

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 29 October 2025 AT 7.00 pm in the
Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Chair), Lucy Harmer (Vice Chair), Peter Adamson, Frankie Baker, Steve Bard, Ivor Beynon, Richard Catlin, Ralph Henderson MBE, Mark Lewis (via video-link), Bruno Góes Maciel (via video-link), Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, and Nick Simmons

Youth Representatives: Jackson Powell

Absent: Tracey Dyson. Chris Hill, Mike Whatley, Bernard Wall, Graham White, and **Youth Rep:** Sophie Townsend.

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk) and Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk)

Others: Neil Hurst (TAFY) and, Andrew Sheehy (Green Fingers) for item 97. Katherine Day and Ros Williams (Blaenau Gwent Community Wellbeing Hub Network) for item 99.

92. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Tracey Dyson, Chris Hill, Bernard Wall, Mike Whatley and Graham White.

93. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr. Josh Rawcliffe declared a non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 – Council Grant request for Abertillery Learning Community.

Cllr. Lucy Harmer declared a non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 – Council Grant request for Abertillery Learning Community.

Cllr. Bruno Góes Maciel declared a non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 – Council Grant request for Abertillery Learning Community.

Cllr. Barrie Page declared an interest in agenda item 14 – Christmas Lanterns.

94. Minutes 24 September 2025

Council **RESOLVED** to amend the draft minutes, point 81. Replace “Blaenau Gwent” with “Abertillery”.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the amended minutes as a true and correct record

The Chair agreed to move item 7 up the agenda as the tender companies had not yet arrived

95. Council Grant Application

The grant application from Abertillery Learning Committee was discussed, there was some concern that this could be seen as funding education which is the responsibility of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £1,460 to Abertillery Learning Centre (Local Government Act 1972 s.137) but we will pay the invoice direct so it does not go through any school budget.

96. Resolution to exclude the press and public

The Council **RESOLVED** that, by virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

97. Mural Tenders.

The Council heard representations from the two tender companies. Both had their merits. Council **RESOLVED** to offer the contract to TAFY as they felt the provision of an inspection report and the written confirmation that TAFY could use and store the specific cleaning chemicals outweighed the provision of more frequent inspections by Green Fingers.

There was a brief adjournment of the meeting during the first presentation as the microphone system had failed and had to be fixed

98. Resolution to readmit the press and public

Council **RESOLVED** to readmit the press and public.

99. Presentation from Wellbeing Community Wellbeing Hub.

The main points from the presentation were.

- This is a networking service for Community Hubs supporting through Facebook page and registration on an interactive map
- They are looking at places and buildings that have a high footfall
- It is used to signpost services that may be useful for Community Groups
- Working in partnerships with Community Groups
- Already received a list of potential Community Group partners from the Deputy Clerk but encourage Councillors to promote this hub within Community Groups that could benefit.
- There is a pop-up event on 19th November, 6:00pm to 8:30pm at Llanhilleth Institute to coincide with International Men's Day, with 20 stalls attending.
- There are currently two Well Being Coaches and the network is looking for a further 2

It was noted by Council that Ebenezer Church and Café Tyleri were already part of the network and St Micheals Church could benefit by joining.

100. Bank reconciliation (July and September)

There was a question concerning the money paid to Cwtch Media, it was explained that they provide a number of services for the Viaduct Run. There was a question concerning the interest paid on the investment account, it was explained that this interest went into General Reserves to help bring them up to the minimum 25% of budget that was recommended in audit guidance

Council **RESOLVED** to note the bank reconciliations for July and September

101. PlaCE Committee

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Richard Catlin as a member of the PlaCE Committee.

102. Grants Policy.

Cllr. Steve Bard presented the new Grants Policy.

It was asked if the Officers could monitor the grant spend across the different ward, but the Clerk responded that Councillors had a duty to monitor themselves and it would be difficult to attribute the benefits to individual wards for grants that have been awarded.

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the new grants policy and all the recommendations within.

103. Risk Register

Cllr. Steve Bard presented the Risk Register. He explained that this was different to the Financial Risk Register but there is some crossover of risks. Both are reviewed annually by the Finance and Governance Committee.

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree new Risk Register.

104. Solar Farm Underspend

The Council **RESOLVED** that the £3,541.25 underspend from the Roseheyworth Park project should be repaid back to Council. The Officers will bring back to the next Council meeting a number of options to deal with the money.

105. Christmas Lanterns

Cllr. Barrie Page left the meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase 50 Christmas Lanterns for Llanhilleth and Tenants Residents Association (Local Government Act 1972 s145)

Cllr. Barrie Page returned to the meeting.

106. Street Cleaning

Cllr. Steve Bard raised an issue that has been concern the shop traders for some time about the cleanliness of the shopping area and the town is getting dirtier and dirtier. The Council **RESOLVED** that the Officers should write to Blaenau Gwent County Borough council expressing the concerns and seeking clarification of the cleaning schedules. A draft letter to go to Cllr. Steve Bard to agree.

107. Youth Representatives

The Council **RESOLVED** to have two Youth Representatives for 2025/2026 and for Officers to begin the selection process.

108. Wreath Laying

The Council agreed the following representatives to lay wreaths on behalf of Council at the these locations.

- Abertillery – Josh Rawcliffe as Chair of Council
- Llanhilleth – Barrie Page
- Swffyrdd - Bruno Góes Maciel
- Aberbeeg – Josh Rawcliffe
- Bournville – Lucy Harmer
- Blaenau Gwent – Mark Lewis

109. Updated and new policies to be adopted.

The Council **RESOLVED** to the following

- To accept the draft Complaints Policy with the single amendment. Final paragraph to change “or the committee” to “of the committee”.
- To accept the draft Vexatious Complaints with the single amendment. Bottom of page two to change “Publishing” to “Publish”
- To accept the Health and Safety Policy but amend so that it clear it is for staff. We will need a H&S Policy for members and public at some point.

110. Committee Minutes

The Council noted the Finance and Governance Committee minutes from 5 September 2025 and the PlaCE Committee minutes from 8 September 2025

111. Date of Next Meeting

Full Council 26 November 2025 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8:55 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

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

Date.....