

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 27 APRIL 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; Mark Lewis; Beverley Lucas; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Glyn Smith; Bernard Wall; Graham White.

PRESENT VIA VIDEOLINK

Councillors: Ben Owen-Jones

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk); Steve Edwards (Deputy Clerk).

Other: Mr Ross Leadbeater

1. Apologies for absence and welcomes

Apologies were received from Michaela Assiratti, Jaqui Ledbury and Allen Rees.

The Chair welcomed Mr Ross Leadbetter, a former community councillor, who attended the public section of the meeting as a member of the public.

2. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None

3. Minutes – 30 March 2022

Cllr Graham White asked that the minutes be amended to make clear that the Clerk's failure to publish a notice of the meeting of 30 March 2022 on the Council's website at least three clear days in advance was in breach of the regulations governing community council meetings.

Cllr Peter Adamson asked that the minutes be amended to show that the Chair had asked for the PowerPoint presentation on Carbon Literacy for Local Authorities given at the meeting on 30 March 2022 to be posted on the Council's website.

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of 30 March 2022, amended as above, as a correct record.

4. 2020/2021 Accounts and Annual Return

The Report on the Accounts and Annual Return for 2020-21 was presented by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk as joint-Responsible Financial Officers. Cllr Graham White noted that the accounts had not undergone an internal audit and questioned whether they should, therefore, be accepted. The Clerk replied that, as noted in the report on the accounts, Audit Wales had cautioned the Council against appointing an internal auditor in haste in order to 'tick a box'. The Annual Governance Statement would make clear that there had been no internal audit.

Cllr Bernard Wall asked why individual salary payments were not shown in Annex 2 to the accounts. The Deputy Clerk replied that the Annual Return showed the total staff costs to the community council including salaries and wages, Income Tax,

employee and employer National Insurance contributions, pension contributions and other staff costs administered through the Blaenau Gwent Council payroll system for which the community council was invoiced quarterly in a lump sum. The community council does not hold a breakdown of all these components for each individual employee.

Cllrs Wall and White questioned why the Council paid many small cheques to some suppliers when less frequent, lump sum payments would be more efficient. The Clerks replied that the Council made payments on receipt of individual invoices and, while arguably less efficient, this provided complete transparency and traceability.

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree that the accounting statements shown in the Report fairly present the financial position of the Council for the year ending 31 March 2021.

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Council to complete and sign the Annual Return on the basis of these accounts.

The Clerk informed Members that authorisation to submit the Annual Governance Statement would be taken to mean that the Council agreed to the answers proposed in the Report on the Accounts and Annual Return for 2020-21.

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise the Responsible Financial Officer to submit the Annual Return, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the year ended 31 March 2021, and all relevant associated documents, to Audit Wales as required.

5. Budget-setting Policy

The Clerk explained that the budget-setting policy aimed to impose a greater degree of oversight on budget-setting and to help guard against late additions or objections to the annual budget being submitted without due scrutiny.

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the budget-setting policy.

6. Council Grant

Cllr Ben Owen-Jones suggested ways in which Ebbw Fach Community Group could make savings on items for its Queen's Platinum Jubilee event for which it had asked for community council support. It was agreed that his comments would be passed to the group and that, if any such savings were made, they could be retained by the group.

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise a payment to Ebbw Fach Community Group of £508.74.

7. Public events

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise the Council's officers to apply for, organise and manage Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council stalls, exhibits or displays at public events, as necessary, up to the cost of £500 per event.

Mr Ross Leadbetter left the meeting at 8.06 pm.

8. Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

The Council **RESOLVED** that, by virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from discussions on the following items 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.

9. Minutes – Confidential annex FC5-2022 - 30 March 2022

The Council **RESOLVED** to confirm Confidential annex FC5-2022 as a correct record of the confidential section of the meeting of 30 March 2022.

10. Date of next meeting

Annual meeting 11 May 2022

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

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

Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.