

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 31 MARCH 2021 at 7.00pm**

Held remotely via Zoom

PRESENT: Councillors: Gary Oakley (Chair), Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti, Vanessa Bartlett, Gill Clarke, Roger Clark, Tracey Dyson, Julie Holt, Mark Lewis, Bev Lucas, Perry Morgan, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons, Bernard Wall

Officers: Steve Edwards, Clerk

Others: Sian Hookins (New Admin Assistant from 12 April 2021)

ABSENT: Glyn Smith and Graham White

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Glyn Smith and Graham White
Welcomes were extended to everyone present.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Allen Rees declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 8 “adopt a telephone kiosk”

37. MNUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING (a) 22 February 2021 (b) 24 February 2021 and (c) 10 March 2021

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes (a) with one typographical amendment and (b) as a correct record of those meetings.

Council **RESOLVED** to amend the minutes (c) to add to item 32 “Both groups agreed to provide a qualitative and quantitative report, and to include community groups that were being engaged. Off the Streets agreed to include in their report, the quality of food that has been provided and also the number of young people benefitting from being fed”

Councillor Vanessa Bartlett raised an issue concerning her Ward Grant allocation as awarded at the 10 March Council meeting. The Chair and Clerk stated that we were dealing with accuracy of the minutes not the allocation of the Ward Grants and this issue should be dealt with outside of the meeting.

38. INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Clerk reported that following attender exercise to find an Internal Auditor only one quote had been received, from a company called IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd. The estimate their costs would be £385 + VAT to conduct our Internal Audit. The Clerk stated that the Council had to appoint an Internal Auditor and as this was the only option then Council had no other choice.

There was a general feeling that the Internal Auditor should be local but no alternatives to IAC Audit were offered up.

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd on a 1-year basis and the provision of Internal Audit Services would be reviewed then.

39. TOWN IN BLOOM UPDATE

The Chair stated this was just an update and not for any debate. Councillor Peter Adamson gave a brief update on the Town in Bloom Project. There had been a presentation meeting with a number of Community Groups where there had been a frank exchange of views. Some were favourable but some groups had said they hadn't been consulted enough. The view had been taken aboard and a questionnaire would be sent out to the groups to get more feedback. The intention was still to go out to tender for a Commercial supplier.

Some Councillors voiced the view that they had been excluded from this project and they had not had enough information.

40. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TRACEY DYSON – WAR MEMORIAL WORK

There are four elements to the work in the motion.

- a. Install Iron Benches inside the War Memorial Site
- b. Jet Wash the interior and exterior stone walls
- c. Plant laurel trees behind the memorial to screen of the unsightly white wall
- d. Do some remedial work on the flower beds to correctly align the pathways.

There was some discussion concerning the planting of tree and if the Council could offer to replaster the wall instead. The cost of the trees was £1,200.

Council **RESOLVED** to

- (a) Delegate to the Clerk £3,800 to carry out the work on items a, b and d above
- (b) The Clerk to investigate the idea of offering to re-render the white wall behind the War Memorial and report back to Council at a later date

There was also some discussion concerning the benches opposite the War Memorial and the amount of rubbish that was ben left down the embankment in Somerset Street but this would have to be brought back to Council as a separate item as it was not within the remit of this motion.

41. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TRACEY DYSON – DRIVE-IN CINEMA

Councillor Tracey Dyson thought that this years Party in the Park should not go ahead, as she was unsure of its viability in these time as we gradually come out of lockdown. The motion is to use the Party in the Park budget of £13,000 to help fund a number of free shows at Drive-In cinema event that is being planned for the weekend of 23 July to 26 July

Council **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk the £13,000 Party in the Park budget to provide a number of free shows and to assist Councillor Tracey Dyson in the planning of this event with the company that has approached us with the idea.

42. ADOPT A TELEPHONE KIOSK – COUNCILLOR ALLEN REES

Council **RESOLVED** to take steps to adopt a BT telephone kiosk in Cwmtillery and work in partnership with a local voluntary organisation who have indicated they wish to take this on.

43. GRANTS

Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £5,990 to the Abertillery Town Band. Councillor Perry Morgan requested his vote against the awarding of the grant be recorded.

44. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

45. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Extraordinary meeting for Wednesday 14 April was not confirmed, the date of the next meeting was confirmed as 28 April at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8:52pm

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 Clerk