

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Nick Simmons (Chair); Tracey Dyson (Vice Chair); Peter Adamson; Michaela Assiratti; Steve Bard; Roger Clark; Chris Hill; Ben Owen-Jones; Tom Langley-Noel; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Deb Pitt; Josh Rawcliffe; Glyn Smith; Mariola Walters; Bernard Wall; Graham White.

Via Videolink: Allen Rees.

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk)

83. APOLOGIES AND WELCOMES

None.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

Rob Phillips declared a personal interest in two lines of the proposed budget as Secretary of Ffrindiau Tyleri and a member of the committee of the Abertillery Rock and Blues Festival.

Nick Simmons declared a personal interest in one line of the proposed budget as Treasurer of Ffrindiau Tyleri.

Deb Pitt declared a personal interest in one line of the proposed budget as Senior Practitioner of the Off The Streets detached youth work team.

The Clerk informed the meeting that all three Members had contacted officers regarding the declaration of interests. They had been advised that agreeing the Council's budget did not grant any authority for expenditure, so no Member could have a direct financial interest in any motion on this meeting's agenda. Members may think it wise to refrain from taking part in any discussion about the individual budget line in which they had declared an interest – and they may wish to consider declaring a prejudicial interest at any future meeting where authority for expenditure was sought – but he had advised the Members concerned that it would be invidious to expect them to declare a prejudicial interest for the entire budget debate.

85. COUNCIL BUSINESS

Steve Bard proposed that consideration of the Council's budget and precept for 2023-24 should be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

Cllr Bard said that five recently co-opted Members of the Council had had no input into the budget-setting process and had not had sufficient time to consider the proposals. Deferring the business to an ordinary meeting of the Council would not only give Members more time to suggest changes to the budget, Members would have flexibility to propose amendments during a future meeting as the strict standing orders for the annual budget-setting meeting would not apply.

Rob Phillips replied that the budget-setting process had taken several months. He believed that the motion opened a detailed and planned process up to a crash of last-minute amendments.

Tom Langley-Noel agreed with the motion saying that proposals to increase the Council's budget at a time of austerity when people were struggling to put food on the table deserved proper scrutiny.

The Chair remarked that the budget proposals had gone through months of detailed scrutiny not only in meetings of budget-holding committees but also in meetings of the Finance and Grants Committee.

Ben Owen-Jones and Roger Clark said that, if newly co-opted Members believed they needed more time to consider the budget, they should be given that.

Peter Adamson said that he intended to support the motion to defer the meeting's business in order to register his opposition to increasing the budget.

The Council **RESOLVED** to defer the rest of the meeting's agenda to the next ordinary meeting on 25 January.

Members cast their votes as follows:

For: Tracey Dyson, Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti, Steve Bard, Roger Clark, Chris Hill, Ben Owen-Jones, Tom Langley-Noel, Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Mariola Walters, Bernard Wall, Graham White.

Against: Deb Pitt, Josh Rawcliffe

Abstained: Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith

86. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25 January 2023

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm.

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

Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.