

4. Commemorative trophy

The cost of shield trophies varies with size. Approximate costs are:



12" - £70-90



14" - £100-140



18" - £150-180

Engraving costs also need to be factored in.

Although Abertillery BG RFC and Llanhilleth RFC currently compete in the same division of the Admiral National Leagues, Abertillery BG RFC are highly likely to be promoted at the end of the 2022-23 season. Both are semi-professional clubs whose fixture lists are dictated by the Welsh Rugby Union. There is, therefore, no guarantee that the two clubs' senior sides will play each other in any given season.

5a) Financial audits - External audit

All public bodies in Wales – from the Welsh Government and huge NHS trusts to tiny village community councils – must submit their annual accounts to Audit Wales (the Wales Audit Office) who carry out an external audit. They assess the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, check whether the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting framework and confirm whether the accounts fairly demonstrate the council's financial position.

Audit Wales then gives one of four 'opinions' on the accounts:

- **Unqualified opinion** – when financial statements have been fairly and appropriately presented in line with generally accepted accounting practice, without any identified exceptions.
- **Qualified opinion** – where Audit Wales has found a mistake or some material misstatement in the accounts but there is no evidence that the public body has deliberately misstated its financial position
- **Adverse opinion** – this usually arises where the financial statements have been constructed in a manner that materially deviates from generally accepted accounting practice. It implies that the accounts conceal the true financial position.
- **Disclaimer of opinion** – where the accounting records are incomplete (so Audit Wales cannot properly assess the accounts).

Audit Wales completed its external audit of six years of Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council's accounts (from 2014-15 to 2019-20) in April 2023 and it expects to finish its external audit of the accounts for 2020-21 and 2021-22 shortly.

Audit Wales has given a 'qualified opinion' on the accounts for 2014-15. This was because, although the accounts correctly stated the council's financial position, unlawful and unauthorised payments had been made to the council's former officers during that financial year.

The external auditor has given a 'qualified opinion' on the accounts for 2015-16. This was because, although the accounts contained an error, this was an honest mistake that was subsequently corrected.

Audit Wales has given an 'unqualified opinion' on all the accounts from 2016-17 to 2019-20. This was because the financial statements were completed correctly without any issues arising.

The external auditor's opinions are shown below.

2014-15

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council's accounts for 2014-15 were agreed in June 2015 and submitted to Audit Wales. Soon afterwards, it became apparent that there were questions regarding the lawfulness of payments made to two officers of the council when they had retired in autumn 2014. Audit Wales began a major investigation and, in 2017, it informed the council that it had found other apparently unauthorised payments that had been made to the officers stretching back over a period of at least a decade.

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council continued to agree its accounts each year and to submit them to Audit Wales. However, Audit Wales decided not to carry out an external audit of these accounts until its investigation into the council's 2014-15 accounts was completed and a report published.

The report was not published until October 2021.

2015-16

Shortly after the council's accounts for 2015-16 were agreed and submitted to Audit Wales, the Council realised that it had made an error in its accounts for that financial year. The Council had made some large payments close to the end of 2015-16 but the cheques were not cashed by the recipients until after the financial year ended. The uncashed cheques were listed in the accounts but their value had not been subtracted from the Council's 'accounting balance' at the end of 2015-16. This error had the effect of making the Council look more than £10,000 richer at the end of 2015-16 than it really was. The mistake was reported to Full Council at the time and a 'letter of amendment' was sent to Audit Wales. The error was corrected in the following year's accounts.

