


Bank Reconciliation up to 31/12/2023 for Cashbook No 1 - Current Bank A/c

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amnt Paid</u>	<u>Amnt Banked</u>	<u>Stat Amnt</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Cleared</u>	<u>Payee Name or Description</u>
23/06/2023	008093	-50.00		-50.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Lewis
23/06/2023	008105	-40.00		-40.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	AYDMS
01/11/2023	008172	-14,400.00		-14,400.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Willows Garden Centre
01/11/2023	008172	14,400.00		14,400.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Willows Garden Centre
01/11/2023	8195	-1,126.19		-1,126.19		R <input type="checkbox"/>	The Glow Company
01/11/2023	008195	1,126.19		1,126.19		R <input type="checkbox"/>	The Glow Company
01/11/2023	008207	1,837.62		1,837.62		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Blaenau Gwent CBC
13/11/2023	008207	-1,837.62		-1,837.62		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Blaenau Gwent CBC
23/11/2023	008093	50.00		50.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Lewis
23/11/2023	008105	40.00		40.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	AYDMS
01/12/2023	Transfer 4	240,181.75		240,181.75		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Unity Trust Current
		<u>240,181.75</u>	<u>0.00</u>				

Signatory 1:

Name Joshua Rowcliffe Signed  Date 9/1/24

Signatory 2:

Name Peter Adamson Signed  Date 09/01/24

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/12/2023
for Cashbook 1 - Current Bank A/c

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Nat West-Current A/c	31/12/2023		0.00
			<u>0.00</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			0.00
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			0.00
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	0.00
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Peter Adamson Signed P. Adamson Date 09/01/24

Signatory 2:

Name Josina Rowcliffe Signed Josina Date 9/1/24

Bank Reconciliation up to 31/12/2023 for Cashbook No 4 - Unity Trust Current

Date	Cheque/Ref	Amnt Paid	Amnt Banked	Stat Amnt	Difference	Cleared	Payee Name or Description
01/12/2023	Transfer 4		240,181.75	240,181.75		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
08/12/2023	BACS	294.00		294.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Audit Wales
08/12/2023	BACS	233.00		233.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Audit Wales
08/12/2023	BACS	233.00		233.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Audit Wales
08/12/2023	BACS	615.00		615.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Sheehy Green Fingers
08/12/2023	BACS	10.47		10.47		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Edwards
08/12/2023	BACS	6,871.42		6,871.42		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Blachere Illuminations
08/12/2023	BACS	480.00		480.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	One Voice Wales
08/12/2023	BACS	340.80		340.80		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Sarahs Hire
08/12/2023	BACS	200.00		200.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Audit Wales
08/12/2023	BACS	3,000.00		3,000.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Ebenezer Baptist Church
13/12/2023	BACS	16.73		16.73		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Ffrindiau Tyleri
13/12/2023	BACS	505.00		505.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Llanhilleth Institute
13/12/2023	BACS	56.77		56.77		R <input type="checkbox"/>	First 4 Numbers
13/12/2023	BACS	14,400.00		14,400.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Willows Garden Centre
13/12/2023	BACS	1,500.00		1,500.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Bournville Community Hall
13/12/2023	BACS	15,150.36		15,150.36		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Blaenau Gwent CBC
13/12/2023	BACS	150.00		150.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Blaenau Gwent CBC
13/12/2023	Transfer 5	125,000.00		125,000.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Unity Trust Reserve
15/12/2023	BACS	40.00		40.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	AYDMS
15/12/2023	BACS	552.00		552.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Blachere Illuminations
15/12/2023	BACS	229.00		229.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Society Local Council Clerks
15/12/2023	BACS	86.40		86.40		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Molly Jones
15/12/2023	BACS	9,000.00		9,000.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	K Style
15/12/2023	BACS	61.94		61.94		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs E.A. Ewers
15/12/2023	BACS	2,499.60		2,499.60		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Solon Security Ltd
21/12/2023			35,000.00	35,000.00		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
21/12/2023	414632		664.83	664.83		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
29/12/2023	CHARGES	0.30		0.30		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Unity Trust Bank
31/12/2023	CHARGES	7.64		7.64		R <input type="checkbox"/>	Unity Trust Bank
		181,533.43	275,846.58				

