

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND
LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 12 June 2024 AT 7.02pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair); Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair); Peter Adamson; Steve Bard; Lucy Harmer; Chris Hill; Wayne Lewis; Barrie Page; Nick Simmons; Glyn Smith; Rob Phillips; Bernard Wall; Graham White.

Via Video Link: Bruno Góes Maciel; Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk);

Absent: Michaela Assiratti; Ralph Henderson (MBE); Mark Lewis; Ben Owen-Jones; Mike Whatley

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk).

28. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Michaela Assiratti; Ralph Henderson (MBE); Mark Lewis; Ben Owen-Jones;

29. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None

30. Internal Audit 2023/2024

Steve Bard presented the Internal Audit Report as recommended by the Finance Committee. He was pleased with the progress that Council had made over the past year and he thanked the members of the Finance Committee and the Officers for the work that they had put in.

Graham White disagreed with the overall assessment and said there was a lot of things that need picking up on, but he did not specify anything, he also made a claim that there were different Internal Auditor signatures on various reports but did not produce any documentary evidence to substantiate this.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Interim and Final Auditor reports.

31. Annual Return 2023/2024.

Steve Bard presented the Annual Return, which had been through scrutiny by the Finance Committee.

Graham White queried the increase in the staffing budget during the year which led to an overspend of £19,000 on the staff costs budget. Steve Bard replied that at the time of the staffing increase the HR Committee had unlimited powers concerning all staffing matters which included recruitment. Subsequently the Finance Committee had identified this as a major Financial Risk, which has now been mitigated by amending the HR Committee's Terms of Reference so any annual increase of staffing budget over 10% now has to be agreed by Full Council.

Graham White asked the Clerk to send him a copy of the Terms of Reference of the HR Committee that were in force at the time when the increase in staff hours was agreed.

Initials

Date

Peter Adamson queried some of the dates in the RFO's report, the Annual Governance Statement section. The first paragraph of that section should be amended from "2022-2023" to 2023-24. The "2022-23" in part 4 is correct.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Return for 2023/24.

The Clerk stated that this would now allow Council for the first time in many years to have the account done by the required 30th June date.

The meeting ended at 7:15 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

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