

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 25 September 2024 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Peter Adamson (left during item 58, see minutes), Steve Bard, Bruno Góes Maciel, Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis (via video-link), Barrie Page, Nick Simmons; Mike Whatley.

Apologies: Wayne Lewis, Ben Owen-Jones, Rob Phillips, Josh Rawcliffe.

Absent: Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall, Graham White.

Officers: Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk), Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

Others: Kristian Gay & Rachel Lawrence (Blaenau Gwent Youth Service), Alana Insley (Off The Streets).

52. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Wayne Lewis, Ben Owen-Jones, Rob Phillips and Josh Rawcliffe.

53. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

54. Minutes – 31 July 2024

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record of the meeting.

55. Youth Work Presentations

Blaenau Gwent Youth Service

Kristian Gay (Anti-Social Behaviour and Open Access Manager) and Rachel Lawrence (Abertillery Detached Team Manager) gave an overview of the Blaenau Gwent Youth Service and their work in Abertillery. The detached team links with the whole of the Youth Service and engages with young people in public areas, including using a van equipped to play video games and prepare food and drinks. They worked hard over the Summer with an extensive Summer programme of activities.

They are also working as part of a taskforce with Gwent Police, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Tai Calon and Safer Streets to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the area. They also link with Cardiff Kicks and Dragons Rugby to help reduce ASB. The number of ASB injunctions reduced from to 1,347 to 1,059 between January 2024 and September 2024.

Councillor Questions

Cllr Nick Simmons: Abertillery has the highest concentration of CCTV in Blaenau Gwent, is this of any use to the Youth Service?

Kristian Gay: The Youth Service focuses more on prevention of crime through engagement with young people, so CCTV is used more by Gwent Police.

Cllr Bruno Góes Maciel: What role does drug use have in the rates of anti-social behaviour in Abertillery?

Rachel Lawrence: Drug use does pose an issue in the area, as vulnerable people are often targeted. The youth service works with young people that are drug users and they host workshops about drug and alcohol abuse to educate young people.

The Council thanked Kristian and Rachel for their time.

Kristian Gay and Rachel Lawrence left the meeting at 7:22pm.

Off The Streets

Alana Insley (Manager) outlined the current Off The Streets programme, which serves young people aged 6-16 in Llanhilleth, Brynithel and Swffryd. They run a detached and outreach programme and have ran approximately 425 sessions with 6697 young people engagements since last September. The biggest issues in these areas are keeping young people engaged to combat isolation and improve wellbeing.

Councillor Questions

Cllr Chris Hill: How much are school spaces utilised by Off The Streets outside of school opening hours?

Alana Insley: Off The Streets has a strong working relationship with Soffryd Primary School and pay to use the building frequently for their sessions. St. Illtyd's Primary School in Llanhilleth has not responded to requests to partner with Off The Streets, but they do use the AstroTurf in Llanhilleth.

Cllrs Steve Bard and Ralph Henderson MBE commended Off The Streets for their valuable work. The Council thanked Alana for her time.

Alana Insley left the meeting at 7:34pm.

56. Bank Reconciliations

Council reviewed and accepted the bank reconciliations and payments from June, July and August 2024.

57. Council Grant Applications

Council **RESOLVED** to award a £1,000 grant to Abertillery Bluebirds Football Club to create a sporting facility for the youth football teams. (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19).

Council **RESOLVED** to award a £300 grant to Abertillery Amateur Dramatics & Musical Society to help put on a new musical production called Shout! (Local Government Act 1972 s.145).

58. Hospice of the Valleys Concert

Council **RESOLVED** to spend £500 to sponsor a festive concert at The Met to raise funds for Hospice of the Valleys, on the condition that the offer of 4 free tickets be refused. (Local Government Act 1972 s.145).

Cllr Peter Adamson left the meeting at 7:46pm.

59. Wellbeing Report 2023-24

Council **RESOLVED** to approve and publish the 2023-24 Wellbeing Report, with the correction of any spelling errors. (Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015).

60. Biodiversity Report 2023-24

Council **RESOLVED** to approve and publish the 2023-24 Biodiversity Report. (Environment (Wales) Act 2016).

61. Terms of Reference – Community Empowerment

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the amended terms of reference for the Community Empowerment Committee.

62. Dispensation Policy

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Dispensation Policy.

63. Public Questions Policy

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Public Questions Policy.

64. Ward Grant Forms

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the amended Ward Grants criteria and application form.

65. Risk Register

Cllr Steve Bard (Chair of the Finance Committee) noted that there were significant changes to the risk register and this is what the Council would operate under. He outlined some of the major changes:

- Addition of the Viaduct Run.
- Addition of risk assessments for concerts held in St. Michael's Church.
- Change from high risk to low risk for staffing decisions, which was previously delegated entirely to the HR Committee.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the updated Risk Register.

66. Earmarked Reserves

Cllr Nick Simmons explained that £10,000 had been budgeted for work on the damaged mosaic subway mural in Abertillery, but that this work had not yet started. The PlaCE Committee suggested that this be moved to earmarked reserves to be used at a later date.

Council **RESOLVED** to move £10,000 from the unspent 'Environmental Projects' budget line (from the 2024-25 PlaCE budget) into earmarked reserves.

67. Wellbeing Representatives

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Lucy Harmer and Bruno Góes Maciel as Wellbeing Representatives to assist the Wellbeing Integrated Network with rolling out their services in the ALCC area.

68. Abertillery Aspiration Support

Cllr Tracey Dyson explained that the Abertillery Aspiration Group has completed a number of projects which have helped improve the area. She requested that Council

agree to officially support the group, which would also allow them to advertise the fact that their work is supported by the Council.

Council **RESOLVED** to formally support the Abertillery Aspiration Group and to send a letter of support to the group.

69. Motion from Cllr Bruno Góes Maciel

Motion withdrawn.

70. Date of next meeting

Friday 4th October at 6pm (extraordinary meeting).

The meeting ended at 8:04 pm

Minutes produced by Molly Jones, Deputy Clerk.

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

Date.....