Signatory 1:

Name Joshua Rawcliffe Signed [Signature] Date 9/1/24

Signatory 2:

Name Peter Adamson Signed [Signature] Date 09/01/24

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/12/2023
for Cashbook 4 - Unity Trust Current

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Unity Trust Current	31/12/2023		94,858.03
			<u>94,858.03</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			94,858.03
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			94,858.03
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	94,858.03
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Peter Adamson Signed P. Adamson Date 09/01/2024

Signatory 2:

Name Joshua Rawcliffe Signed [Signature] Date 9/1/24

Bank Reconciliation up to 31/12/2023 for Cashbook No 5 - Unity Trust Reserve

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amnt Paid</u>	<u>Amnt Banked</u>	<u>Stat Amnt</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Cleared</u>	<u>Payee Name or Description</u>
13/12/2023	Transfer 5		125,000.00	125,000.00		R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
31/12/2023			178.94	178.94		R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Receipt(s) Banked
		<u>0.00</u>	<u>125,178.94</u>				

Signatory 1:

Name Joshua Rawcliffe Signed [Signature] Date 9/1/24

Signatory 2:

Name Peter Adanson Signed [Signature] Date 09/01/24

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/12/2023
for Cashbook 5 - Unity Trust Reserve

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Unity Reserve Account	31/12/2023		125,178.94
			<u>125,178.94</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			125,178.94
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			125,178.94
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	125,178.94
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Peter Adamson Signed P. Adamson Date 09/01/24

Signatory 2:

Name Joshua Rance Signed J. Rance Date 9/1/24



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Signed:

Name: Councillor Tracey Dyson

Position: Chair of Council

Date:

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
His Majesty's Government

— and —

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*

- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation, to our staff, customers, suppliers, contractors and wider public.
- the employment of veterans, recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process; working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to support the employment of Service leavers;
- supporting the employment of Service spouses and partners
- seeking to support our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; granting additional paid/unpaid leave for annual Reserve Forces training; supporting any mobilisations and deployment; actively encouraging members of staff to become Reservists; working with the Defence Relationship Management (DRM) to further Partner with Defence. Full time employees who are reservists will be given 15 days (111 hours'), pro rata for part time employees, extra paid leave to help them meet their commitments to the reserve forces;
- offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible. Actively supporting RFCA Wales
- supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities
- supporting Armed Forces charities with fundraising and supporting staff who volunteer to assist through our volunteering scheme;
- continue to offer a Guaranteed Interview to for service leavers, veterans, reservists and spouses

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them through a regularly monitored action plan and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are performing.

Committee: **Town/Community Councils Quarterly Liaison**

Date of meeting: **14th December 2023**

Report Subject: **Committing to the Armed Forces Covenant**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Stephen Thomas, Leader/Cabinet Member – Corporate Overview & Performance**

Councillor Derrick Bevan, Armed Forces Champion

Report Submitted by: **Sarah King, Head of Governance and Partnerships**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	02/11/23						23/11/23	Armed Forces Steering Group

1. Purpose of the Report

To propose that each Town/Community Council in Blaenau Gwent consider the re-signing of the Armed Forces Covenant.

2. Scope and Background

A wide range of partner organisations and military representatives across Blaenau Gwent signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant on 8th February 2014. Since then, the Council has hosted the Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group - chaired by the Council's Armed Forces Champion - which includes a range of public, voluntary and armed forces representatives. This has included representatives from each of the four Town/Community Council's which actively carry out work to support the armed forces community.

An Armed Forces Covenant reflects the moral obligation to those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families. By signing any organisation commit to ensuring that members of the Armed Forces community should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.

The Covenant has been strengthened with the introduction in November 2022 of the Covenant Legal Duty to the Armed Forces Act 2021, which places a legal obligation on certain public bodies, including Blaenau Gwent Council to have due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

when carrying out certain functions in healthcare, education and housing.
This duty is not placed on town and community councils.

