

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 22 March 2023 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Nick Simmons (Chair); Peter Adamson; Roger Clark; Chris Hill; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Deb Pitt; Glyn Smith and Bernard Wall

Via Videolink: Ben Owen-Jones; Josh Rawcliffe and Allen Rees.

Officers: Steve Edwards (Deputy Clerk)

Other: None

Apologies: Michaela Assiratti; Steve Bard; Tracey Dyson (Vice Chair).

Absent: Mariola Walters and Graham White.

Note: The meeting did not start until 7.08 pm due to issues experienced by Councillors logging-in online.

106. APOLOGIES AND WELCOMES

Apologies were received from Michaela Assiratti, Steve Bard and Tracey Dyson (Vice Chair).

The Chair asked a question about there not being an agenda item for a Police report despite him asking for one. The Deputy Clerk responded that he had written to the Police to set up regular attendance at Council meetings but had not received a reply. Deb Pitt stated that the Police in our area were in the process of switching over responsibilities as they cover for maternity leave and officers leaving the force. The Deputy Clerk agreed he would write again to the Police.

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

Deb Pitt declared a fiduciary interest in agenda Item 109(a), as she is employed as the Senior Practitioner of "Off The Streets."

108. MINUTES – 22 FEBRUARY 2023

Ben Owen-Jones raised a concern about paragraph 102. The minutes indicated that the post office in Abertillery was the only one in the area and there were others in the Community Council area. He would like an amendment to acknowledge that.

The Council **RESOLVED** that, subject to that amendment, the minutes were a true and correct record.

109. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS 2023-024

Deb Pitt left the chamber.

(a) Motion: To authorise officers to pay the Off The Streets Committee £44,244 in respect of Council-funded detached youth work 2023-24.

All three members of the Youth Engagement working group of the Community Empowerment Committee praised the work that was being done by Off The Streets. Chris Hill asked for clarification of the number of young people attending sessions. Deb Pitt was asked to return to the chamber to answer the question.

The numbers for Swffryd were 30-50 per week; for Llanhilleth, 30 per week; and, for Brynithel, 50-60 per week. Deb Pitt again left the chamber.

Peter Adamson raised a concern that Six Bells was missing out. Josh Rawcliffe stated he had approached The Friends of Six Bells group but they were not interested. It was stated that the Friends of Six Bells group may be folding.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the motion.

Deb Pitt returned to the chamber.

(b) Motion: To authorise officers to pay Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council £65,614 in respect of Council-funded detached youth work in 2023-24.

The Deputy Clerk stated that the correct figure should be £63,293. The reason for the amended figure is that Blaenau Gwent Council has miscalculated the pay spine points for staff in their original submission.

Chris Hill asked for some statistics on numbers, Josh Rawcliffe said that the project had had a total of 684 contacts with young people during the period from October to December 2022. It was also noted that the team operated as 'outreach' workers – with a focus on the youth workers going out onto the streets to engage with young people – so raw numbers told only part of the overall story. Cllr Rawcliffe also noted that the project benefited from support funded by Blaenau Gwent Council – such as staff training and insurance – which meant that the overall value to the Community Council area was far more than the approximately £60,000 funded by the Community Council.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the amended motion to authorise funding of £63,293.

110. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE

Two Councillors put themselves forward for the single vacancy on the Committee: Deb Pitt and Peter Adamson.

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Deb Pitt to the Community Empowerment Committee

111. FINANCE ORDER

The Council **RESOLVED** to:

- (a) Authorise the payments in Table 3 of Finance Order No 1.
- (b) Note the payments in Tables 1 and 2 of Finance Order No 1
- (c) Note the financial position on the Council's current and reserves accounts as shown in Finance Order No 1

112. WARD GRANT – ALLEN REES

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to make a payment of £200 to Six Bells Crafts.

113. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The Deputy Clerk gave an update. Nine members had complied with the statutory requirement; eight members had yet to do so. The Deputy Clerk will be issuing reminders and working towards full compliance.

114. EMAIL MIGRATION

The Deputy Clerk emphasised the importance of this and that future Council business will be conducted using the new email addresses. He offered help to anyone who has issues in setting up new accounts. There are only five members who have not yet set up their new accounts: Steve Bard, Roger Clark, Glyn Smith, Mariola Walters and Graham White.

115. COUNCIL VACANCIES

The Deputy Clerk went through the report from the Clerk in the meeting notes that explained the difference between a normal and casual vacancy and that no action will be taken until after the 30 March 2023.

116. NEXT MEETING

The Council **RESOLVED** that the date of the next Full Council meeting would be Wednesday 26th April 2023.

The meeting ended at 8.06 pm.