Section 1 – Accounting statements for: 3TW^WkS V>S Z[^WZ5a_ _ g` [fk5ag` U^

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers				
	31 March 2014 (£)	31 March 2015 (£)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the Council's underlying financial records for the relevant year.				
1. Balances brought forward	95,746	97,712	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to Line 7 of the previous year.				
2. (+) Annual precept	90,000	90,000	Total amount of precept income received in the year.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	7,063	33,610	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus the precept. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.				
4. (-) Staff costs	39,207	110,675	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses.				
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the Council's borrowing (if any).				
6. (-) Total other payments	55,890	58,194	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (Line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (Line 5).				
7. (=) Balances carried forward	97,712	52,453	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).				
8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to and stock balances held at the year-end.				
9. (+) Total cash and investments	97,712	52,453	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.				
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the Council (except borrowing) at the year-end.				
11. (=) Balances carried forward	97,712	52,453	Total balances should equal Line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).				
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	185,300	185,300	The recorded current book value at 31 March of all fixed assets owned by the Council and any other long-term assets – eg, loans to third parties, other investments to be held for the long term ie, more than 12 months.				
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).				
14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			✓			✓	

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2015 of:

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion – Qualified

Except for the matters reported below in my Basis for Qualification, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Basis for Qualification

Accounting Statement

The Accounting Statement reports a total of £110,675 expenditure related to staff costs during 2014-15. This total includes £35,412 related to gratuity payments to two former members of staff. In my opinion, these payments were unlawful. In addition, staff costs include expenditure on salaries, overtime and expenses that were not authorised by the Council.

Arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

The Council failed to establish proper arrangements to economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources:

- The Council did not follow its own standing orders when procuring goods and services and is therefore unable to demonstrate that it received value for money

Other matters arising and recommendations

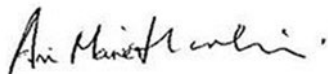
Annual Governance Statement

I draw attention to the weaknesses reported by the Council in its Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement sets out the minimum standards expected of the Council. The Council has taken steps to address these weaknesses in subsequent years.

Report in the public interest

Further details on my audit findings are set out in my report in the public interest entitled Unlawful Payments and Governance Failings. The report is published at <https://audit.wales/publication/abertillery-and-llanhilleth-community-council-unlawful-payments-and-governance-failings>

There are no further matters that I wish to draw to the Council's attention.



Ann-Marie Harkin, Executive Director, Audit Services, Audit Wales
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 31/03/2023

Accounting statements 2015-16 for:

Name of body: **ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2015 (£)	31 March 2016 (£)	

Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	97,712	52,851	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	90,000	90,000	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	33,610	7,118	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	110,675	34,078	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	Ø	Ø	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	58,194	48,318	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	52,453	67,572	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	Ø	Ø	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	52,453	67,572	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	Ø	Ø	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	52,453	67,572	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	185,300	185,300	The original asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	Ø	Ø	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The Body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			✓			✓	

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016 of:

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion – Qualified

Except for the matters reported below in my Basis for Qualification, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Basis for Qualification

Accounting Statement

In my opinion, the Accounting Statement has not been prepared in accordance with proper practice and does not properly present the Council's receipts and payments and financial position for the year:

- The Council has not properly accounted for payments that have been issued but not presented at the bank. These payments totalled £10,026. Consequently, payments (lines 4 to 6) are understated by £10,026 and the balances carried forward (Line 7 and 11) and the cash and bank balances (line 9) are overstated by £10,026

Other matters arising and recommendations

Annual Governance Statement

I draw attention to the weaknesses reported by the Council in its Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement sets out the minimum standards expected of the Council. The Council has taken steps to address these weaknesses in subsequent years.

Report in the public interest

Further details on my audit findings in relation to the 2014-15 financial year are set out in my report in the public interest entitled Unlawful Payments and Governance Failings. The report is published at <https://audit.wales/publication/abertillery-and-llanhilleth-community-council-unlawful-payments-and-governance-failings>

There are no further matters that I wish to draw to the Council's attention.



Richard Harries, Director, Audit Wales
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 31/03/2023

Accounting statements 2016-17 for:

Name of body: **ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2016 (£)	31 March 2017 (£)	

Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	52,403	57,575	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	90,000	94,500	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	7,117	12,321	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	34,079	29,602	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	57,866	58,153	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	57,575	65,552	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	57,575	65,552	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	57,575	65,552	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	185,300	191,030	The original asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			✓			✓	

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017 of:

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion – Unqualified

In my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations

Annual Governance Statement

I draw attention to the weaknesses reported by the Council in its Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement sets out the minimum standards expected of the Council. The Council has taken steps to address these weaknesses in subsequent years.