There is an expectation that with the strengthening of legislation that organisations such as the Council re-commit to signing an Armed Forces Covenant as a singular organisation. As a result, it is not possible to organise a mass local area signing in Blaenau Gwent, as was done in 2014.

Blaenau Gwent Council re-signed the Armed Forces Covenant on 23rd November 2023, and as the lead organisation for the Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group are keen to actively encourage other local partners to recommit to the Covenant themselves.

The Chair, Cllr Derrick Bevan, intends to host an event of the Steering Group to mark any re-signing with partners via the established arrangements in the spring of 2024.

The current national Armed Forces Covenant Document template as completed by Blaenau Gwent Council is attached. This is in-line with Statutory Guidance on the Armed Forces Covenant Duty from the Ministry of Defence. Town and Community Councils can modify the document i.e. names/representatives, and particularly the commitments in section 2.2 to reflect organisational circumstances - should a decision to sign be taken.

For further advice about the process please contact Gwent Regional Armed Forces Liaison Officer Lisa Rawlings rawlil@caerphilly.gov.uk or 07717467341.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1

- That each individual Town/Community Council consider committing to the Armed Forces Covenant through their own organisational processes, and report back to the Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group.
- Each individual Town/Community Council decides not to sign Armed Forces Covenant.

4. Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan Re-signing the Covenant demonstrates a commitment to local Armed Forces communities, and supports the Gwent Well-being Plan objective 'we want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.'

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 *Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)*

No direct budget implications in relation to this report.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

There is a reputational risk to organisations not being up-to-date with Armed Forces Covenant expectations. To mitigate this, organisations can re-affirm the appropriate commitments.

5.3 ***Legal***

The Armed Forces Act 2021 has strengthened obligations for relevant bodies, including local authorities to have due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when carrying out certain functions in healthcare, education and housing.

In exercising these functions, we must have due regard to: (a) the unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the Armed Forces; (b) the principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces, and (c) the principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces.

When considering 'due regard' this duty is about informed decision-making and means that we should think about and place an appropriate amount of weight on the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when considering all the factors relevant to how we carry out relevant functions. It is not prescriptive about the actions we should take to comply with this legal obligation, and it does not mandate specific outcomes.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

An on-going programme of training on Armed Forces Covenant is available to council and partner organisation staff in Blaenau Gwent. To date, 179 staff have completed this training.

5.5 ***Health and Safety***

No direct health and safety implications.

6. ***Supporting Evidence***

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

2% of the population in Wales (385,000) are members of the Armed Forces Community, which includes families and ex-Service personnel. 3,230 military and civilian personnel are based in Wales, and in 2018 approximately 3,000 people left the Armed Forces and settled in Wales.

The 2021 census showed that the numbers in Blaenau Gwent are:

- Previously served in regular UK armed forces – 1,643 (3.0%)
- Previously served in UK reserve armed forces – 424 (0.8%)
- Previously served in any UK armed forces -72 (0.1%)
- **Total – 2,139 (3.9%)**

The proportion of people in Blaenau Gwent who are part of the Armed Forces Community will be higher as it also includes immediate family members.

Within the Town/Council Areas in Blaenau Gwent the Census 2021 figures are:

Abertillery & Llanhilleth

- Previously served in regular UK armed forces – 260 (2.9%)
- Previously served in UK reserve armed forces – 92 (1%)
- Previously served in any UK armed forces -20 (0.2%)
- **Total – 372 (4.13%)**

Brynmawr

- Previously served in regular UK armed forces – 142 (3.3%)
- Previously served in UK reserve armed forces – 30 (0.7%)
- Previously served in any UK armed forces - 4 (0.1%)
- **Total – 176 (4.06%)**

Nantyglo & Blaina

- Previously served in regular UK armed forces – 223 (3.0%)
- Previously served in UK reserve armed forces – 66 (0.9%)
- Previously served in any UK armed forces - 6 (0.1%)
- **Total – 295 (3.97%)**

Tredegar

- Previously served in regular UK armed forces – 357 (2.9%)
- Previously served in UK reserve armed forces – 106 (0.9%)
- Previously served in any UK armed forces -13 (0.1%)
- **Total – 476 (3.91%)**

6.2 *Expected outcome for the public*

Outlining the commitments and strengthening service provision around the new duties, as well as the continuation of existing work supporting Armed Forces Community.

