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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Bryn y Cwm Area Committee held
at Llanddewi Skirrid Village Hall, Church Road, Nr. Abergavenny. NP7 8AW on
Wednesday, 12th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor: D.L. Edwards (Chairman)

County Councillors: R. Chapman, S. Howarth, D. Jones, M. Powell
and K. Williams

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Will McLean	Head of Democracy, Engagement and Improvement
Deb Hill-Howells	Head of Community Led Delivery
Debbie McCarty	Whole Place Manager
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

G. Thomas	-	Llanover Community Council
J. Warren	-	Team Abergavenny
P. Johns	-	Team Abergavenny
J. Barnes	-	CAIR
A. Michie	-	Team Abergavenny
C. Woodhouse	-	Abergavenny Town Council
S. Woodhouse	-	Abergavenny Town Council
N. Tatum	-	Abergavenny Town Council and Team Abergavenny
Tudor Thomas	-	Abergavenny Town Council and Team Abergavenny
M. Bartlett	-	Llanddewi Skirrid resident

APOLOGIES:

Councillors R. Harris, G. Howard, S. Jones, P. Jordan and J. Prosser

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

2. Chair's announcement

On behalf of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee, the Chair thanked the Head of Community Led Delivery and her team for the work that had been undertaken in helping to make the Eisteddfod a success. The Head of Community Led Delivery stated that she would pass this information on to the team.

3. Public Open Forum

The Chairman invited members of the public present to put questions to the Area Committee, or to raise issues of concern:

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Road Safety – Llanddewi Skirrid

A local resident informed the Area Committee that two years ago a plan had been drawn up to improve road safety conditions through Llanddewi Skirrid Village. All signage except one had been erected. However, having contacted the Highways Department, residents had been informed that all signage had been completed. Residents had therefore expressed concern regarding this matter.

The local Member for Mardy informed the resident that he would liaise with the Highways Department regarding this matter.

CAIR Update

Jenny Barnes provided the Area Committee with the following information:

- CAIR will be holding a meeting at the Town Hall, Abergavenny on 13th October 2016 regarding the improvements that were being made for disabled People. Feedback has been positive.
- More work was required to improve consultation between Monmouthshire County Council and disabled people.

The Chair informed the Area Committee that a meeting with disabled people, organised by Gwent Police, is being held at Tudor Day Centre on Friday 14th October 2016 at 11.30am. The issues raised by Jenny Barnes could be discussed at this meeting.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee meeting dated 13th July 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. To receive an update report by Team Abergavenny on progress to date

We received an update report by Team Abergavenny on progress made to date. The Area Committee was also provided with details of business cases that had been rejected against the £30,000 capital funding pot which had been available to enhance Abergavenny Town Centre in preparation for the National Eisteddfod. The business cases were outlined as:

- A proposed canopy at Abergavenny Town Hall.
- Abergavenny Community Centre – Request for funds and Business Plan.
- Business Plan for Lighting Gantry Installation at the Borough Theatre, Abergavenny.
- New Market Stalls in the Indoor Market.

The Team also outlined their opinion that:

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- Whole Place – there needs to be a mechanism put in place to identify where Team Abergavenny can provide support and be sustainable to the Town.
- There is a need to have a democratic mandate in which the Town Team can work in cooperation with elected Members.
- It was hoped that Area Committees would be provided with more funding.
- The Town Team will be adopting a more formal method to process its annual plan and it will be linked to the five year plan and submitted to the Bryn y Cwm Area committee for consideration. The Town Team considers that once approved, it will enable the Team to make bids for funding from suitable sources.

