

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
(ALCC) HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2020 at 7.00pm  
in the Council Chamber, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

**PRESENT: Councillors:**

Gill Clark (Chair), Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti, Roger Clark, Tracey Dyson, Julie Holt, Mark Lewis, Beverley Lucas, Perry Morgan, Rob Phillips, Tracy Postlethwaite, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall and Graham White.

**Officers:** Steve Edwards, Deputy Clerk

**Others:** None

**ABSENT:** Councillors Vanessa Bartlett, Keri Bidgood, Gary Oakley

**198. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Vanessa Bartlett, Keri Bidgood and Gary Oakley.

Welcomes were extended to everyone present.

**199. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair reminded members of the need to declare interests verbally and fill in a form.

No members declared any personal interests.

**200. MINUTES: COUNCIL – (a) 22 JANUARY 2020 and (b) 29 JANUARY 2020.**

The Chair reminded the everyone that the meeting was just checking on the accuracy of the minutes.

**Council RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Council meetings held on (a) 22 January 2020 and (b) 29 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record, for signature by the Chair.

It was stated by a Councillor Allen Rees that the copy of the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 meeting on the website were the incorrect unamended minutes. The Deputy Clerk said that he would check and ensure the correct minutes for the 11<sup>th</sup> December Meeting were on the website.

**201. MINUTES: FINANCE AND GRANTS COMMITTEE – 13 JANUARY 2020**

The members of the Committee who were present confirmed that the minutes were correct

**Council RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Finance and Grants Committee meeting held on 13 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

## 202 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no public questions for this meeting.

## 203. FINANCE ORDER

The Deputy Clerk presented the Finance Order. Councillor Graham White noted that there was a typographical error in Table 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> line from the bottom. "Riger Clark" should read Roger Clark.

### **Council RESOLVED:**

- (1) to note the payments listed in Tables 1 and 2 of the finance order
- (2) to authorise the payments listed in Table 3 of the finance order
- (3) to note the financial position on the current and reserve accounts

## 204. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TRACEY DYSON

*"That Council agrees to go ahead with Party in the Park 2020 on a date and venue to be decided by the Council's officers in consultation with the Leisure and Tourism Working Group and delegate authority to the Council's officers to make bookings and commit spend up to the £13,000 agreed as part of the 2020/21 budget."*

There was a discussion on the amount of officer's time that events may take up and some concern that the £20,000 that had been allocated in the 2019/20 budget for additional staff hadn't been spent and had been put into reserves.

**Council RESOLVED:** to agree the motion.

## 205. PROGRESS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WORKING GROUPS

**Christmas Lights Working Group (CLWG):** None

**Leisure and Tourism:** No further update

**Shop Local:** The group were looking at putting on a Craft Faye in Jubilee Square at the end of March, it was also starting to plan a VE day event for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May and full costs would be brought back to the next Council Meeting. The Business Forum were in contact with the Highways Department concerning the short-term parking in Abertillery Town centre and the illegal parking on pavements in Market street which was blocking pedestrian access.

**Solar Farm:** A general report back on the money from the 2018 grant that was being spent on the Cwmtillery project. The Deputy Clerk reminded the meeting that organisations had until 31<sup>st</sup> March to complete their spending and the council would have to write a report back to Luxcara (the company that pays the Solar Farm Grant money) after that date. Councillor Allen Rees gave a brief update on the work going on at Cwmtillery Lakes and all is going well.

**Well-Being:** Report from Chair of Well Being, Councillor Nick Simmons that the initial good work that had taken place concerning Well Being had got very favourable comments from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council last year. but other Councils were catching us up and we were now in danger of being left behind where we were once at the lead of Well-Being among the Town and Community Councils.

Councillor Rob Phillips raised the issue of weights for gazebos after the incidents at last years party in the park had highlighted the health and safety aspects of using gazebos in an area susceptible to wind gusts.

**Youth Engagement Group:** No further update

**Council RESOLVED** at this point:

(1) to purchase 40 weights to be used for gazebos for public events, with maximum cost of £1,000.

## **206. COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Councillor Julie Holt reminded the meeting that everything we now do is subject to Well Being and should be subject to a cross mapping exercise. The Well-being Group would still like a headline project to call its own but did not want to run 6 individual projects.

**Council RESOLVED:**

- (1) To move Town in Bloom from the Leisure and Tourism working group to the Well Being working group
- (2) To move Fun Run, Toilets and Car Parking from the Leisure and Tourism working group to the Shop Local working group.