6.3 *Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)*

Promote Armed Forces Covenant and raise public awareness via the steering group.

6.4 *Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)*

Armed Forces Covenant reflects long-term ongoing commitment of council to support Armed Forces community.

6.5 *Preventative focus*

Increasing awareness of Armed Forces community and ensure that we are asking people if they are part of that community to anticipate any potential issues or needs when accessing our services.

6.6 *Collaboration / partnership working*

Encourage partners to sign/re-sign Armed Forces Covenant and continue work of Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

Due regard to the Armed Forces community has been integrated into policies across the authority, including housing and school admissions policies within the Council.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

Not applicable.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)***

Not applicable.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Continue to monitor work via Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 - Armed Forces Covenant Signatory Template Document

A report into the viewing of Wetherspoons, Abertillery – The Pontlottyn

Aim

To look at the possibility of purchasing Wetherspoons and running it as a community project

Details

Following the decision made by Councillors during the Full Council meeting on 29th November 2023, whereby the Council resolved to give authority to the officers to make initial enquires about purchasing Wetherspoons and then provide a report back, a visit to Wetherspoons was arranged for Thursday 7th December 2023 with James Tunney, a representative from Savills estate agents. The following people also attended the viewing: -

Steve Edwards – Clerk
Erika Davies – Deputy Clerk
Chris Hill – Councillor
Ralph Henderson MBE – Councillor

The current manager Emma, was also present to show us around the property and answer questions.

The property is currently on sale for offers over £350,000.

Funding

There is the option to apply for government funding via the Community Ownership Fund. However, we do not know if we would be successful on any funding application.

Capital Funding – Up to £2 million for all asset types but we expect that most awards will be for up to £250,000.

Revenue Funding – No more than £50,000 or 20% of the total capital funding applied for, whichever is smaller.

Findings

It was very clear from the outset of the viewing that the building was in quite a bad state of repair and would require a significant amount of money spent to make it suitable as a usable community and working space. Access to the first floor was via a steep loft ladder in the manager's office and the space was filled with ducting for extraction and again would require significant work and new stairs and a lift installed for it to be accessible.

There was a second upper floor that could not be viewed due to poor access and the manager informed us that no one had been to that area for at least the last 13 years.

The basement was also in a bad state of disrepair and again, would require substantial remedial work to get it to a suitable and comfortable environment.

Conclusion

After viewing the property, it is felt that the amount of money needed to carry out the structural and cosmetic repairs needed to use the upper floors would be in the region of £600k - £700k. This, coupled with the asking price of £350,000, would mean a total spend of approximately £1 million.

There does not appear to be any funding available for an initial structural survey and this would be costly. According to the RICS "On average, most commercial property surveyors cost £800 up to £2000 per day depending upon a number of factors, therefore assuming a reasonable cost of £950 per day, a small commercial building may take 1.5 days whereas a larger commercial property may take 10+ days". (10 x £2000 = £20,000).

Due to the cost and amount of work involved, this does not appear to be a financially viable project for ALCC to proceed with.

ALCC ClerkMailbox

From: BGCBC - Planning <Planning.bgcbc@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 December 2023 15:59
Subject: PA/2023/0226 - BT - Proposed Removal of Telephone Box - time sensitive - Bridge Street, Six Bells, Abertillery, NP13 2LL
Attachments: Street_Payphone notice_English.pdf; Street_Payphone notice_Welsh.pdf; Blaenau Gwent Annex.xlsx; Plan.docx

Dear Ward Member / Town Clerk

Please find attached a copy of correspondence which has been received by the Planning Department from BT.

In essence the letter gives the Authority 90 days' notice of their intention to remove 2 telephone boxes in the Borough -- of which, some fall within the ward area(s) which you represent (please see list attached marked Blaenau Gwent Annex).

Whilst it is not the role of the Planning Authority to agree, adopt or object to removal of the phone boxes, there is an expectation upon the Local Authority to initiate its own consultation process to canvas the views of the local community. This e-mail is to notify you of this proposal.

