

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GRANTS COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 15 JUNE 2022 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Beverley Lucas, Mariola Walters, Glyn Smith, Graham White, Peter Adamson

**Officers:** David Cartwright (Clerk)

The meeting was opened by the Clerk who took the chair for the first three items on the agenda.

**1. Apologies for absence**

None.

**2. Declarations of interest or dispensations**

None.

**3. Appointment of Chair of Finance and Grants Committee**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to appoint Glyn Smith as Chair.

Cllr Smith took the chair at 6.05 pm.

**4. Insurance**

The Clerk noted that the Council is required to have adequate insurance by law. It had secured numerous insurance quotes in previous years, which had revealed Zurich Municipal to be the cheapest by some margin. The Clerk reported that the service provided by Zurich had been very satisfactory. An insurance broker had identified one company, Aviva, that could offer a cheaper quote for 2022-23. However, the total of cover offered in Aviva's quotation schedule was some £12.5 million less than Zurich.

Beverley Lucas enquired about the level of public liability cover for Council events offered by Zurich (£12 million).

Graham White enquired whether a council seal should be added to the list of 'additional items' covered by the Council's insurance.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Full Council that it renews its insurance policy with Zurich Municipal as per that company's quotation schedule.

**5. Council Grant – Abertillery BG RFC**

Peter Adamson noted that the Council had established a strong working relationship with the club through events such as Party in the Park. The Committee noted that Abertillery BG RFC's application was for £1,305 and that the Council's grant-giving criteria state that "The Council will not give a grant of more than £500 to one organisation unless in exceptional circumstances." The grant requested would be used to pay for the hiring of professional security staff at a fund-raising event. The applicant had not demonstrated how this would "help local communities and improve the economic, social or environmental well-being benefit to residents of the Council area."

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Full Council that the application be refused.

**6. Ward Grant – Brynithel RFC**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to authorise the payment to Brynithel RFC of a Ward Grant of £200 proposed by Cllr Michaela Assiratti.

**7. Terms of Reference and Budget-setting Policy**

The Committee noted its responsibility under the Council’s Budget-setting Policy to propose general principles and parameters for the Council’s budget for 2022-23. The Committee agreed to a suggestion from the Clerk that he prepare a paper outlining options and that he summons a meeting of the Committee in time for it to formulate proposals to go to Full Council at the end of July.

Graham White suggested that Members of the Committee should get together outside committee meetings to identify other areas that it would like the Committee to consider in order to fulfil its duties to ensure effective oversight of the Council’s financial control and compliance with Regulations.

The meeting ended at 6.49 pm.

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

*Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.*