

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Nick Simmons (Chair); Peter Adamson; Ben Owen-Jones; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Josh Rawcliffe; Glyn Smith

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk)

Other: Mr Bob Smith

Apologies: Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson (Vice Chair) and Mariola Walters.

55. APOLOGIES AND WELCOMES

Apologies were received from Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson (Vice Chair) and Mariola Walters who were unavailable.

The Chair welcomed Mr Bob Smith of Abertillery who attended the meeting as a member of the public.

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

Rob Phillips said that, although he had no prejudicial or pecuniary interest in the application, he wished to declare a personal interest in item 64a) as his sister had completed the grant application form on behalf of Allsorts Parent and Toddler Group.

Barrie Page asked if he needed to declare a personal interest in item 58 as he was a member of the Council's Youth Engagement Working Group. The Clerk advised that there was no need for members of the working group to declare such an interest.

57. MINUTES – 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record of the meeting.

58. YOUTH COMMITTEE

- a) The Council considered a motion to disband the Council's Youth Engagement Working Group and to establish a Youth Committee.

Josh Rawcliffe noted that the Youth Engagement Working Group was responsible for oversight of the Council's largest budget line. He believed that it would be better for the Council's management of this budget and for timely decision-making if the Members carrying out these duties had the authority of a committee.

The Chair said that he wished to propose amending the scope of the planned committee to include wider community engagement. Rob Phillips said that wider terms of reference could also encompass the Council's duties under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. Ben Owen-Jones said he strongly opposed the amendment as it would dilute the proposed committee's concentration on youth engagement and would compromise the necessary future work that the Youth Engagement Working Group had identified. He added that the Council's Well-Being of Future Generations duties should not be passed to a single committee as it was the responsibility of Full Council and every committee to incorporate those duties into all their work and decision-making. Barrie Page said he believed increasing the scope of the committee would place too

much work on too few people. Josh Rawcliffe welcomed the proposed amendment saying that the youth engagement work of the proposed committee would naturally bring it into contact with the wider community. A broader scope would give the committee the authority to take advantage of those engagement opportunities without constantly referring matters back to the Full Council.

The Council **RESOLVED** to add responsibility for community engagement to the duties of the proposed committee.

The Council **RESOLVED** to disband the Council's Youth Engagement Working Group and to establish a committee with responsibility for youth engagement and community engagement.

- b) The Clerk suggested that the Council should proceed to agree the terms of reference for the committee's youth engagement responsibilities so that this work was not impeded while the terms of reference for its community engagement responsibilities were being prepared.

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the terms of reference for the Committee's youth engagement responsibilities and to instruct the Committee to submit proposed terms of reference for its community engagement responsibilities and, if the Committee so chooses, responsibility for the Council's duties under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act to a future meeting of the Full Council.

- c) The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Ben Owen-Jones, Barrie Page and Josh Rawcliffe as members of the Committee.

59. ABERTILLERY WAR MEMORIAL

- a) The Clerk introduced Mr Bob Smith as the member of the public who had asked for permission to erect scaffolding in the Abertillery War Memorial site in order for rendering work and the painting of a mural to be carried out on the gable wall of the adjoining property. The Clerk said that his relationship with Mr Smith had been somewhat fractious over recent weeks but that the contractors who would carry out the work had submitted full risk assessments and plans of works that confirm that the work will be carried out safely and that risks to the War Memorial monument will be well-managed. The Council had also finally received confirmation that all three contractors have substantial public liability insurance in place. The householder had a legal right to access to carry out the work in question but the Council could consider adding reasonable conditions to the permission.

Mr Smith asked to speak and was allowed to do so by the Chair. Mr Smith said that what was painted on the wall was not a matter for the Council. He complained that the Clerk had demanded a written undertaking from Mr Smith to maintain the mural as a condition of granting permission to erect the scaffolding. The Clerk replied that, as his emails to Mr Smith had made clear from the start, the granting of permission and the setting of any conditions was a matter for the Full Council to decide. The Clerk had made numerous requests for Mr Smith to give assurances that he would maintain and care for the proposed mural. The Clerk had specifically stated in his emails to Mr Smith that the Council could not make such assurances a condition of granting him the permission that he required but that the Council, and the community at large, would appreciate Mr Smith's publicly accepting responsibility to look after such a large work of art in such a sensitive location. Mr Smith had refused to do so.

The Council **RESOLVED** to grant permission for suitably skilled, trained and competent contractors to erect scaffolding within the Abertillery War Memorial to enable work to be

carried out on the gable end of 155 Somerset Street, Abertillery.

- b) The Clerk reminded Council that the local community expected full and unfettered access to the War Memorial site on Remembrance Sunday. Ben Owen-Jones said that he was familiar with the work of both the rendering contractor and the mural artist and was sure that they were both highly professional and that the Council could rely on any promises they gave. Mr Smith said that the contractors hoped to finish the work before Remembrance Sunday. The work would be undertaken as soon as possible but they were reliant on the weather. However, even if the work was unfinished by that date, he promised that there would be nothing on the War Memorial site on 13 November.

The Council **RESOLVED** that permission to erect the scaffolding was given subject to there being no scaffolding on the War Memorial site on 13 November.

Mr Smith left the meeting at 7.43 pm.

60. MEMBER TRAINING

The Clerk noted that officers had been unable to offer training to Members of the Council within the timescales envisaged in the Council's Training Policy and recommended that the deadline to complete relevant training be extended by six months.

The Council **RESOLVED** to give members of the PlaCE Committee, Finance and Grants Committee, HR Committee and Chairs of Committees dispensation to complete relevant training (as detailed in the Council's Training Policy) by 31 May 2023.

61. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint the following representatives to attend Remembrance Sunday ceremonies and to lay wreaths on its behalf:

Llanhilleth War Memorial – Barrie Page

Swffryd Community Centre – Ben Owen-Jones

Blaenau Gwent Church – Glyn Smith.

Glyn Smith volunteered to also attend the ceremony at Bournville Community Centre but recommended that the opportunity should first be offered to Cllr Roger Clark, who was not present at the meeting.

The Chair will attend the ceremony at Abertillery War Memorial.

62. PENTREF TYLERI

The Clerk reminded Members that, in March 2021, the Council resolved to adopt a disused traditional red telephone kiosk opposite the Blaentillery school in Cwmtillery under BT's Adopt-a-Kiosk scheme. The local community group Pentref Tyleri had requested funding to carry out renovation work on behalf of the Council.

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to make a payment of £2,131.36 to Pentref Tyleri in respect of the renovation of the K6 telephone kiosk in East Side Row, Cwmtillery.

63. CHRISTMAS LANTERNS

Peter Adamson noted that the Council had adopted a Single-use Plastics Policy since the last time it bought Christmas lanterns for children taking part in Christmas lights turning-on events and that simply repeating previous years' purchases may not be

appropriate. The Clerk undertook to follow the policy subject to the financial limits suggested by the proposed motion before making any purchase for this year's events.

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to purchase approximately 200 Christmas lanterns at a cost of up to £800.

64. COUNCIL GRANTS

- a) The Council **RESOLVED** to make a grant of £500 to Allsorts Parent and Toddler Group, Abertillery in respect of children's toys.
- b) The Council **RESOLVED** to refuse a request for a grant from Urdd Gobaith Cymru as it neither specified the amount being requested, how it would be spent nor how it would benefit the local community of the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area. The Clerk agreed to ask the organisation to submit a completed Council Grant application form.

65. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

30 November 2022

The meeting ended at 8.13 pm.

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

Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.