Councillor Rob Phillips left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Peter Adamson voiced concerns that (1) the chairs of the working groups were not changing and (2) there was a need for a planning group which consisted of all members. His comments were noted but no further action taken at this time.

## **207. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIPS**

The Deputy Clerk stated that the following resignations had taken place since the last Council Meeting.

**Youth Engagement Group:** Councillor Julie Holt

**Shop Local Working Group:** Councillor Michaela Assiratti and Councillor Tracy Postlethwaite

**Well Being Working Group:** Councillor Tracey Dyson

No action was taken in replacing them and this would be dealt with at the Annual Meeting in May.

## **208. ELECTRONIC BANKING: CHANGES TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Council considered the written report of the Deputy Clerk.

**Council RESOLVED** to amend the Financial Regulations in line with the Deputy Clerks report so that the first sentence in Section 6.15 would now read “Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the Clerk/RFO and Deputy Clerk shall be appointed as the Dual Service Administrators”.

## **209. FINANCIAL RISKS 2020/21**

The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update. The Precept for 2020/21 would be paid in quarterly amounts from BGCBC. He was also finding it difficult to find another savings account that caters for not for profit organisations that did not already have a current account with the bank, to move our reserves to. He will continue his endeavours.

## **210. REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) PREFERRED STRATEGY**

As per the resolution from the Council Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Councillor Nick Simmons brought further details back to the Council and there was a general discussion

Councillor Glyn Smith left the meeting during the discussion

**Council RESOLVED:** to get the Deputy Clerk to send a letter to Blaenau Gwent Council expressing the Councils disappointment about the proposals contained in the LDP as regards positive economic and other future developments in the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area. The letter to be sent before the cut-off date for the end of the consultation period, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Councillor Peter Adamson would draft the letter based on his comments at the meeting. **Note: Councillor Julie Holt abstained from the voting.**

## **211. WALES AUDIT OFFICE (WAO): CONSULTATION ON FUTURE AUDIT ARRANGMENTS**

The Deputy Clerk reported on the plans for external audit arrangements being done by WAO, who want to instigate a three-year cycle. This would mean that every three years the Council would be subject to a deeper audit than usual which would involve greater costs and more staff time. He would keep council informed. Council noted the update.

## **212. TEAM BUILDING**

This was raised by Councillor Tracy Postlethwaite as she felt that the Council was divided and that this would be a good thing to bring people together. There was a discussion on the merits of a team building exercise and current state of the Council. The Deputy clerk was asked to bring back suggestions and costs later.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 as there was some concern on the whereabouts of Councillor Glynn Smith.

The meeting reconvened at 8:50, the Deputy Clerk had confirmed that Councillor Glyn Smith had returned home safely.

**213. ONE VOICE WALES (OVW). To consider renewing Council's membership.**

There was a view that the Membership of One Voice Wales was expensive, and some Councillors were not impressed by them. Councillor Graham White expressed concern that confidential Council Business about the Christmas Lights had been discussed at an OVW meeting, that OVW didn't represent Councillors and that Councillors didn't have a log in to the OVW website.

In a answer the Deputy Clerk stated that OVW was there to represent the Council, not individual Councillors, and that login details had been emailed to all Councillors.

**Council RESOLVED:** to renew the annual membership to One Voice Wales.

**214. REPORTS BACK ON RELEVANT TRAINING OR OTHER MEETINGS:**

It was mentioned about the Defence Discount Card which is like the emergency services Blue Light Card and it gives discounts in a number of shops for ex-service personnel. It costs £3 per year and further information can be got from Alyson Tippings at Blaeanu Gwent County Borough Council.

Councillor Perry Morgan had attended meetings concerning the loose sheep in the Bournville area, and that money had been made available for new fencing that should be erected in the next few months.

There was still an issue with illegal off-road biking and the bikers removing fencing to gain access. The police were working on some operational areas to combat this.

Councillor Tracy Postlethwaite stated that several Councillors had been in attendance at Llanhlilte Institute assisting in the flood aid work there so had not been able to attend other community meetings.

**Council RESOLVED** at this point to suspend standing order 3(x) to extend the time limit of the meeting beyond the normal two hours.

**215. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS, RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE AND CELEBRATING SUCCESS:**

The Chair mentioned the St.Davids Day concert on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March and any volunteers to help would be appreciated.

Councillor Tracey Dyson asked for a congratulation letter be sent to Mia Caitlen, as she had organised a charity event at Ebenezer Church which had raised over £400 for WWF Australia.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

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

*NB these minutes are a summary of the proceedings and record of the decisions taken. They are not intended to be a verbatim record.*

*Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Deputy Clerk*