

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 29 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, Bruno Góes Maciel, Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis (via video-link), Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith, Mike Whatley.

**Youth Representatives:** Jackson Powell and Sophie Townsend (via video-link).

**Apologies:** None.

**Absent:** Bernard Wall.

**Officers:** Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

**117. Apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

**118. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

No interests were declared.

Cllr Graham White has a meeting dispensation until March 2025.

**119. Minutes – 18 December 2024 & 15 January 2025**

*18 December 2024:*

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for 18 December 2024 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

*15 January 2025:*

Council **RESOLVED** to make the following amendments:

- Remove 'via video-link' after Cllr Josh Rawcliffe's name in the attendance section.
- Insert the word 'to' into the tenth line of section 114, to read 'we will ask them to invoice us directly'.

Council **RESOLVED** that, with these amendments, the minutes for 15 January 2025 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

**120. Bank Reconciliation**

Cllr Peter Adamson queried what the £1,500 payment to Pentref Tyleri was for. The Deputy Clerk explained that this was their annual Christmas lights grant.

Council noted and accepted the bank reconciliations for December 2024.

**121. Council Grant Application**

Initial:

Date:

The Deputy Clerk explained that no specific powers are available to award grants to individuals, but section 137 could be used if Council felt the grant benefited enough inhabitants of the area.

Council **RESOLVED** to award a £595 Council Grant to Reuben Gingell towards travel and accommodation for the 2025 Snooker Championship in Turkey. (The Local Government Act 1972, Section 137).

#### **122. Finance Committee Vacancy**

The Chair explained that a member had recently resigned from the Finance Committee, and asked whether anyone would like to become a member.

Cllr Frankie Baker requested further information about the committee, and agreed to attend its next meeting before deciding whether to join.

#### **123. Councillor Responsibilities**

The Chair reminded Councillors of their responsibilities to read and respond to emails regularly, and to attend meetings or give apologies if unable to attend.

#### **124. Parking Issues**

Youth Representative Jackson Powell presented a motion to discuss parking issues in the Council area. He explained that he felt there is a lack of pedestrian safety due to cars parking on pavements, causing pedestrians to have to walk on roads.

The Chair reminded Council that parking issues have been discussed on prior occasions, and encouraged Councillors to consider solutions rather than stating where the problems are.

Council discussed the issue, and a few points were raised:

- A railway station in Abertillery would decrease reliance on cars.
- One-way roads could make car travel easier and safer, and would encourage more bus services to run in the area.
- Increased traffic warden provisions could discourage obtrusive parking.
- Pedestrianising some areas, such as around schools, could make travel safer for pedestrians.
- People should be educated on road safety, public transport and considering pedestrians.
- Car parks should be open for public use or open longer.
- Residential parking permits or taxes on company vehicles could help.
- More consistent and reliable buses, like flexi-buses, would encourage more people to use them.
- People should keep reporting issues to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council or Gwent Police to encourage action.
- Focusing efforts around local schools could be a good starting point, as they are the largest safety concern.

Youth Representative Jackson Powell agreed to take this issue to Senedd ALC, the school parliament at Abertillery Learning Community.

Council **RESOLVED** for the PlaCE Committee to investigate these suggestions and discuss parking issues further.

**125. IWN Community Wellbeing Hub Network**

Motion deferred until February.

**126. Power Cuts**

Cllr Mike Whatley presented a motion for Council to publish advice from the National Grid informing residents of how to prepare for blackouts. He explained that gas reserves in the UK had been reported as half-full, which, when combined with higher demand on the grid during Winter, increases the potential for blackouts.

Council **RESOLVED** for the PlaCE Committee to investigate how Council can inform residents about the potential of blackouts and how to prepare.

**127. Date of next meeting.**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm.

*The meeting ended at 7:52 pm.*

*Minutes produced by Molly Jones, Deputy Clerk.*

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

Date.....