

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 26 February 2025 at 7:00 pm in
the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair), 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, Bernard Wall, Graham White (via video-link; arrived late, see minutes).

Youth Representatives: Sophie Townsend (via video-link).

Apologies: Tracey Dyson, Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith, Mike Whatley, Jackson Powell (Youth Representative).

Absent: Peter Adamson

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk), Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk; via video-link).

128. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Tracey Dyson (Chair), Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith, Mike Whatley and Jackson Powell (Youth Representative).

129. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Ivor Beynon declared an interest in relation to agenda item 5, as a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Cllr Bruno Góes Maciel declared an interest in relation to agenda item 5, as he has a relative employed at Penybont Care Home.

The Clerk explained that the dispensation for Cllr Graham White would end on February 27th 2025, so Council must consider whether to extend the dispensation.

Cllr Graham White joined the meeting at 7:06pm, meaning the dispensation would no longer be required.

130. Minutes – 29 January 2025

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for 29 January 2025 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

131. Bank Reconciliation

Cllr Graham White queried why details were not provided about what payments are for, such as the £1,000 payment to the pension fund and £155.88 to Steve Edwards.

The Clerk explained that a list of payments providing more details is always provided with the bank reconciliation. He clarified that the pension payment is a new statutory obligation for the Council to pay, and the payment to Steve Edwards was an annual direct debit for Zoom which was not cancelled when Council acquired a multipay card. This has since been changed and will be paid direct via the multipay card next year.

Council noted and accepted the bank reconciliations for January 2025.

132. Council Grant Applications

Council considered five Council Grant requests:

1. Council **RESOLVED** to defer the grant request of £1,000 for Valleys Gymnastics Academy and to invite the applicants to a Full Council meeting to discuss the application in more detail, specifically in regards to staffing costs.
2. Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £380 to Six Bells Bowls Club for a new security gate to provide disability access (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19).
3. Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £460 to Friends of Pen-y-Bont Nursing Home to provide various activities for the residents of Pen-y-Bont, their families, and the community. (Local Government Act 1972 s.145).
4. Council **RESOLVED** to defer the grant request of £1,000 for Ebenezer Baptist Church until the next financial year, and to request quotations for the seating.
5. Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £1,100 to Ebenezer Baptist Church towards the costs of food, refreshments and selection boxes during various events. (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19).

133. Finance Committee Vacancy

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Cllr Frankie Baker to the Finance Committee.

134. VE Day

The Clerk informed Council that the 80th Anniversary of VE Day is on Thursday 8th May 2025.

Council **RESOLVED** for the officers to liaise with the Royal British Legion and other local organisations that may have plans for this event to establish how it is being commemorated in the area, and to bring this information to the next meeting.

135. Motion from Councillor Ivor Beynon

Cllr Ivor Beynon proposed a motion to accept an offer from Andrew Boulton to manage an empty shop window in Abertillery to display artwork by local schoolchildren.

Council agreed that this would be a positive change in Abertillery town centre, but felt that children throughout the Council area should have the opportunity to have their artwork displayed, rather than limiting it to the Abertillery Learning Community.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the offer from Andrew Boulton to manage an empty shop window in Abertillery to display artwork by local schoolchildren, but to delegate this to the Leisure and Tourism Committee to work out the logistics of this project.

136. EGIN

Cllr Ralph Henderson provided an update on the EGIN application that Council agreed to make on behalf of Abertillery Aspirations in October 2024.

The Clerk and Cllr Henderson had recently met with Louisa Addiscott from EGIN to discuss the application. The river beside St. Michael's Church will be investigated as a potential energy source.

137. Wales in Bloom

Cllr Ralph Henderson provided an update about the Wales in Bloom project. Several working group meetings have been held and there is involvement from a wide variety of organisations, including Blaenau Gwent CBC and our Town in Bloom contractors, TAFY.

He also informed Council that any help for the project would be greatly appreciated, and anyone interested in taking part should contact himself or the officers.

138. Review of Free CPR Training

The Clerk explained that the PlaCE Committee recently accepted an offer from a local business, SLIC Training, for a free CPR/AED training session. This was hosted in the Council Chambers and a number of Councillors attended.

Council agreed that the session was informative and enjoyable. They felt it was valuable and appreciated being given the opportunity.

139. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8:34 pm.

Minutes produced by Molly Jones, Deputy Clerk.

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

Date.....