There are no further matters that I wish to draw to the Council's attention.



Richard Harries, Director, Audit Wales
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 31/03/2023

Accounting statements 2017-18 for:

Name of body: **Insert name of body** *ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL*

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2017 (£)	31 March 2018 (£)	

Please round all figures to nearest £.
Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances.
All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.

Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	<i>57,575</i>	<i>65,552</i>	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	<i>94,500</i>	<i>99,155</i>	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	<i>1,232</i>	<i>40,542</i>	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	<i>29,602</i>	<i>53,488</i>	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	<i>58,153</i>	<i>108,211</i>	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	<i>65,552</i>	<i>43,550</i>	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	<i>65,552</i>	<i>43,550</i>	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	<i>65,552</i>	<i>43,550</i>	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	<i>191,030</i>	<i>191,030</i>	The original asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			✓			✓	

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2018 of:

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion – Unqualified

In my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations

Annual Governance Statement

I draw attention to the weaknesses reported by the Council in its Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement sets out the minimum standards expected of the Council. The Council has taken steps to address these weaknesses in subsequent years.

There are no further matters that I wish to draw to the Council's attention.



Richard Harries, Director, Audit Wales
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 31/03/2023

Accounting statements 2018-19 for:

Name of body: **Insert name of body** *Aberkillery & Llankilleth Community Council*

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2018 (£)	31 March 2019 (£)	

Please round all figures to nearest £.
Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances.
All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.

Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	65,552	43,550	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	99,155	112,916	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	40,542	7,924	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	53,488	54,288	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg. termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	108,211	60,396	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	43,550	49,706	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	43,550	49,706	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	43,550	49,706	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	191,030	206,015	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			✓			✓	

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2019 of:

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion – Unqualified

In my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations

Annual Governance Statement

I draw attention to the weaknesses reported by the Council in its Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement sets out the minimum standards expected of the Council. The Council has taken steps to address these weaknesses in subsequent years.

There are no further matters that I wish to draw to the Council's attention.



Richard Harries, Director, Audit Wales
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 31/03/2023

Accounting statements 2019-20 for:

Name of body: *Abertillery and Llanbelleth Community Council*

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2019 (£)	31 March 2020 (£)	

Please round all figures to nearest £.
Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances.
All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.

Statement of Income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	43,550 ⁰	49,706 ⁰	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	112,916 ⁰	234,000 ⁰	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	7,924 ⁰	75,080 ⁰	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	54,288 ⁰	42,982 ⁰	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg. termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0 ⁰	0 ⁰	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	60,396 ⁰	188,352 ⁰	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	49,706 ⁰	127,452 ⁰	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	0 ⁰	0 ⁰	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	49,706 ⁰	127,452 ⁰	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0 ⁰	0 ⁰	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	49,706 ⁰	127,452 ⁰	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	206,015 ⁰	206,015 ⁰	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0 ⁰	0 ⁰	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

(24)

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2020 of:

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion – Unqualified

In my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations

Annual Governance Statement

I draw attention to the weaknesses reported by the Council in its Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement sets out the minimum standards expected of the Council. The Council has taken steps to address these weaknesses in subsequent years.

There are no further matters that I wish to draw to the Council's attention.



Richard Harries, Director, Audit Wales
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 31/03/2023

5b) Financial audits - Internal audit

In October 2022, the Finance and Grants Committee appointed IAC Audit as the Council's internal auditors. IAC's Director, Kevin Rose, visited the Council in March and carried out an interim audit and made a number of observations. These are shown below. Mr Rose will return shortly to carry out the full internal audit of the Council's 2022-23 accounts.

1 *Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year*

No.	Audit Test	Observation	Recommendation	Priority	Comments
1	Are accounting entries correct with few correcting entries?	<i>Noted that Chair's Charity income is being recorded as income/expenditure of the Council</i>	Income and expenditure relating to the Mayor's Charity should not be recorded in the income and expenditure codes of the Council. The Council should instead use a balance sheet code to record these transactions and the net balance on this account should be recorded as a debtor or creditor (depending on whether the account has a net debit or credit balance)	Medium	Recommendation to be implemented during the 2022-23 accounts 'close down' process.