It is understood that notices have been placed by BT on each telephone box to advise the local community of their intention (see copy attached).

It is the Planning Authority's intention to forward all correspondence received as a result of this consultation directly to BT.

Please forward any comments in writing to the Team Manager Development Management by in order that they can be sent to BT within the specified timescale.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Lyn Sage

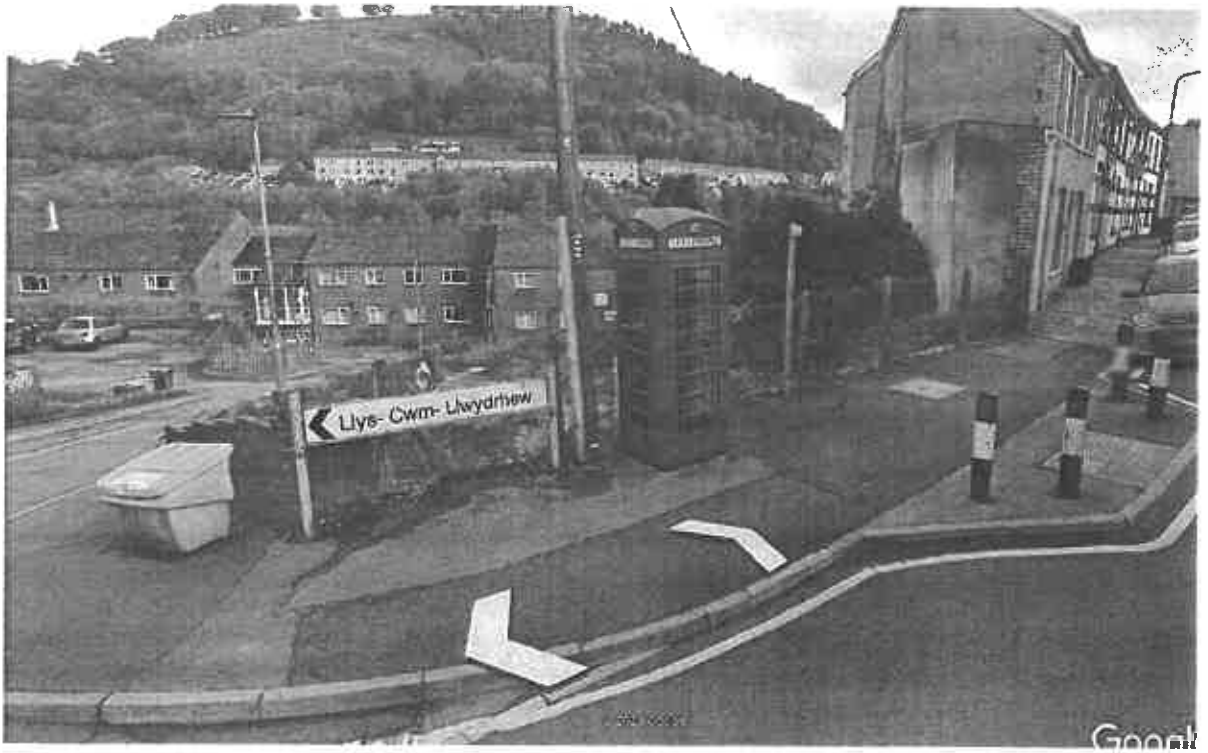
Senior Business Support Officer / Uwch Swyddog Cefnogi Busnes Dros Dro
Business Support / Cymorth Busnes

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council / Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent The General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6DN / Y
Swyddfeydd Cyffredinol, Heol Gwaith Dur, Glyn Ebwy, NP23 6DN

Website: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/home/>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/blaenauwentcbc>

(Deadline 13th March - in writing)



Ref.	Call box ID	Address
# 1	01495212195	PCO PCO1 BRIDGE STREET SIX BELLS ABERTILLERY # .
2	01495302277	PCO PCO1 OPP TY BRYN RASSAU ROAD RASSAU EBBW VALE

