

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 28 February 2024 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair); Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair); Steve Bard; Ralph Henderson (MBE); Chris Hill; Mark Lewis; Barrie Page; Bernard Wall; Graham White.

Absent: Peter Adamson; Michaela Assiratti; Ben Owen-Jones; Rob Phillips; Nick Simmons; Glyn Smith.

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk); Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk); Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

Members of the public: Wayne Lewis

109. Apologies for absence

Peter Adamson; Michaela Assiratti; Ben Owen-Jones; Rob Phillips; Nick Simmons; Glyn Smith.

110. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None.

111. Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the 31 January 2024 minutes as a correct record.

112. Bank Reconciliation January 2024

The Chair of Finance presented the bank reconciliation for January 2024. The Officers answered a number of queries from Councillors, concerning what seemed like duplicate payments and a deposit payment for the stage for the Party in the Park, which is in the next Financial Year.

113. Co-option

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Wayne Lewis as a Councillor for Cwmtillery Ward.

114. Disposal of old office equipment

Deputy Clerk Molly Jones reported that Mr Allan Thomas had been in contact with us and that the furniture belonged to Council and not him. BGCBC are now going to remove the surplus furniture/office equipment free of charge. This is expected before 12 March when a fire inspection is due.

115. Telephone Kiosk, Cwmtillery

The Council had agreed a grant of £2,131.36 in October 2022 to renovate the phone kiosk that the Council have taken responsibility for. This grant was never paid. We now have updated costs from the Community Group who will look after the kiosk. Costs have increased to £3,169.62, so there is a shortfall of £1,038.26 to carry out the repainting work.

Council **RESOLVED** to defer any decision on this until the New Financial year.

116. Solar Farm Grant 2024

Initials

Date

The Clerk informed Council that the company providing the Solar Farm Grant had changed from Luxcara to Lightsource BP.

The Clerk had provided three options to take forward this year's grant of £70,000.

Council **RESOLVED** to discount option 2 "divide the grant into three pots of £35,000, £20,000 and £15,000".

Council **RESOLVED** that the entire grant to be part of a single process where the Council would consider individual applications as per previous years.

Council **RESOLVED** that the time line for this years Solar Farm Grant Process will be:

1: Applications will be open from March to the end of May

2: Council will consider any applications and requests for further information during June/July.

3: It is expected that Council will make decisions in September/October.

117. Standing Orders

The Chair stated that this item would not be heard as the requirements of Standing Order 27(b) requiring 6 Councillors to give written support for a motion to amend Standing orders had not been met.

118. Annual Report

The Clerk stated that there is a Statuary requirement for Council to produce a yearly annual report.

Deputy Clerk Molly Jones presented the Annual Report for 2022/2023. The Officers answered a number of queries concerning the budget numbers and the provision of new defibrillators.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Annual Report for publication.

119. King Charles Portrait

Council **RESOLVED** to obtain a Free Portrait of King Charles III.

120. Community Empowerment Committee Newsletter

Councillor Barrie Page, Chair of the Committee presented the First Council newsletter. It was agreed this was a good idea but we should ensure that anything stated in the Newsletter was factual. The Council thanked Molly Jones for her good work on this project.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the publication of the Committee Newsletter and to delagate the Committee the publication of future newsletters.

121. Press Policy

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the Press Policy.

122. Ward Grants

Council **RESOLVED** the following Ward Grants

- £200 for the Kings Arms to help with costs of monthly community café.(Michaela Assiratti)

- £200 for Abertillery Excelsiors Juniors FC to update equipment (Glyn Smith).
- £200 for Cwmtillery Angling Club to support the group (Mark Lewis)

123. Date of next meeting

20 March 2024. The Chair reminded Councillors that this was not the last Wednesday of the Month as per the usual monthly schedule.

The meeting ended at 7:57pm.

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

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.