2 *Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.*

No.	Audit Test	Observation	Recommendation	Priority	Comments
1	Are Powers under which grants are made clearly specified in Council Minutes?	<i>The Council does not formally record the powers under which grants are awarded in Minutes.</i>	The Council should ensure that the appropriate powers under which grants are made are recorded in the minutes of the meeting in which the grants are approved.	Medium	To be implemented for all resolutions made by Full Council and its committees that give authority to spend.

4 The annual precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.

No.	Audit Test	Observation	Recommendation	Priority	Comments
1	The Council has reviewed any points raised by the Internal Auditor as required	<i>It is understood that the Council did not receive a report from an Internal Auditor during the prior financial year.</i>	The Council should review its internal audit coverage and consider whether it should undertake an Internal Audit review of the 2021-22 financial year.	High	Awaiting opinion of external auditor (Audit Wales). Matter to be considered by Finance and Grants Committee if accounts are qualified due to lack of internal audit.

5 Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.

No.	Audit Test	Observation	Recommendation	Priority	Comments
1	Is income due on investments subject to regular check and verification? (Is investment performance regularly reported to Council?)	<i>The Council is earning low interest on its bank balances which total over £300,000.</i>	The Council should note that interest rates have increased significantly in recent times (for example the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund, used by many local councils, is currently paying around 3.95%). The Council should review the rate of interest it is earning on its deposits.	High	To be considered by Finance and Grants Committee and recommendations made to Full Council.
2	For unregistered bodies - VAT claim made covers most recent accounting year?	<i>It was noted that VAT refund income received from HMRC has been credited to an income code 1990, rather than against the VAT control account 105.</i>	Council should recode this income from nominal code 1990 to nominal code 105. In future all VAT refunds should be credited to the 105 account code and not an income code.	High	Recommendation to be implemented during the 2022-23 accounts 'close down' process.

9 Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.

No.	Audit Test	Observation	Recommendation	Priority	Comments
1	There are no unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation	<i>There was a difference of £297.40 on the bank reconciliation as at 31st January 2022. The Deputy Clerk was aware of this and was trying to identify the reason for the difference.</i>	The Council to review the outstanding items on the bank reconciliation and clarify why they are outstanding. If necessary the Council should ensure that appropriating correcting entries are made to clear any items that appear on the reconciliation in error.	High	Discrepancy identified and corrected.
2	Bank reconciliation have been subject to independent review (not by a bank signatory)	<i>Bank reconciliation have not been subject to independent review (not by a bank signatory).</i>	Bank reconciliations should be subject to independent review.	High	To be added to responsibilities of Finance and Grants Committee at Annual Meeting.
3	Bank reconciliations have been signed and dated as evidence of independent review	<i>Bank reconciliations have not been signed and dated as evidence of independent review.</i>	Bank reconciliations which have been subject to review should be signed and dated as evidence of this review.	Medium	To be added to responsibilities of Finance and Grants Committee at Annual Meeting.

6. Financial authorisations

The Responsible Financial Officer (the Clerk) has the authority to authorise individual payments of up to £500 from budget lines under his management. Individual payments of more than £500 from these budget lines must be authorised by Full Council.

Clause 5.6 of the Council's Financial Regulations allow that, where payments "arise on a regular basis as the result of a continuing contract, statutory duty, or obligation (such as but not exclusively, salaries, PAYE and NI, superannuation fund and regular maintenance contracts and the like), Council (or a duly authorised committee) may authorise payment for the year." The Clerk is seeking authorisation for the financial year 2023-24 to make payments above £500 in respect of a number of items that fall under Clause 5.6.

Individual bills for staff costs, external audit costs and domain registration and licensing will all be above £500. The others items are unlikely to generate single payments above £500 but could do so if the contractor/provider includes several months of costs on a single invoice.