Training Policy

1. All Members and officers of the Council shall be offered the opportunity to undertake any and all of the following training modules, plus any additional modules that are added, within twelve months of the beginning of the Council term (or, in the case of co-opted Members, within twelve months of taking office):
 - New Councillor Induction
 - Code of Conduct
 - Local Govt Finance
 - Chairing Skills
 - The Council Meeting
 - The Council as an Employer
 - Understanding the Law
 - Health and Safety
 - Equality & Diversity
2. All Members of the Finance and Grants Committee shall be offered the opportunity to undertake the *Local Government Finance* module within six months of their appointment to the Committee. If a Member of the Finance and Grants Committee has not completed the *Local Government Finance* module during the current Council term and fails, without special dispensation from the Full Council, to complete the module within six months of their appointment to the Committee, a motion to de-select that Member from the Committee shall be tabled at the next Full Council meeting.
3. All Members of the HR Committee shall be offered the opportunity to undertake the *Council as an Employer* module within six months of their appointment to the Committee. If a Member of the HR Committee has not completed the *Council as an Employer* module during the current Council term and fails, without special dispensation from the Full Council, to complete the module within six months of their appointment to the Committee, a motion to de-select that Member from the Committee shall be tabled at the next Full Council meeting.
4. The Chair of Council, Vice-Chair of Council and all Chairs of Committee shall be offered the opportunity to undertake the *Chairing Skills* module within six months of their election/appointment. If a Chair of a Committee has not completed the *Chairing Skills* module during the current Council term and fails, without special dispensation from the Full Council, to complete the module within six months of their appointment as Chair of the Committee, a motion to de-select the Chair of the Committee shall be tabled at the next meeting of that committee.¹
5. A Member may claim special dispensation if they had completed a training module during the twelve months immediately preceding the beginning of the Council term (or, in the case of co-opted Members, during the twelve months immediately preceding their taking office). The Full Council (or Committee, as appropriate) shall decide whether special dispensation shall be allowed for this or for any other reason.
6. A Member who is deselected from a Committee or from the role of Chair of a Committee for the reasons above shall not be reappointed to that position for at least six months.

¹ The Chair of Council is elected and cannot be deselected. The Vice Chair of the Council is appointed for the duration of the Chair's term of office and cannot be deselected. *Local Government Act 1972*

7. A Member shall be deemed to have been deselected from a Committee or from the role of Chair of a Committee if they resign from that position having failed to complete the necessary training module within the specified time period.
8. This policy refers to the titles of committees and to the title of training modules delivered by, or through, One Voice Wales as of January 2023. This policy shall remain in force if the title of a committee changes but its duties and responsibilities remain broadly similar. This policy shall also remain in force if the title of a training module changes, and/or it is delivered by a different training provider, but its content remains broadly similar.

Draft

Training Policy and Plan

- i. Training for community councillors was a key issue addressed in the Final Report of the Independent Review Panel on Community and Town Councils in Wales that was established by the Welsh Government in 2017. The report said the following:

The role of a Community and Town Council councillor is changing. We know many councillors think of themselves as volunteers, when they are in fact elected members with statutory responsibilities. The Auditor General for Wales confirms that a significant number of Community and Town Councils demonstrate a lack of understanding of the governance framework within which they operate and do not comply with their statutory responsibilities. We agree with the steps taken by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales to reinforce that councillors are elected members. We believe there should be a clearer description of what the 'ask' of a councillor is in light of the new role for councils we have set out. As elected members, councillors have to meet the standards expected of them in the Code of Conduct and adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles) ...Evidence has told us that some councillors are willing to attend regular training, where as some are more reluctant. It is important they are familiar with what's expected of them as councillors. We recommend that a core package of training should be mandatory for all councillors as a requirement for acceptance of office and that this mandatory training is repeated regularly (every election term). This should include:

- Code of conduct
- Induction (covering role/expectations and the legal framework)
- Being an employer
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Health and Safety
- Finance (core basic requirements)

We call upon Welsh Government, Community and Town Councils and councillors themselves to ensure all councillors are fully trained and have a training plan.

