

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 22 May 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; Bruno Góes Maciel (Late see meeting minutes); Lucy Harmer; Ralph Henderson (MBE); Chris Hill; Wayne Lewis; Barrie Page; Nick Simmons; Glyn Smith; Rob Phillips; Bernard Wall.

Via Video Link: Ben Owen-Jones; Mark Lewis.

Absent: Steve Bard; Graham White.

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

Members of the public: Mike Whatley.

15. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Steve Bard and Graham White.

16. Election of Chair for 2024-2025

A question was asked concerning how many successive years a Chair could hold the post. The Clerk replied that there was no legal limit, but general convention and good governance should be that a Chair has a maximum of two years in succession.

There were two nominations. Tracey Dyson and Josh Rawcliffe.

Josh Rawcliffe declined the nomination as he wanted to remain on the Finance Committee and see through the good work they had started.

Council **RESOLVED** that Tracey Dyson is elected Chair of Council for 2024/2025.

17. Chairs Address

Well what an amazing year we have had, so much has changed and it now feels that the council is moving in the right direction and I am sure that if we all work together for our community we can continue to make improvements in our residents' lives.

We have again had a lot of negativity on social media about our precept and the clerks wages and why we have taken on more staff, which we so desperately needed but it is just a minority of voices who mostly don't know what we do and that has to change, we must going forward shout about all the good work we are doing, show who we are supporting with grants and our valuable time. There have been so many successful projects implemented in the last year and these are being repeated again this year, we have some new projects on board and I hope these are as successful as the others.

We changed our suppliers for our Christmas lights and they were amazing and it is also nice to see more communities, like Cwmtillery and Aberbeeg take responsibility for their own lights, hopefully over the next few years they will have as wonderful displays as Llanhilleth, Brynithel and Swffryd achieve every year.

We have also just taken a new contractor to look after our In Bloom project and I personally hope that they are more successful than the last one. I would like to thank everyone for their support for me being chair and I hope I served the position well.

Initials

Date

I want to welcome all our new councillors to our team and hope that they work as hard for the community as we do, and have the patience to know that your ideas for change take time and don't give up hope because working together we can achieve anything. Let's have another successful year, and not fall out over the Solar farm grant this year.

18. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None

19. Appointment of Vice Chair

There were two nominations. Josh Rawcliffe and Mark Lewis.

Mark Lewis declined the nomination as he stated he had not had the required training.

Council **RESOLVED** that Josh Rawcliffe be appointed Vice Chair of Council for 2024-2025

20. Appointment of bank authorisers

Council **RESOLVED** to re-appoint the current four authorisers. Tracey Dyson, Barrie Page, Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons.

21. Committees

Council **RESOLVED** that the Council will have the following Committees.

Leisure and Tourism Committee, previously the People and Communities Committee

Planning, Commerce and Environment (PlaCE) Committee

Finance Committee

Human Resources Committee

Community Empowerment Committee

Joint Committee of Local Councils in Blaenau Gwent JCLC

And that each Committee could form its own sub-committees and /or working groups

22. Terms of Reference for Committees

Council **RESOLVED** that the current Terms of Reference remain apart from changing the name of the People and Communities Committee to the Leisure and Tourism Committee and a number of changes to the Terms of Reference of the Finance Committee, where the following changes were made.

1: Paragraph 1 – Amend “Members” to “Committee Members”

2: Paragraph 2 – delete “and the Chairs to which the Council has delegated powers to authorise expenditure”

3: Paragraph 2 – Amend “members” to “a member”

4: 4th paragraph from the end – Delete and replace with “The Finance Committee will call in Chairs or responsible project leads or RFO to agree actions to address potential significant variations in the budget.”

23. Appoint Members of the Committees

Council **RESOLVED** the following

- Leisure and Tourism Committee maximum size be increased to 9 members and Ralph Henderson and Lucy Harmer become members of that committee.
- PlaCE Committee maximum size be increased to 9 members and that Ralph Henderson becomes a member of the committee.
- Finance Committee maximum size to remain 7. Peter Adamson resigned from the Committee
- Human Resources Committee remains the same, no changes
- Community Empowerment Committee maximum size to remain 5. Peter Adamson moves from a non-voting to a voting member of the Committee.

(Bruno Goes arrived at 7:36pm)

- JCLC size remains at 4 plus the Clerk. Bernard Wall and Glyn Smith are replaced by Bruno Goes and Peter Adamson.

24. Chairs of Committees

Council **RESOLVED** that, with the exception of the Human Resources Committee (where the Chair of Council is automatically the Chair of the Committee), the Members of each Committee of the Council shall appoint the Chair of that Committee. If the current Chair of any Committee, excepting the HR Committee, remains on that Committee then they shall remain Chair until such time as they resign from the position, or Council or the Committee elect a new Chair.

25. External Bodies

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint the following members to external bodies

- Blaenau Gwent CBC Scrutiny Committee – Josh Rawcliffe
- Abertillery and District Twinning Association – Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons
- Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Peter Adamson and Barrie Page
- Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group – Josh Rawcliffe

26. Full Council Meeting 2024-2025

Council **RESOLVED** the following meeting dates for 2024-2025

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|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 26 June 2024 | 15 January 2025 – Budget setting |
| 31 July 2024 | 29 January 2025 |
| 25 September 2024 | 26 February 2025 |
| 30 October 2024 | 26 March 2025 |
| 27 November 2024 | 30 April 2025 |
| 18 December 2024 | 21 May 2025 – Annual Meeting |

27. Date of next meeting

Initials

Date

Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 7pm. The Clerk stated that there was likely to be an Extraordinary Council meeting before 26 June to sign off the Annual Return.

The meeting ended at 7:44 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

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