

Minutes of the Community Activities & Environment Committee meeting 22nd June 2026.

Present in person: Councillors: R Carroll; Y Price; D Ingram-Jones.

Present remotely: Councillors S Hamer Thomas.

Chairperson: Councillor D Ingram-Jones.

Also Present: Mrs. H Williams (Town Clerk / RFO)

Apologies for Absence.

Councillor P Collins (away); Councillor M McCarthy (emergency).

To receive declarations of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.

Councillor S Hamer-Thomas declared an interest in item 3.

Press and Public Participation Session.

No enquiries received by the clerk.

1. To receive, review and approve the draft minutes of the Engagement & Wellbeing Committee of 20th April 2026.

Councillor D Ingram-Jones moved; Councillor Y Price seconded.

Resolved to approve and sign the minutes.

2. To receive information from the chair on:

2.1 The first fun day at Gilfach Bargoed Community centre and consider promotion of the two remaining sessions planned for during the school holidays in August 2026.

The chair reported issues pertaining to the extreme heat that affected the number of participants at the first event. Members discussed costs and the importance of promoting the two August 2026 sessions with a view to evaluating prior to inclusion in the 2027 activity schedule.

Councillor Carroll joined the meeting at this point. He advised he would hand deliver flyers to families in the Park ward.

2.2 The remembrance poppy at the car park in front of St Gwladys Church Bargoed.

Members spoke about the display noting Members historically maintained this area personally.

Resolved to instruct the clerk to seek quotations from JS Lee and CCBC.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

2.3 Three community noticeboards.

Resolved Councillor Y Price to attend to Aberbargoed; Councillor D Ingram-Jones to attend to Bargoed; Councillor R Carroll to attend to the Gilfach noticeboard. The clerk was instructed to put a notice out on social media regarding contacting the town council if organisations wish to display a community notice.

2.4 Feedback from CCBC regarding the two benches in storage.

Resolved to seek a quotation from CCBC Parks Department to relocate the benches to Gilfach park.

2.5 Bargoed library charges.

The chair advised that from June 2026 any room bookings made at Bargoed library will cost the town council £8.24 per hour. Regular use will need prior arrangement.

Members requested that the library be given notice that they may be visiting the library for consultation purposes during the Summer Music Festival.

2.6 Aberbargoed Ladies choir.

The ladies have agreed to perform at the Older Persons' event at the Arthur Balfour Conservative and Workingmen's Club in September 2026.

3. To discuss recent news from the Parent network regarding their change in contract and consider options for the children's activity for the summer holidays.

Councillor S Hamer-Thomas did not participate in this item.

The Parent network have advised that the Trunk or Treat Event is booked and financial support for children's treats would be appreciated.

Further information is awaited on any activity provision through the Summer holidays.

4. To consider the family event planned for October 2026 at the Arthur Balfour Conservative and Workingmen's Club and select a performer from the Night Out Scheme.

Resolved to book Oliver McNeil as the first choice; Gav Cross as the back up in the event of non-availability. The event is planned with a 3pm doors opening, finger food, fruit and sweets with fruit shoots, up to £5 per head for up to 100 children. The entertainment to start at 4pm. Running time 110 minutes without interval. Free tickets and prize draw as previous events. St John Ambulance to be contacted as soon as possible.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

5. To discuss community projects in support of students at Heolddu Comprehensive School and provide instruction.

Members reviewed information provided by the school including:

Book donations to rebuild the school library

Resolved to liaise with the library manager for guidance; circulate the book titles to Members for initial donations to be sought; wider library service may be contacted and upon reduction of the title list Members will consider reaching out to the wider community for support.

One Hundred Self-Care Hampers

Resolved to engage Members in running a Self-Care Appeal for donations; to write to local pharmacies and relevant businesses to obtain end-of-line donations; to reach out to the wider community and become a collection point for donations.

Scholarship Award Proposals

Members considered the document provided by the school and some concern was expressed regarding the other two secondary schools in the area, and needing to treat students equally. The chair sought information from the clerk regarding spending powers and wondered if there were examples from other councils.

Resolved to defer the item to a future meeting and seek information on examples and legal powers before bringing the item back to an agenda for further consideration.

6. To receive updated guidance from the Biodiversity Team at Welsh Government regarding publication of the new Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales, and the updated Section 7 lists of species and habitats of principal importance for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales.

Members noted the information. No further action at this time.

7. To consider requesting a visit to Gilfach Fargoed allotment site and explore whether there are opportunities for greater community involvement at the site.

Resolved to liaise with the Mayor and request he arranges a visit to the allotment during July 2026.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 15.04pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____