

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.00pm  
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery and via video conferencing  
(Zoom).**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Gary Oakley (Chair); Nick Simmons (Vice Chair); Peter Adamson; Roger Clark; Tracey Dyson; Rob Phillips; Allen Rees; Bernard Wall; Graham White.

**PRESENT VIA VIDEOLINK**

**Councillors:** Michaela Assiratti; Ben Owen-Jones; Jaqui Ledbury; Mark Lewis; Beverley Lucas; Barrie Page;.

**Officers:** David Cartwright (Clerk).

**Other:** Deborah Pitt, *Off The Streets*

**169. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES**

Apologies were received from Glyn Smith and Mihangel ap Williams. The Chair welcomed Deborah Pitt and noted that Greg Morgan from the Blaenau Gwent Youth Service had sent his apologies.

**170. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr Rob Phillips declared a prejudicial interest in items 173 a) and 173 b) as he is secretary of both organisations.

Cllr Nick Simmons declared a prejudicial interest in item 173 b) as he is a Trustee of Ffrindiau Tyleri.

**171. MINUTES – 26 JANUARY 2022**

Cllr Roger Clark stated that the minutes had failed to record that the Chair had promised that he could make a statement at this meeting. The Clerk replied that the Chair had not made any such promise. The Chair ruled that confirmation of the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 26 January 2022 be deferred to the next Full Council meeting to allow the Clerk to check the minutes against the recording of the meeting for accuracy.

Cllr Ben Owen-Jones suggested that 'Any Other Business' be added to future meeting agendas and was supported by Cllr Bernard Wall and Cllr Graham White. The Clerk replied that agendas must specify the business of the meeting so that Council Members and members of the public know what will be discussed at least three clear days before any meeting. 'Any Other Business' would conceal rather than specify the business of the meeting. As the officer with statutory responsibility for meeting agendas, he would not include such an item.

**172. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT – CLLR GARY OAKLEY (CHAIR)**

The Chair reminded Members that a survey carried out by the Council in 2019 had revealed more than ninety percent approval for increasing the Council's budget to support youth services. Gwent Police had reported to a meeting of the Full Council in October 2021 that calls to the police regarding 'youth annoyance' in the Community Council area had fallen by more than half since the Council began funding youth outreach work.

Deborah Pitt explained that *Off The Streets'* team of highly-qualified youth workers had engaged with more than 450 young people so far in 2021-22. Funding of *Off The Streets* and Blaenau Gwent Council Youth Services' outreach work enabled services such as drug and alcohol advice to be provided to young people throughout the Community Council area and to those who travelled to the projects from neighbouring areas, such as Crumlin. The projects enjoyed good relationships with local community groups and schools.

Cllr Nick Simmons asked how much the Council had budgeted for youth projects in 2021-22. The Clerk replied that the budget for 2021-22 was £94,000. The budget for 2022-23 was £79,000.

The Chair ruled that he would propose items 172 a) and 172 b) as a single motion.

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise payment to The Space Youth Café of £39,044 in respect of staffing and other expenses to fund a twelve-month programme within the Ebbw Fach Valley as per the *Off The Streets* Detached Project Proposal 2022-23 and to authorise payment to Blaenau Gwent Council Youth Services of £36,611.80 in respect of staffing and resources as per Option 2 in the Blaenau Gwent Youth Service Proposal Report to Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

#### **173. AUTHORISATION OF FUNDING**

Cllr Rob Phillips left the chamber at 7.39 pm.

The Chair informed the meeting that he had been reminded that his wife is a Trustee of Ffrindiau Tyleri. He declared a prejudicial interest in respect of item 173 b).

- a) The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise payment of £1,000 to the Abertillery Rock and Blues Festival.

The Chair drew attention to the fact that, as both the Chair and Vice-Chair had declared prejudicial interests in regard to item 173 b) and would leave the chamber, another Member would need to take the chair. The Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr Tracey Dyson take the chair.

The Chair and Vice-Chair left the chamber at 7.45 pm.

- b) The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise payment of £2,000 to Ffrindiau Tyleri in respect of Aberfest and Winterfest.

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Cllr Rob Phillips returned to the chamber at 7.47 pm. Cllr Gary Oakley resumed the chair.

#### **174. JIM OWEN PAVILION – PENTREF TYLERI**

Cllr Tracey Dyson stated that the café provided opportunities for young people, promoted intergenerational activities and helped to combat loneliness. She was supported by Cllr Graham White and the Chair. The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should submit a summary of the Council's positive views to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

#### **175. COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION**

The Council **RESOLVED** not to support a request for grant funding from Brynmawr Musical Theatre Company.

#### **176. ST DAVID'S DAY**

The Clerk declared a personal interest and left the chamber at 8.03 pm. Cllr Tracey Dyson agreed to take the minutes for this item.

The Council **RESOLVED** to award its staff a day's paid leave annually on St David's Day.

The Clerk returned to the chamber at 8.09 pm.

#### **177. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Council **RESOLVED** to exclude the Press and Public by virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **178. AUDIT WALES REPORT FOR 2014-15**

The Clerk informed Council that the remainder of the meeting would involve discussion of legal advice that was protected by both legal advice privilege and litigation privilege.

Full minutes of this agenda item are contained in Confidential Annex FC3-2022.

**179. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

30 March 2022

The meeting ended at 8.32 pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair.....

*Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.*

Draft