

**MEETING OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND
LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2022 at 6.00 pm in the
Chairman and Members' Room at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Nick Simmons (Chair), Tracey Dyson (Vice-Chair), Josh Rawcliffe

Apologies: Rob Phillips, Graham White

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk), Steve Edwards (Deputy Clerk)

Absent: Glyn Smith

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Rob Phillips and from Graham White.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR DISPENSATIONS

None.

3. MINUTES

The Committee **RESOLVED** that Cllr Josh Rawcliffe would record the minutes of the meeting.

4. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Clerk stated that he believed it would be impossible to answer the complaints made by Graham White without disclosing information that was subject to legal privilege.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that, by virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were 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.

5. COMPLAINTS – GRAHAM WHITE

The Chair noted that Graham White had sent an email to the Clerk and to all members of the Committee at 3.36pm stating that he had not made a formal complaint to the Clerk under the Council's complaints procedure and that he would not attend the meeting. The Chair questioned whether the meeting should proceed in Cllr White's absence. The Clerk noted that the Council's Member/Officer Protocol stated that complaints by Members regarding the Clerk should be made to the Chair. Cllr White had done this on 26 October and 6 November 2022. He had been informed in writing that his allegations would be regarded as a formal complaint. He had responded by sending three further emails to the Chair making further allegations. His allegations had been made in writing and, therefore, were clear, whether Cllr White presented them in a meeting or not. The Clerk stated that he believed it would be unfair to allow Cllr White to continue to make a catalogue of allegations without the Council's officers being given a formal opportunity to respond.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to continue with the meeting.

The Clerk addressed Cllr White's allegations in turn, making reference to the Council's accounts, financial regulations, minutes and policies.

The Clerk read from a prepared script and referred Members to a number of documents. A copy of the script and copies of the documents referred to are contained in Confidential Annex HR2-2022.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk left the room at 7.08pm while the Committee considered the evidence presented to them.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk returned to the room at 7.20pm.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the allegations made by Graham White were false and unfounded.

The Committee noted that the Council's Member/Officer Protocol stated that "*False or unfounded complaints – or malicious allegations of bullying or harassment – will not be tolerated and will be dealt with as serious misconduct and lead to disciplinary procedures, or in the case of members a referral to the Public Services Ombudsman.*"

The Committee **RESOLVED** to suggest to the Clerk that he report Cllr White to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and that he would be supported by the Committee if he chose to do so.

The meeting ended at 7.26 pm.

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

Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.