- ii. The Welsh Government has not taken any action in regards to this recommendation. Therefore, it is still not mandatory for community councillors to undertake any training and there is no consequence in law for a community councillor who refuses to do so.
- iii. Dates for training modules will be sent to all Councillors as and when they are published by One Voice Wales.
- iii. Clause 8 of the draft policy seeks to avoid the unwelcome situation whereby a Member could resign from a Committee or from the role of Chair of a Committee in order to avoid deselection but then immediately put themselves forward to fill the vacancy created by their own resignation.

Councillor Training Plan

Section 67 of The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires community councils to make and publish a plan by November 2022 for training provision for its members (even though, as noted above, is still not mandatory for community councillors to undertake any training).

The adoption of the proposed Training Policy would mean, *perforce*, that Members agreed to the training plan.

Operator Training

Our Operator Training course is a 2 hour plus certificated course, which trains your staff on how to correctly use your product in an emergency.

All delegates receive reference and training material. On Course completion, all delegates meeting the training standards are certificated and deemed competent for their roles.

COURSE INCLUDES

Your Operator Training course can include up to 4 people at your site to show you how to use your evacuation chair in an emergency

- Training and reference materials
- Supervised operation on your stairs
- Certification in the safe use of the chair

DURATION

Estimated course duration : 2 hrs





Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Council Grant Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

Llanhilleth Miners Institute
Meadow St, Llanhilleth, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 2JT

Group Contact name: Hayley Davies

Role in the group: Community Engagement Manager

Telephone number: 01495 400204 / 07871 924532

Email: Hayley.davies@llanhillethinstitute.com

What are the aims of your project? By restoring the integral clock to its original glory, we would be helping to preserve a significant local landmark which has been a much loved part of the village & surrounding area since 1906 & also reinstate it as a Civic Amenity.

How does your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its residents? Please see notes attached, paragraph second page.

Approx number of beneficiaries The whole of Llanhilleth village & its surrounding areas

Details of project costs:

A. Project costs met by group (include match funds)	Amount (inc. VAT)
	£
(Unable to match funds)	£
	£
Sub Total	£
B. Costs requested from ALCC	Amount (inc. VAT)
NB. Actual cost £1937.00	£ 2324.40
We are able to claim back the VAT	£
so seeking £1937.	Sub Total
	£
C. Total project costs (A + B) TOTAL	£ 1937.00

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

..... Charity..... see copy (p1) of refer. doc.

Payee name: Llanhilleth Miners Institute

Name of person making the application:

Print Name: KERRY CARTER (Member of Board of Trustees)

Signed: K. Carter

Date: 19/01/24

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



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council
(ALCC)

Council Grant Application
(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

Friends of Blaenau Gwent Village
and Roseheyworth Park.
163 GLADSTONE STREET
ABERTILLERY NP13 1NF

Group Contact name:

MRS CATHERINE SHARKEY

Role in the group:

SECRETARY

Telephone number:

07830655192

Email:

friendsofblaenau-gwent-and-roseheyworthpark
@hotmail.com

What are the aims of your project?

To implement new play equipment where
the previous equipment was originally. To provide
a stimulating, inviting environment where the
local community can come together. To ensure
this area remains accessible to the local
community.

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

The refurbishment will invigorate the play area and benefit the Community by providing a better equipped play area. It will benefit Children of all ages and their parents/carers by providing an appealing and inclusive play space.

Approx number of beneficiaries

4500

Details of project costs:

A. Project costs met by group (include match funds)	Amount (inc. VAT)
N/A	£
	£
	£
Sub Total	£ NIL
B. Costs requested from ALCC	Amount (inc. VAT)
Murals x2 £1100 each	£ 2200
Park bench x1 (£400) Picnic table x3 £(2700) 25% VAT	£ 3900
Sub Total	£ 6100
C. Total project costs (A + B) TOTAL	£

Is the organisation a: Charity/community group/sports club/company/not for profit

- * Group Constitution
- * Bank Statements

business/other (explain and provide evidence)

We are a non profit Community group. Evidence of this is included *

Payee name:

..... CATHERINE SHARKEY

Name of person making the application:

Print Name:

..... MRS CATHERINE SHARKEY

Signed:

..... 

Date:

..... 17/01/2024

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.alcc@gmail.com