

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2021 at 7.00pm**

Held remotely via Zoom

PRESENT: Councillors:

Gary Oakley (Chair), Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson, Julie Holt, Mark Lewis, Beverley Lucas, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons and Bernard Wall

Officers: Steve Edwards, Clerk

Others: None

ABSENT: Vanessa Bartlett, Gill Clark, Roger Clark, Perry Morgan, Glyn Smith and Graham White

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gill Clark, Roger Clark, Glyn Smith and Graham White. Welcomes were extended to everyone present.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Julie Holt declared an Interest in 27 below as she is a County Borough Councillor and may have planning responsibilities at that level.

21. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING (a) 22 JANUARY 2021 AND (b) 27 JANUARY 2021

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes (a) and (b) as a correct record of those meetings.

22. FINANCE ORDER

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Finance Order.

23. IT MOTION

There was a discussion around the need to supply all Councillors with the right IT equipment so they could effectively fulfil their role. It has become apparent throughout the last year that Council and Councillors now have a greater reliance on IT to conduct its business.

Generally, the principle about supplying equipment and upgrading the Councils IT to more professional setup was agreed but there was some concern about how much money this would cost, and that such equipment in these times when families are struggling could be seen as insensitive.

It was also highlighted that there are data security concerns with Councillors using their own equipment. The Motion was withdrawn by the Chair pending further time to think through an overall Council approach to the Councils present and future IT and data accessibility requirements.

24. MOTION TO AMEND FINANCE REGULATIONS

Council **RESOLVED** to amend regulation 6.15 of the Finance Regulations so it now reads “Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the Clerk/RFO be appointed the Service Administrator”.

25. MOTION TO AMEND THE BANK MANDATE

Council **RESOLVED** to remove the previous Clerk, Mr Richard Gwinnell from its bank mandates and any other Council banking arrangements.

26. GRANTS

Council **RESOLVED** that the ward grant application from Councillor Rob Philips for £200 to Ebenezer Church Food Cupboard be approved.

27. PLANNING CONSULATION C/2021/003 – LAND NEAR NEWALL STREET

Councillor Rob Phillips briefed Council about this proposed development.

Council **RESOLVED** to get the Clerk to write to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council setting out its formal response to this planning application and its concerns about the access to the site, the small width of the road, that the access lane was in constant use by residents accessing their garages, the lane is already frequently obstructed, and there is no comments made about the environmental impact regarding protected species of wildlife on the plot.

Council was also concerned that even though this planning application was for a single dwelling it may be the precursor for planning applications for multiple dwellings in the future.

28. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday 31 March at 7pm

The meeting ended at 7.57 pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

NB these minutes are a summary of the proceedings and record of the decisions taken. They are not intended to be a verbatim record.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards Clerk