Where Council authorises payments for the year under Clause 5.6, the Clerk must still report payments above £500 to Full Council (or the relevant committee) and he will require a separate authorisation if a payment would lead to an agreed budget line being exceeded.

Clause 4.8 of the Council's Financial Regulations requires the Clerk to report a 'material' overspend of any of the lines in the Council's budget. The Town in Bloom budget line, managed by the PlaCE Committee, was overspent by £1,396.22 in the financial year 2022-23. This was because the then-Chair of the Committee had failed to include VAT in the costs of the main Town in Bloom contractor when proposing this item at the January 2022 budget-setting meeting.

This technical overspend is somewhat academic as the Council will claim back the VAT.

7. Member recruitment

At its meeting in February 2023, Council resolved to instruct officers to carry out the policy and procedure to co-opt a councillor for an ordinary vacancy in the Cwmtillery ward. On the same day, the resignation of Tom Langley-Noel created a casual vacancy in the same Cwmtillery ward.

Whereas the Council may move directly to co-option for an ordinary vacancy (a seat that was unfilled at the May 2022 elections), electors must be given the opportunity to call an election for a casual vacancy (a vacancy created by a resignation).

Public notices for both vacancies were published between 10 and 30 March 2023.

No applications were received to be co-opted to the ordinary vacancy but an individual submitted the required ten signatures calling for an election to the casual vacancy.

A Notice of Election has been published by the Returning Officer and an election for the vacancy will be held on Thursday 25 May 2023.

An application to be co-opted to the Council is free of any charge to the applicant or the Council. The costs of the election (which must, by law, be borne by Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council) are expected to be in excess of £1,000.

The recent passing of Cllr Roger Clark has created another casual vacancy in the same Cwmtillery ward. The Returning Officer agreed to a request by the Clerk for notice of this vacancy to be delayed to allow a period of mourning.

David Cartwright
Clerk
April 2023

8a) Council Grant – Abertillery and District Museum Society

The society has provided the Council with a copy of its accounts and articles of association. It is a registered charity staffed by volunteers.

8b) Council Grant – Mr Philip Collings (on behalf of Aiden Collings)

Twelve players will represent Wales in the annual Celtic Snooker Challenge against Ireland in 2023. The Welsh team are split into three age groups. Aiden Collings will be one of four Welsh players in the under-14s section. The grant applied for would pay for clothing and equipment for Aiden, transport and accommodation for Aiden and transport and accommodation for an accompanying parent or guardian.

Although Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council usually provides grants to organisations, many of the powers available to the Council specifically allow payments to be made to individuals as long as the wider community will benefit.

There is no specific legislation that mentions payments to snooker players so, if the Council wishes to make a grant payment to Aiden's grandfather, it would have to do so under the general provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This states that a community council may "incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants." However, a community council must not incur any expenditure "unless the direct benefit accruing to their area or any part of it or to all or some of the inhabitants of their area will be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred."

Therefore, in order for a grant to Mr Collings to be lawful, the Council would need to be sure that the grant *will* bring at least £343-worth of *direct benefit* to the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area and its inhabitants.

The criteria for the award of Council Grants (which were agreed by a meeting of the Full Council in September 2019) are not law – they are merely the Council's own rules. The criteria state that:

"The purpose of Council Grants is to help local communities and organisations improve the well-being of local people. A Council Grant will only be made if there is a *clear* economic, social or environmental well-being benefit to residents of the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area."



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Council Grant Application

see criteria and process (attached) before applying

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

ABERTILLERY & DISTRICT MUSEUM SOCIETY
THE METROPOLE, MARKET STREET
ABERTILLERY, BLAENAU GWENT
NP13 1AH

Group contact name: PEGGY BEARCROFT

Role in the group: CURATOR

Telephone number: 01495 616028 MUSEUM 01495 211140

Email: abertillerymuseum@btconnect.com
HERITAGE PROJECT

What are the aims of your project? .. BRINGING THE HERITAGE
.. OF ABERTILLERY AND DISTRICT ALIVE FOR THE LOCAL
.. POPULATION AND ANY VISITORS TO THE AREA
.. ALSO EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL VISITS

