

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 15 January 2025 AT 7:00 pm in  
the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Tracey Dyson (Chair), Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair), Peter Adamson, Frankie Baker, Steve Bard, Ivor Beynon, Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis, Bruno Góes Maciel, Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, Bernard Wall, Mike Whatley.

**Youth Representatives:** (Jackson Powell and Sophie Townsend – Absent)

**Absent:** Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith, Graham White (See Dispensation below)

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

**Others:**

**112. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Nick Simmons and Glyn Smith (Phone message found after the meeting)

**113. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** No interests were declared.

Cllr Graham White has a meeting dispensation until March 2025

**114. Budget 2025/2026**

The Chair laid down some ground rules and overall comments for the meeting.

- There would be no new budget lines added as all the budget lines had been through Committee and Finance stages.
- The budget should be the only thing discussed during the agenda item.
- The budget is the one recommended by the Finance Committee
- The notes for the Loneliness project should be ignored.

The Chair of the Finance Committee, Steve Bard, began by thanking everyone who had been involved in the budget setting process. All the costs and delivery plans had been ratified by the Finance Committee. Going forward we will be looking at a lot more clarity of what we spend and instead of giving block grants to groups we will ask them to invoice us directly so that we can see exactly what we are spending our funds on.

Mike Whatley asked about a response to emails and Facebook comments from members of the public.. The Clerk stated that it was Council policy that we did not comment on Facebook posts but if Councillors received emails they could forward to us to respond to constituents. Peter Adamson stated he had replied to Mr Thomas already.

Chris Hill asked if TAFY were doing the landscape maintenance at the War Memorial. Erika Davies replied that Green Fingers had the War Memorial Contract for the past 3 years and this contract was now being re-tendered.

There were four amendments to consider to the budget.

- i) Motion from Barrie Page: That the Council employ a Youth Liaison officer at a cost of £34,000 per year which would mean a reduction of the “Off the Streets” budget of £10,000 so a net increase of £24,000 to the budget. **Motion Defeated.**
- ii) Motion from Mark Lewis: That the Council re-join One Voice Wales at a first-year cost of £1,604 (subsequent years would cost £3,208). **Motion Defeated.**
- iii) Motion from Peter Adamson: That the Council reduce each Christmas Lighting grant to Community groups by £500 per group. **Motion withdrawn.**
- iv) Motion from Peter Adamson: To reduce the amount for the Six Bells Park Centenary Park Celebrations from £10,000 to £5,000. **Motion Defeated.** The leisure and Tourism committee will be responsible for planning and managing of the event.

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the overall budget of £464,023 for 2025/2026

#### 115. Precept 2025/2026

The Chair of the Finance Committee, Steve Bard, reported that the Committee were recommending that the precept should be set at £30,000 below the overall budget. This would be funded by some underspend from current budget and the VAT reclaim for 2024/2025. It would be tight and will need to be monitored throughout the year.

It is likely that in future years the precept will be more closely aligned to the agreed budgets.

The Clerk pointed out that the papers for the meeting gave a breakdown on what this would mean for individual households in the Community Council area.

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree a precept of £434,023 for 2025/2026

#### 116. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 7pm.

*The meeting ended at 7:41 pm.*

*Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.*

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

Date.....