

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 22 May 2024 AT 8.00pm  
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair); Peter Adamson; Michaela Assiratti; Bruno Góes Maciel; 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; Tracey Dyson (Chair); Graham White.

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

**Members of the public:** Mike Whatley.

**23. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Tracey Dyson, Steve Bard and Graham White.

**24. Declarations of interest or dispensations**

None.

**25. Minutes: 24 April 2024.**

Cllr Mark Lewis requested that the following amendment be made:

- Item 11 – add ‘the work is to be completed within 12 months and a report given to Council confirming it has been done.’

Council **RESOLVED** that, with this amendment, the minutes are a true and correct record.

**26. April Bank Reconciliation**

Cllr Josh Rawcliffe presented the bank reconciliation for April and reported that there were no issues.

Cllr Mark Lewis queried two payments:

- The £15,943.78 payment to Blachere for Christmas Lighting Year 2. Cllr Mark Lewis asked whether a new tender had gone out for repairs to the faulty socket in Somerset Street. Cllr Josh Rawcliffe responded that a local electrician had been contacted for this since the infrastructure is outside of the main contract with Blachere Illuminations.
- The £533.91 payment to Royal Mail, for the delivery of Car Scheme leaflets (PlaCE Committee). Cllr Mark Lewis queried whether the deliveries have actually been made where they should have. Deputy Clerk Molly Jones explained that a complaint had been made to Royal Mail regarding missing deliveries, but they had replied stating that the missed addresses were on walk boundaries and so they cannot guarantee delivery in these areas. If other flyer drops are done in the future, other options will be considered for the deliver company.

**27. Co-option**

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mike Whatley as a Councillor for Llanhilleth Ward, as per the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 5. (5)

Initials

Date

## **28. Council grant applications**

Mike Whatley left the Chambers.

Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £700 to Adam Street Allotments for paint to rejuvenate the allotments and new gardening tools. (Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908, s.26).

Council **RESOLVED** to defer the grant request of £300 for Six Bells Over 50s Club for discussion at a Six Bells Ward grant meeting.

Mike Whatley returned to the Chambers.

## **29. Unity Trust Bank multipay card**

The Clerk reported that Council has not had a debit card since moving to Unity Trust Bank in November 2023. This has resulted in a small number of payments being made by officers with their own debit cards, which have then been reimbursed by Council. This has been due to several places only accepting debit cards or PayPal as payment options. This is against Council's Financial Regulations.

The officers provided costs for a Unity Trust multipay card, which functions as a debit card and would have a £1,000 transaction limit. Payments made via the card would still be subject to authorisation.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the application for a multipay card with Unity Trust Bank.

## **30. Unity Trust Bank reserve account**

The Clerk reported that, as per the Council's Investment Policy, Council should not hold all of its funds with one bank. The Internal Auditor recommended moving the Council's general reserves to the Public Sector Fund. This would provide a higher amount of interest and would diversify the Council's funds.

Council **RESOLVED** to transfer the general reserves from Unity Trust Bank into the Public Sector Fund.

## **31. Notice Boards**

Deputy Clerk Erika Davies provided an overview of noticeboard options for outside the Council Offices. Cllr Barrie Page queried if there would be a requirement for planning permission. Deputy Clerk Erika Davies replied that this would be investigated.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the following conditions for the noticeboard:

- for the noticeboard header to say 'Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council' rather than the abbreviated 'ALCC'.
- to purchase a 9xA4 sized noticeboard.
- to authorise officers to spend up to £750 on a noticeboard for outside the Council Offices.

## **32. War Memorial**

The Clerk reported that the tender process to repair the railings around the War Memorial had received no responses. The People and Communities Committee (now the Leisure and

Tourism Committee) recommended that Full Council give authority to the officers to spend up to the allocated budget of £10,000 to repair the railings.

Council **RESOLVED** to authorise officers to spend up to £10,000 to repair the railings around the War Memorial.

**33. BG Headteacher letter**

Cllr Josh Rawcliffe presented a letter from local headteachers to the local authority and the Senedd, regarding underfunding for education. This letter was sent to Council with a request for support. Cllr Josh Rawcliffe proposed that Council approve the writing of a letter from the Council to the local authority and the Senedd in support of the local schools.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve writing a letter to the local authority and the Senedd in support of the local schools.

Council **RESOLVED** for Cllr Ralph Henderson (MBE) to assist in writing the letter, due to his experience as a headteacher.

**34. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8:46 pm.

*Minutes produced by Molly Jones, Deputy Clerk.*

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