How does your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its
residents? .. THIS GRANT WILL ENABLE US TO PURCHASE CONSERVATION
.. ITEMS NEEDED TO RECORD AND PRESERVE THE THOUSANDS OF
.. ARTIFACTS CONTAINED WITHIN THE MUSEUM FOR FUTURE
.. GENERATIONS

Approx number of beneficiaries .. THE WHOLE OF BLAENAU GWENT AND
SURROUNDING AREAS

Details of project costs:

A. Project costs met by group (include match funds)	Amount (inc. VAT)
CARRIAGE WILL BE MET BY THE MUSEUM SOCIETY	£
APPROX.	£ 70.00
	£
Sub Total	£
B. Costs requested from ALCC	Amount (inc. VAT)
CONSERVATION RESOURCES	£ 390.84
COLLECTIONS TRUST	£ 86.40
Sub Total	£ 477.24
C. Total project costs (A + B) TOTAL	£

Is the organisation a: Charity/community group/sports club/company/not for profit business/other (explain and provide evidence)
 CHARITY NO 1067213

Payee name: ABERTILLERY & DISTRICT MUSEUM.....

Name of person making the application:

Print Name: PEGGY BEARCROFT - ON BEHALF OF THE MUSEUM

Signed: P. Bearcroft

Date: 31/3/2023

Please return this form with any relevant supporting documents (group constitution, financial statements, letters of support etc.) to: Clerk, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE or toclerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

The more information you can give us about your group and how the grant would be used, the better. Use this sheet to provide more details about your application including, where appropriate, how you have costed your proposals.

THE MUSEUM SOCIETY[^] WAS FOUNDED IN 1964 BY A GROUP OF LIKE MINDED PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF OUR SMALL VALLEY TOWN. THEY STARTED COLLECTING ARTIFACTS WHICH WERE KEPT IN VARIOUS PLACES UNTIL THE OPENING OF THE MUSEUM IN A SMALL ROOM OF THE NEW LIBRARY IN 1972. NOW WE ARE HOUSED IN THE METROPOLE, OUR COLLECTION HAS GROWN IMMENSELY AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUAL CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION IS ONGOING. THE MUSEUM IS RUN BY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO GIVE UP THEIR TIME TO CONTINUE WITH THIS WORK AS WELL AS DOING THE ADMINISTRATION WORK. WE WELCOME VISITORS AND SCHOOL GROUPS TO THE MUSEUM. WE ALSO JOIN IN EVENTS IN THE TOWN ARRANGED BY FRINDIAU TYLER.

Sourced from Conservation Resources

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PRICE (inc. vat)</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>TOTAL (inc. vat)</u>
Lint Free Microfibre Cloths	£3.92	10	£39.24
Polythene Bags x 100 pack 3.5" x 4.5" - 89mm x 114mm	£5.90	1	£5.90
Polythene Bags x 100 pack 3" x 3.75" - 76mm x 83mm	£7.86	1	£7.86
Renaissance Micro-Crystalline Wax Polish 3 litres	£85.55	1	£85.55
Acetone 1litre	£44.34	1	£44.34
Pre-Diluted Paraloid B72	£14.27	2	£28.54
Acid Free Tissue Paper 500 x 750	£20.94	1	£20.94
APS16 A2 (25 pack) 16.8" x 23.7" 428mm x 603mm	£55.72	2	£111.43
White Marker Pens 0.08mm	£3.92	10	£47.04
Subtotal Cost			£390.84

Sourced from Collection Trust

Object Entry Forms (100 pack)	£86.40	1	£86.40
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Total £477.24

ABERTILLY & DISTRICT MUSEUM COSTINGS



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Council Grant Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

Aiden Collings
C/O: Mr Philip Collings
104 Princess Street, Abertillery, Gwent, NP13 1AS

Group Contact name: Philip Collings

Role in the group: Grandfather

Telephone number: 07961636064

Email: Pcollings@hotmail.co.uk

What are the aims of your project?

