for Members to also participate by writing short pieces and forwarding them to her via email.

The next working group meeting is 16th February 2026.

9. To explore the possibility of Bargoed Town Council creating a community awards scheme and holding an annual awards event. Members are encouraged to debate the opportunities, risks, engagement benefits and costs of the project prior to making recommendations to Full Council.

Councillor HamerThomas advised the committee that historically the town council gave out Good Citizen Awards, but after a number of years these were withdrawn due to selection difficulties. The committee debated issues around community involvement and participation in initiatives locally, and some members wondered about the suggestion being something that may be used as an engagement activity. The chair wondered if other local councils run similar schemes. Members instructed the clerk to bring the item back to a meeting agenda in two or three months, and the chair asked Members to mull over the opportunities that such an activity might bring.

The Chair thanked everyone for their work and the meeting was closed at 16.32pm.