

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 28 April 2021 at 7.00pm**

**Held remotely via Zoom**

**PRESENT: Councillors:** Gary Oakley (Chair), Michaela Assiratti, Vanessa Bartlett, Gill Clarke, Roger Clark, Tracey Dyson, Mark Lewis, Bev Lucas, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall

**Officers:** Steve Edwards – Clerk, Sian Hookins – Administration Assistant

**Others:**

**ABSENT:** Peter Adamson, Julie Holt, Perry Morgan and Graham White

**46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Adamson, Julie Holt Perry Morgan and Graham White Welcomes were extended to everyone present.

**47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**48. MNUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 31 march 2021**

Council **RESOLVED** to amend the minutes to add to item 37 “Councillor Vanessa Bartlett wished it to be noted that she did not want to receive the remaining Ward Grant for 2020/2021.”

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amended minutes

**49. TOWN IN BLOOM UPDATE**

Sian Hookins gave a brief update. She attended a Town in Bloom Work Group Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April and had been tasked to draft a formal Tender Document. The Tender Document was now with the Clerk for final review with expectation that the Tender would be issued the following Friday (30<sup>th</sup> April 2021). The Tender will be advertised across all Councils platforms.

The Chair commented that this was a positive move forward.

**50. COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL REVIEW**

Councillor Nick Simmons raised this issue so that Council was aware of the changes that may happen going forward, that have come out of the recommendations of the Review. The main thrust of discussion was about the possibility of services being handed down from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and would the Community Council be in a position to take any of these services on.

Councillor Vanessa Bartlett asked what sort of services, Councillor Simmons replied that the

type of things would be libraries, toilets and litter collecting but Council had no obligation to take any of these services on.

Councillor Gill Clark mentioned that some associations have taken the opportunity to take control of their areas by using Community Assets Transfers and this has proved beneficial to them.

Councillor Nick Simmons represents the Community Council of both the Consultation and Joint Committees with the County Borough Council but unfortunately these have not met in the last year, so he is ideally placed to discuss further with other Town Councils and the County Borough Council. Councillor Nick Simmons did not need to put forward a motion to have this put on the agenda with the Joint Council Consultation (JCC) meeting, and the Clerk would make enquiries and get it put on for the next JCC meeting.

Councillor Rob Phillips asked that we need to talk with other Town Councils in the Blaenau Gwent Area so we could have a joint unified approach. Councillor Gill Clark was not in agreement on this point.

It was agreed that we have only touched the surface of the impact of the review on the Community Council and we would need an EGM at some future point to discuss issues with a proper agenda.

## **51. AUDIT ARRANGMENTS AND BUDGET REPORT**

The Clerk reported on this year's audit arrangements. He had received the Audit Notice from Wales Audit.

- Council had to approve accounts by the end of June
- The notice of Electors Rights to inspect Accounts had to be issued by 6<sup>th</sup> August
- Final signed copy to Wales Audit 1<sup>st</sup> September

The Clerks stated this was the first year using an online accounting system and that he would have to work with the company to be able to close down the 2020/2021 budget and accounts. This would not take place until the first week in June, so Council could not expect any information before that date.

Wales Audit had also stated that they were close in signing off previous years accounts and issuing a report. When that report was issued the Clerk would bring it back to council to discuss any recommendations.

## **52. SOMERSET STREET**

This issue had been raised at a previous meeting while Council had been discussing upgrades to the War Memorial site. It was agreed then to bring this item back to council as a formal agenda item.

The Clerk stated he was aware of three issues, the moving of the iron benches outside the War Memorial gates, the litter down the embankment in Somerset Street and the removal of the litter bins from the alcove directly opposite the War Memorial. He stated that all of these

belonged to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and he would need Council's approval to approach them to discuss any action.

The Council does not want the benches removed from outside of the War Memorial.

A number of points were raised

- The area was being used by people to dump plastic bags of household waste
- A proposal to have the two bins moved and a Silent Solider bench put in their place
- Councillor Mark Lewis had already raised the litter issue problem with Blaenau Gwent County Borough
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough could use mobile CCTV cameras to monitor the situation to see who was fly tipping.
- The litter problem was not a Community Council issue but a County Borough Issue
- The Clerk stated he just wanted some clarification as to what Council wishes him to do

Councillor Roger Clark raised a point of order about Councillors talking more than once on any subject. The Chair replied that the standing orders applied when a Councillor moved a motion and that this point, we having a general discussion and it was up to the Chair when people could speak and the final decision was theirs. The Chair quoted standing orders 1(e)

Council agreed for the Clerk to go back to Blaenau Gwent County Borough council to discuss if he had any solutions to the litter problems.

### **53. RECODING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Clerk was now recording Council Meetings to help him in the drafting of minutes of Council meetings but he wished to know if Council would like these meetings published on our website.

Council **RESOLVED** to have the video recordings of Council Meetings published on our website.

### **54. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

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None

### **56. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Annual Meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Following meeting to be agreed at Annual meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:04pm

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*