My Grandson, Aiden Collings age 12 has been selected to represent Wales at Snooker. He has been given the opportunity to travel to Ireland with the Welsh national team and compete in the Celtic challenge taking place from Friday 30th June to Sunday 02nd July 2023.

How does your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its residents?

Aiden maybe representing his country but is also a student at Abertillery Learning Community so will also be representing his school and community.

Approx number of beneficiaries 2 (Aiden + Parent/Guardian)

Details of project costs:

A. Project costs met by group (include match funds)	Amount (inc. VAT)
Food & Fuel	£100
½ Clothing & Equipment	£75.00
Sub Total	£175.00
B. Costs requested from ALCC	Amount (inc. VAT)
Ferry Crossing & Accommodation (£468-£200 provided by WBSA)	£268
½ Clothing & Equipment	£75.00
Sub Total	£343.00
C. Total project costs (A + B) TOTAL	£518.00

Is the organisation a: Charity/community group/sports club/company/not for profit business/other (explain and provide evidence)

Other. The request for funding application is to assist with the traveling costs, accommodation, clothing, and equipment for Aiden. WBSA have provided each child with £200.00.

Payee name: **Mr P Collings**

Name of person making the application: **Mr Philip Collings**

Print Name: **Mr Philip Collings**

Signed: **P. Collings**

Date: **18th April 2023**

Please return this form with any relevant supporting documents (group constitution, financial statements, letters of support etc.) to: Town Clerk, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE or to clerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

9. Members allowances and expenses

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires community councils to make a number of decisions regarding allowances and expenses as directed by the annual reports of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW). The decisions that Council is required to make for 2022-23 and 2023-24 are shown in the table below.

At meetings to make similar decisions in previous years, some Members have declared a personal or prejudicial interest in one or more decisions. This was incorrect. The Council is **required** by law to make the decisions shown below even though all Members have a potential fiduciary interest in at least some of them. There is no need for any Member to declare an interest in respect of these decisions.

IRPW makes clear that individuals who have accepted office as a member of a community council are entitled to receive payments and that Members should receive monies for which they are eligible as a matter of course. However, any Member may decline to receive part, or all, of the payments if they so wish. This must be done in writing and is an individual, personal matter for the Member concerned.

Allowance	Decision required for 2022-23	Decision required for 2023-24	Decision of previous years	Guidance
Senior Role Allowance	The Council must designate a role to receive an allowance of £500	The Council must designate a role to receive an allowance of £500	The Council has always designated the Chair as the Senior Role	This allowance is mandatory. The Council must designate a role to be paid this allowance.
Other Senior Roles	The Council may designate up to seven other roles that will receive an allowance of £500	The Council may designate up to five other roles that will receive an allowance of £500	The Council must decide whether to designate any other senior roles	IRPW advises that this payment should be made in respect of "specific roles that involve greater responsibility within larger councils."
Civic Head Allowance	The Council must decide whether to pay an allowance of up to £1,500	The Council must decide whether to pay an allowance of up to £1,500	No Civic Head Allowance	IRPW advises that this payment should be made to a Chair where the role requires them to be "very active with numerous ambassadorial duties representing the council to a variety of institutions and organisations."
Deputy Civic Head Allowance	The Council must decide whether to pay an allowance of up to £500	The Council must decide whether to pay an allowance of up to £500	No Deputy Civic Head Allowance	IRPW advises that this payment should be made to a Vice Chair where the role requires them to be "very active with numerous ambassadorial duties representing the council to a variety of institutions and organisations."

