

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 24 April 2024 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair); Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair); Peter Adamson; Michaela Assiratti; Steve Bard; Ralph Henderson (MBE); Chris Hill; Barrie Page; Glyn Smith; Bernard Wall.

Via Video Link: Mark Lewis

Absent: Wayne Lewis; Ben Owen-Jones; Rob Phillips; Nick Simmons; Graham White.

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

Members of the public: Lucy Harmer, Mike Whatley

1. Apologies for absence

Nick Simmons; Rob Phillips and Wayne Lewis

2. Declarations of interest or dispensations

Tracey Dyson – Abertillery Miners Institute (item 10)

Mark Lewis – Friends of Roseheyworth Park (item 7)

Steve Bard – Abertillery Male Orpheus Choir (item 13)

3. Minutes: 20 March 2024.

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the 20 March 2024 minutes as a correct and true record

4. March Bank Reconciliation

The Council noted the Bank Reconciliation for March and no issues were reported

5. Co-option

Council **RESOLVED** to the following co-options as per the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 5. (5)

- Bruno Goes as Councillor for Six Bells Ward
- Lucy Harmer as Councillor for Abertillery Ward

6. Annual Report

Molly Jones presented the draft Council annual report. This is a statutory requirement under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The Council **RESOLVED** publish the report with the following amendments.

- Page 7 – “Community Engagement” should be “Community Empowerment”
- The section on the Finance Committee should include “actively working with the Internal Auditor to improve procedures and governance”

Councillor Peter Adamson commented that future reports should have a section on Well-Being and some Welsh language content.

Initials

Date

7. Council Grants

The Chair warned Council that it had only £17,000 budgeted for Council grants this year, so if all the current applications were agreed then the vast majority of this year's budget will already be spent.

The Clerk informed council that a grant of £110 to the police for transport costs for school events days had already been made using his powers under the Financial Regulations.

The Council **RESOLVED** to pay the following grants

- £3,000 to Chillax Charity to fund breakfast and after school provision of 2 youth workers. – Local Govt Act 2000.2
Mark Lewis was put on mute and sound from Council Chamber was muted.
- £2000 to The Friends of BG and Roseheyworth Park to provide improvements to the park (Mural, park bench and picnic tables) – Local Govt Act 1972 s.144.
Mark Lewis re-joined the meeting
- £1,937 to Llanhilleth Miners Institute to restore integral clock – Parish Councils Act 1957 S.2

8. Court case

The Clerk provided a verbal update. The hearing will now take place on 11th June. Evidence bundles and Witness Statements will be swapped by Monday 29 April 2024

9. Notice Boards

Council **RESOLVED** that this project will move to the Community Empowerment Committee and that costs for a Notice Board for the Council offices will be brought back to a future Council meeting to agree.

10. Solar Farm Grant – Abertillery Miners Institute.

Councillor Tracey Dyson left the meeting, Councillor Josh Rawcliffe took over as Chair.

Council **RESOLVED** that to allow the Solar Farm Grant of £10,949.47 given to Abertillery Miners Institute in 2021 to replace Windows to be repurposed by the Institute to use towards architects and planning costs.

Councillor Tracey Dyson re-joined the meeting and took over as Chair.

11. Telephone Kiosk – Cwmtillery

The Clerk explained the background to this. There should have been a grant payment made in 2022 but this was missed by the officers. The new quote for the work is now put forward. The clerk did state that if the grant was not awarded the Council would still be responsible for the upkeep of the kiosk as the Council are the formal adoptees.

The Council **RESOLVED** to give a grant of £3,169.62 to the group and to include a new budget line, with zero budget allocated, in the accounts for Telephone Kiosks, which this spend will come under.

12. Payment to Off the Streets and BGCBC Detached Team

The Council **RESOLVED** to pay £60,000 to both Off the Streets and BGCBC detached teams as per the agreed amounts in the 2024/2025 budget

13. The Kings Award for Voluntary Service

Councillor Steve Bard left the meeting

Council **RESOLVED** to support putting forward Abertillery Orpheus Choir for this award and that the Clerk put forward the application

Councillor Steve Bard re-joined the meeting

14. Date of next meeting

22 May 2024. The Chair reminded everyone that this is the Annual meeting and will start at 7pm. The Clerk stated that an Extraordinary meeting will be called to sign of the Councils Annual Return when the end of year Internal Auditor report is received and has been reviewed by the Finance Committee

The meeting ended at 8:20 pm.

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

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.