

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GRANTS COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND
LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 6 October 2022 at 6.05 pm in the
Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Mariola Walters, Glyn Smith (Chair), Graham White, Peter Adamson

Officers: Steve Edwards (Deputy Clerk)

Absent: Rob Phillips

8. Apologies for absence

Councillor Rob Phillips

9. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

10. Minutes 20 July 2022

The Committee **RESOLVED** to confirm the draft minutes of 20 July 2022 as a correct record.

11. Solar Farm Grants 2022

The Deputy Clerk gave an overview of the history of the Solar Farm Grants as the Committee had a new Councillor who may have been unaware.

Councillor Peter Adamson had proposed a number of amendments to the criteria document and the application form.

There was a general consensus at the meeting that the documented criteria should not be too restrictive and was up to the Committee to decide on the relative merits of each application. The Committee wanted to encourage more applications even if some did not fulfil the documented criteria.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that:

1. Amendment made to point 3 of "What are Solar Farm Grants" so that it is made clearer that the grants are not for Councils own use.
2. Amendment made to point 5 of "What are Solar Farm Grants" to elaborate what sustainable and have a lasting legacy means.
3. Amendment made to point 7 of "What are Solar Farm Grants" to elaborate what well-being means.
4. The dates in "How does the Solar Farm Grants Process work" are updated from 2021 to 2022.
5. The dates in the application form are updated from 2021 to 2022.
6. Any reference to the Solar Farm Grants Working Group (SFGWG) be replaced with "The Committee".
7. The Council's Officers to administer the process.

The Deputy Clerk will make the amendments before issuing any documents. The Deputy Clerk will issue a timetable to all Committee Members, which will include an open evening for any prospective organisation to come and talk to the Deputy Clerk and any members of the Committee who wish to attend.

12. Council Budget

The Committee **RESOLVED** to summon the RFO and Chairs of Committees to present their draft 2023/2024 budgets to a Finance and Grants Committee meeting on 27th October 2022.

13. Internal Audit

Councillor Graham White made a number of comments concerning

1. Rialtas meetings. It was pointed out that Rialtas were not or had ever been Internal Auditors they supplied the software system onto which this Council's payments and receipts are entered.
2. Our previous Internal Auditors had been sacked: This is untrue. The last person to carry out an internal audit of the Council's accounts was Mr Hugh O'Sullivan who resigned in October 2020. The minutes of the Council meeting of 27 July 2022 state "that the previous internal auditor had resigned.

The Deputy Clerk stated that Council had provisionally agreed to take on IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd in 2021 to help with the 2020/2021 audit but this had not happened.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to instruct the Deputy Clerk to go back to IAC Audit & Consultancy to engage them to act as our Internal Auditors for 2022/2023.

Councillor Graham White then attempted to discuss a number of other items that had not been listed on the agenda or was in the remit of the Finance and Grants Committee.

The meeting ended at 6:55 pm.

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

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Deputy Clerk