

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 13 December 2023 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Chair); Peter Adamson; Steve Bard; Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Nick Simmons; and Bernard Wall

Via video link: Ben Owen Jones

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk)

Others: Karl Rowberry and Lisa Silverthorne (K Style); Kristian Gay and Rachel Lawrence (BGCBC Youth Services); Alana Insley (OfftheStreets).

Absent: Tracey Dyson; Michaela Assiratti; Graham White, Glyn Smith

80. Apologies for absence

Tracey Dyson (Chair); Michaela Assiratti; Graham White

81. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None. Steve Bard asked a question concerning a dispensation for Glyn Smith, the Clerk responded we could deal with that issue if we got close to the 6-month time limit.

82. Minutes

29 November 2023

The Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes as a correct record with the following amendment.

1: Item 69 – Change “friends off” to “friends of”.

83. Council Grants – K Style

The main issue that Council had been concerned about, from the previous meeting was the number of beneficiaries shown on the application form. Lisa Silverthorne that someone else had completed the form and the number of beneficiaries shown was incorrect, that was the number of people actually involved in starting the group up. Their program was planned to cover a range of age groups across a number of different sessions per week. They were also looking at partnerships with other youth organisations and taking referrals from Torfaen, as well as BGCBC. Both BGCBC and OffTheStreets representatives at the meeting were supportive of their efforts and plans. K-Style also invited Councillors to attend quarterly progress meetings with them at the centre.

The Council was very impressed by the overall presentation.

The Council **RESOLVED** to pay a £9,000 grant to K-Style.

Karl Rowberry and Lisa Silverthorne left the meeting.

84. Reporting on Youth Engagement Activities

- OffTheStreets: Alana had taken over from Deb Pitt earlier in the year. They were now covering Swffryd, Brynithel and Llanhilleth. During school holidays they were feeding up to 100 young people a week. They had reached a

maximum of 180 people in the summer. They were exploring various funding arms. Even though the number of interactions were high they did focus on quality rather than quantity. Dealing with things like food poverty, drugs or bereavement issues and trying to take preventative measures to keep people out of trouble.

- BGCBC: Kristian had taken over from Greg Morgan at the start of the year. Racheal had recently been appointed to head the detached duty team. They are based at the Youth centre in Abertillery but the detached youth workers did a lot of work away from the centre. There is a BGCBC Youth services Facebook page where Councillors can see what is happening. Councillor can go and see themselves at any time. Barrie Page said he had visited and anyone visiting had to be prepared to take them as they are. They are looking to have some sort of mobile provision up and running in 2024. A lot of the work they are involved in is the pastoral one-to-one approach with individuals which is difficult to quantify but is highly important. In answer to a question they confirmed that there are youth workers in every school. The team runs, in conjunction with Dragons Rugby, sessions each Friday, the average attendance is 26. They also engage with on average 40 young people per week in addition to the rugby sessions.

The Council was very appreciative of their work and a number of individual Councillors expressed how important this work was to our community.

Kristian Gay, Racheal Lawrence and Alana Insley Left the meeting.

85. Council Grants 2024/2025

The Council **RESOLVED** to the following motions.

Motion (Ward Grants): The Council will pool the Ward Grants budget into 5 Ward Areas. £1,000 for Abertillery Ward, £600 for Aberbeeg Ward, £1,000 for Cwmtillery Ward, £600 for Llanhilleth Ward, £600 for Six Bells Ward. The Members for each ward will form a Committee for the sole purpose of administering the ward grant for that area, the grant must be used for the benefit of that Ward area. If a Ward only consists of a single Councillor or cannot decide on a Ward Grant application then applications will be referred back to full Council for decisions.

Motion (Project/Event Costs): The Council will release funds, and delegate purchasing authorisations, as agreed in the January Budget Meeting to the relevant Committees so that they can carry out projects and events they are responsible for. These will be known as project/event costs and not grants. The event/project costs are limited by the budget agreed by Council. Any increase in individual project/event costs would have to be agreed by Full Council. Any single costs above £3,000 will require an application form that can be agreed by the relevant Committee. Any new projects/events that arise throughout the year should be allocated by Full Council to a specific Committee so that it falls within processes above. Committees will be responsible in producing reports back to Council on the progress of events/projects.

Motion (Council Grants): The Council will agree a discretionary Grants fund pool at the January budget meeting. All applications will made on the official Grants application form, even if there is a single meeting motion from a Councillor for grant funding. There will be a maximum limit of £7,500 for any one single grant request. Grant requests from a single organisation cannot be de-aggregated in order to reduce the request below the Council limit.

86. Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm

There were numerous discussion points raised. The Council agreed that all suggestions were sent to the Clerk by 4th January 2024 who then collate a Council response to the Wind farm consultation

87. Date of Next Meeting

10 January 2024 (Budget Meeting) at 7pm

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

Signed as correct Record by the

Chair.....

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

Minutes written by Steve Edwards (Clerk)