



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 10th April 2024

Venue: Aberdare Rugby Club

Present	Initials	Position	Representing
Michele Davies	MD	Chairperson	Windsor Jewellers
Amanda Webber	AW	Vice Chairperson	Wool Stall & Blas ar Gymru – Aberdare Market
Angharad Walters	AWa	Treasurer	Our Aberdare BID Manager
Clare Prew	CP	Director	Shake, Waffle ‘n’ Cone
Darren Notley	DN	Attendee	RCT CBC
Lianne Burden	LB	Attendee	RCT CBC
James Prew	JP	BID Support/Secretary	Our Aberdare
Mark Norris	MN	Attendee	Cabinet Member
Karen Endicott	KE	Board Member	Baguette Express

In Attendance	Initials	Representing
Rod Davies	RD	Windsor Jewellers
Jim Bradley	JB	Bradley’s Coffee Shop
Elaine Bradley	EB	Bradley’s Coffee Shop
Royston John	RJ	The Postbox

Denise Williams	DW	Baloonery
Tony Missen	TM	Anthony Charles
Bridie Phillips	BP	That Coco Company & COCO's
Gareth Browne	GB	Brown Davies Accountants

Agenda Item	Discussion	Agreed Action
Welcome & Introduction	MD opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all attendees.	
Recognition of directors resigning from their positions.	MD acknowledged that Dawn Thomas and Steve Jones have resigned from their roles as directors and expressed gratitude for their dedication and contributions & their continued support. We genuinely appreciate and respect their decision to step down, understanding the reasons behind it.	
New Secretary	MD announced that earlier today, a new secretary was elected for Our Aberdare. JP has been appointed to the role.	
Annual BID Update	<p>AWa began by expressing hope that everyone has kept abreast of the developments in Aberdare over the past year, including events and initiatives such as the placement of defibrillators and distribution of grab bags.</p> <p>AWa conveyed amazement at the positive reception events have garnered on social media.</p> <p>Additionally, AWA expressed immense pride in the accomplishments of the business community over the past 12 months.</p> <p>AWa was impressed by the overwhelming support for the food festival last year and the enthusiastic turnout for town events, highlighting the community's appetite for such occasions. Significant progress has been achieved on social media.</p>	<p>Speak to Centregreat about lighting Christmas Trees above the shops.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Setup Friends of Aberdare Town</p> <p>---</p> <p>Speak to DN about brackets for hanging baskets in Commercial Street.</p>

Friends of Aberdare Town

The board wants to establish a volunteer group called "Friends of Aberdare Town" to help when the events calendar commences, ensuring a pool of volunteers available for marshalling events, litter picking or other tasks. Volunteers may receive compensation in the form of high street vouchers, which will subsequently be reinvested into local businesses on the high street.

Planned Events

AWa explained all events that took place last year will proceed as planned this year.

Food Festival

The food festival will be extended across the town, featuring a craft market on Library Square and gazebos positioned wherever feasible throughout the town. The fairground will relocate to the area behind the library. Suggestions for improvement and assistance from anyone willing to join us were warmly welcomed.

Christmas Festival

AWa - The Christmas festival will take place on a Sunday, featuring the parade, fairground, and market. Feedback on social media indicated a preference for weekend dates, and this choice also provides businesses with an additional day of trading if they desire. Discussions with the council regarding planning are already underway.

ABBADARE

AWa announced a new addition to this year's event calendar: ABBADARE. This entails a cinema screen on Library Square featuring "MAMMA MIA," with the aim of attracting visitors to town from the Road Races. Collaboration with the Road Races is being pursued to encourage people to explore the town.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Music Festival</u></p> <p>AWa also mentioned that the music festival is returning this year, with pubs showing great enthusiasm and some having already booked their acts. The feedback received from the pubs and public last year was overwhelmingly positive.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Look & Feel</u></p> <p>AWa explained the plant pots will undergo replanting and will be strategically clustered to maximize their impact. It was mentioned that certain areas will be assessed and discussed, with Commercial Street and Market Street planters being replaced with hanging baskets.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Christmas Lights</u></p> <p>Discussions around plans for the Christmas lights, aiming to improve them this year by collaborating with Centregreat. With the removal of scaffolding, lights can now be installed on Canon Street. Additionally, consideration will be given to placing Christmas trees above shops, acknowledging the challenge involved. Discussions will be made to see the possibility of connecting them to the lampposts, so they illuminate and go off the same time.</p> <p>AWa encouraged attendees to share any ideas they may have and welcomed suggestions with open arms.</p> <p>MD expressed gratitude for any assistance offered, emphasizing its value.</p>	
<p>Accountant's update on Our Aberdare.</p>	<p>GB presented the financial report for the company, highlighting the revenue generated and the operating costs incurred.</p> <p>It was mentioned that the company had a strong reserve.</p>	

	<p>Discussions with directors are necessary regarding assets associated with the old CORE Building, presently in storage.</p> <p>Draft accounts are accessible pending finalization.</p> <p>In essence, a transitional year.</p> <p>The accounts will be completed by month's end and accessible on Companies House.</p>	
<p>Questions & Concerns from Levy Payers in attendance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parking</p> <p>Issues regarding parking in the town were brought up, citing concerns about parking fees and the absence of card payment options at the parking machines.</p> <p>Also, it was brought up for the necessity for additional parking options and enhanced accessibility for shoppers and visitors, particularly in loading bays for quick stops at shops to pop in and out and quickly pick things up.</p> <p>DN mentioned that by collaborating with the BID, he can relay this information to the appropriate department within the council concerning the parking concerns & advocate for businesses in Aberdare.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Potential Public Transport Issues with The Christmas Festival on a Sunday</p> <p>The board recognized it as an excellent point and suggested exploring the possibility of discussing it with Stagecoach to see if any action could be taken.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christmas in Cardiff Street</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the absence of activities in Cardiff Street during the Christmas season.</p> <p>It was clarified that a choir scheduled to perform at Cardiff Street did not arrive for the event as promised.</p>	<p>Look at speaking with Stagecoach about the busses on the Sunday of the Christmas Festival.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p>Look at Christmas activities that will be suitable for Cardiff Street.</p>

	<p>AWe outlined the enormous undertaking involved in organizing a town-wide event. The BID expressed willingness to arrange acts or activities in Cardiff Street.</p> <p>MD emphasized the need for assistance in managing and ensuring the safety of that area, as there is an insufficient number of us to manage all areas.</p>	
The challenges of event organization	<p>The board discussed exploring the possibility zoning areas and to have designated liaisons who can communicate back to the BID. However, due to limited manpower, it's challenging to implement. Ideally, having a team for each street within the town would streamline efforts but it's very difficult to achieve.</p>	
Concluding remarks and expressions of gratitude at the end of the meeting.	<p>MD concluded the meeting by inviting any final questions and expressing gratitude to all attendees for their participation in the AGM.</p>	