

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6.00 pm in the Council  
Meeting Room at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Steve Bard (Chair), Peter Adamson, Mark Lewis, Josh Rawcliffe, Nick Simmons. Non-Committee Members: Tracey Dyson, Barrie Page, Ralph Henderson.

**Officers:** Steve Edwards (Clerk)

**Absent:** Glyn Smith

**28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS**

None

**30. MINUTES 27 OCTOBER 2023**

There was a single amendment to the draft minutes. Nick Simmons attended the meeting and should be shown as present.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes, containing the above amendment, were a true and correct record.

**31. BUDGETS 2024/2025**

The Clerk explained that the Finance Committee had no power to change any of the budget proposals as these had been set by resolution within the various committees, but the overall budget will be put to Full Council with the Finance Committee recommendations

The Finance Committee made the following **RESOLUTIONS**

• **People and Communities Committee** – The Finance Committee recommends the following changes:

- The costs associated with the Remembrance Sunday event be reduced from £3000 to £300 as there seem little likelihood of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council not continuing to support the event.
- The costs for War Memorial Development be reduced from £20,000 to £10,000 as there has been one quote already received for the work to be done which is within £10,000
- The Costs for the Loneliness Project be reduced from £9,500 to £7,500. The committee felt this was a reasonable uplift. There were also some concerns about the parameters in place for this project and that at the moment it seemed to “open-ended”. The Commentary to be removed as it was confusing talking about current year costs.
- The costs of Party in The Park to remain at £20,000 but the Committee would like a detailed breakdown of the £5,000 Llanhilleth RFC element.

(Clerks Note: If these recommendations are accepted it would result in an overall saving of £14,700 on the People and Communities Committee budget, bringing it down to £105,800 the same figure as 2023/2024)

- **PlaCE** – The Finance Committee recommends only one change. The costs for the Community Transport Project be reduced from £8,500 to £5,000 as part of the spend for this project would come from its current year budget.

(Clerks Note: If this recommendation is accepted it would result in an overall saving of £3,500 on the PlaCE budget, bringing it down to £47,150, less than figure for 2023/2024)

- **Community Empowerment Committee** – The Finance Committee were deeply concerned about the huge increase in the 2024/2025 budget proposals, up from £100,740 to £186,807, and the ramifications, long term of the Community Council having this year on year responsibility which would continue to increase over time. The budget proposal of £186,807 would remain but the Community Empowerment Committee would have to hold urgent meetings with Off The Streets and BGCBC Youth Services to discuss and bring back proposals for the Council Budget meeting.
- **Administration.** – The Clerk stated that there were £16,560 of budget proposals for various Members Allowances that were optional and Council could use the budget meeting decide not to pay these. This would result in a £16,500 saving on the 2024/2025 budget. However, there is no figure for Council Grants which will need to be added.

(Clerks Note: If all the recommendations above are agreed by Council then the overall budget for 2024/2025 would reduce from £515,698 to £480,998. It is envisaged that the Community Empowerment budget will reduce and the Administration budget will increase)

Tracey Dyson and Barrie Page left the meeting.

## **32. AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Clerk presented the amendment to the current Financial Regulations. He explained that this was for section 5 of the current Regulations and the numbering on the amendments was caused by lifting the section from the overall Financial Regulations document. The amendment is required as the current Financial Regulations adapted by council are out of date, no longer match up to the new process being introduced to enable electronic banking, and the way Committees have now got delegated spending powers away from full Council.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend the amendments to the Financial Regulations to Council.

## **33. BANK RECONCILIATION AUGUST 2023**

Peter Adamson and Josh Rawcliffe have successfully conducted the Bank Reconciliation for August 2023. They will conduct the reconciliation for September 2023. Mark Lewis and Nick Simmons will conduct the reconciliation for October 2023.

## **34. BANKING UPDATE**

The Clerk informed the Committee that the new Unity Trust Bank account was now up and running. A test payment had successfully gone through. All the funds from the Nat West reserve accounts have been moved into the current account in preparation for the final move across to Unity Trust. It is planned that the Current Nat West Accounts

will be closed down at the end of November and all Council banking will be then be done via Unity Trust.

**35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm.

Signed as correct Record by the

Chair.....

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.