Allowance	Decision required for 2022-23	Decision required for 2023-24	Decision of previous years	Guidance
Financial Loss Allowance	The Council must decide whether to pay an allowance at rates set by IPRW	The Council must decide whether to pay an allowance at rates set by IPRW	No Financial Loss Allowance	Compensation to members who incur financial loss (i.e. loss of earnings) by “attending approved duties.” If adopted, the Council would be required to prepare and agree a scheme defining “approved duties.”
Travel and Subsistence	Several Members were paid travel and subsistence at HMRC rates	The Council must decide whether to enable members to claim travel and subsistence at HMRC rates in respect of attending “approved duties”	To pay travel and subsistence at HMRC rates	The IRPW does not require the Council to define “approved duties.”
Reimbursement for consumables	This allowance was not introduced until 2023-24	Council must decide either to pay Members an annual allowance of £52 or to enable members to claim full reimbursement of the actual cost of office consumables. Council must also decide whether the payments are made monthly, yearly or otherwise and whether to recover any payments made to a member who ceases to be a Member of the Council during the financial year.	New mandatory allowance	IRPW does not specify “office consumables” but it is taken to mean photocopying, printing, postage, stationery and computer consumables (e.g. ink cartridges).
Attendance Allowance	Council must decide whether to pay an allowance of up to £30 for each attendance by Members at “official business or approved duty.”	Council must decide whether to pay an allowance of up to £30 for each attendance by Members at “official business or approved duty.”	New discretionary allowance	If adopted, the Council would be required to prepare and agree a scheme defining “official business or approved duty” and setting a rate per attendance.

10. One Voice Wales

One Voice Wales is recognised by the Welsh Government as the national representative body for community and town councils in Wales. It claims that around three-quarters of Wales's 735 community and town councils are members.

In September 2020, there was a split in Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council over the interpretation of the criteria for Solar Grants. The then-Clerk asked One Voice Wales for legal advice. This only seemed to make matters worse as the majority of members appear to have disagreed with One Voice Wales's conclusions. The Council did not renew its membership of One Voice Wales in April 2021. In September 2021, Council decided to defer consideration of whether to re-join One Voice Wales "to a future meeting" but has not returned to the issue until now.

Membership fees vary from council to council based on the number of properties in the community council area. Annual membership for Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council would be around £3,000 per year.

One Voice Wales describes the principal benefits of membership as follows:

High-quality legal advice – the target time for response to straightforward queries is ten days.

Representation – representation of community and town councils on the Partnership Council for Wales.

Policy matters - One Voice Wales maintains close links with Welsh Government and others, and is therefore able to advise on the full spectrum of devolved and non-devolved policy matters.

Training - a comprehensive training programme developed to enable councils to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their work.

Advice on improving service delivery - advice on accountability and governance, HR/organisational issues, planning, Standing Orders, community involvement and engagement.

Newsletter and website - relevant articles and information on current issues affecting councils and local activities across Wales.

Commentary

Legal Advice

The main reason given by community councils for membership of One Voice Wales is access to free legal advice, particularly regarding the interpretation of legislation and regulations. However, it should be remembered that the majority of Wales's community councils are very small. Some employ a clerk for only few days a month; others have no clerk at all. They might find great succour in obtaining an opinion from One Voice Wales when a council of Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council's size would have expected its officers to have known the answer off the top of their heads. Nevertheless, there have been around half-a-dozen occasions over the past twelve months when officers would have asked One Voice Wales for advice or assistance if Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council had been a member. It should be noted that One Voice Wales offers legal *advice* not legal *representation*. In matters such as litigation, legal disputes and the drawing up of legal documents, the Council would still need to employ lawyers to act on its behalf.

Partnership Council for Wales

The Partnership Council meets, at most, only twice a year (it hasn't met at all for more than a year) and the Chair of One Voice Wales is only one of 41 members. The body – and its business – is dominated by Wales's County and Borough Councils. The last time it discussed any matter of direct relevance to community councils was in September 2018.

Policy matters

In 2017, One Voice Wales published a manifesto detailing 17 improvements in Welsh Government policy that it aimed to achieve by 2022. During those five years, One Voice Wales failed to achieve a single one of those improvements and, in at least three cases, Welsh Government policy changed for the worse.

Training/Advice on improving service delivery

These services are neither free nor exclusive to One Voice Wales members. Members are merely offered preferential rates. If Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council had paid an annual One Voice Wales membership fee of around £3,000 for 2022-23, it would have saved less than £300 on its training costs.

David Cartwright
Clerk
April 2023