Having received the report and details of rejected business cases, the following information was noted:

- Town / Community Councils can be engaged in the broader Monmouthshire County Council Wellbeing Plan. A wellbeing assessment is being undertaken in Monmouthshire to identify key areas of vulnerability in the County.
- In response to a question raised in respect of the £30,000 capital funding that had been available to the Town Team to enhance the town in the lead up to the Eisteddfod, this funding was no longer available.
- In February 2015, the County Council had agreed to rescind the decision taken in 2010 to build a new library on the old cattle market site, Abergavenny, thereby releasing funding of £3.433m. Of this sum, £2.2m would be available for the development of an Abergavenny Hub. A sum of up to £50,000 is to be released to fund the costs of finalising the detailed designs and business case to be funded by prudential borrowing.
- It was considered whether funding could be clawed back from the new market at Penpergwm with a view to providing funding for some of the business cases outlined by Team Abergavenny. With regard to the cases previously submitted, detail was provided as to why they were not appropriate for this funding pot or did not meet the criteria.
- It was noted that Section 106 funding was being reviewed and it was hoped that this funding would be re-aligned to become the responsibility of Area Committees.

We resolved:

- (i) to request to Cabinet that any funding left over from the £2.2m be released for projects in Abergavenny town;**
- (ii) that the Chair of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee, the Head of Governance, Engagement and Improvement and the Head of Community**

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**Led Delivery meet with representatives of Team Abergavenny with a view to
improving communication.**

6. Verbal update on the Development of a Hub, Abergavenny

We received a verbal update by the Head of Community Led delivery regarding the development of a Hub in Abergavenny. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- A report regarding this matter had been presented to Full Council in July 2016.
- A sum of up to £50,000 is to be released to fund the costs of finalising the detailed designs and business case to be funded by prudential borrowing.
- Costs and timelines will be identified.
- A working group will be established with relevant partners to challenge ideas.
- Following this, a period of consultation will be held.
- Following feedback, the plans will be presented to Full Council in the spring of 2017.

We resolved to receive the verbal update and noted its content.

7. Community Governance Review

The Head of Governance, Engagement and Improvement provided a report to update Members on the way the Council is changing its relationship with Town and Community Councils.

Options had been identified for the future structure of community governance, as follows:

- Option 1 – Status quo – Area Committees and Programme Boards co-exist with no formal relationship but have representation.
- Option 2 – Area Committees are retained as the sole structure with an increase in co-opted community members.
- Option 3 – Area Committee with no representation from public.
- Option 4 – Area Committee with local area focus group.
- Option 5 – Programme Board without Area Committee.
- Option 6 – Programme Board with limited and defined elected member representation.

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- Option 7 – Community Area Committee as per the Local Government Bill – only two in Monmouthshire, one in the north and one in the south.

It was noted that the preferred option was option 2 but with the additional invitation to a single representative from each of the Community or Town Councils in that area.

Having considered the report, the following points were noted:

- In response to questions raised regarding cluster working, the Head of Governance, Engagement and Improvement stated that the Chief Executive had made a commitment that cluster working will happen and this will be expected to merge with community governance.
- The model is centered around the five towns. Therefore, having five area committees is a good option.
- The Bryn y Cwm Area Committee is a strong supporter of retaining the Area Committee structure.
- It was suggested that
 - Area Committees meet bi-monthly (six meetings a year).
 - The Chairs should be a County Councillor.
 - Additional Community Council representation.
 - Include the Public Open Forum as an agenda item.
 - Abolish the Programme Boards.
 - Consider re-naming the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee.
 - Officers must consult with Area Committees before any decisions are made.
 - Annual funding to continue.
 - Co-opt members of the public to support the Whole Place Plan.
- Option 2 allows for the inclusion of another precepted Body.

It was proposed that the Area Committee supports Option 2 with the additional invitation to a single representative from each of the Community or Town Councils in that area.

Upon being put to the vote, the Area Committee voted unanimously to support the proposal.

We therefore resolved to support Option 2 with the additional invitation to a single representative from each of the Community or Town Councils in that area.

8. Update - Area Capital Grants

The Head of Community Led Delivery provided the Area Committee with a brief update regarding the Area Capital Grants.

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It was noted that the next round of funding would commence shortly with a further £5000 becoming available for allocation. Members were informed that all applications received should be directed to the Head of Community Led Delivery for assessment by 31st December 2016 with a view to the applications being considered at the Area Committee meeting on 25th January 2017.

9. Future Work Programme

We resolved to receive and note the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee Work Programme.

10. Next meeting

The next Bryn y Cwm Area Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th January 2017 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny, subject to availability.

The meeting ended at 3.45 pm.