

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 20 March 2024 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair); Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair); Peter Adamson; Steve Bard; Ralph Henderson (MBE); Chris Hill; Wayne Lewis; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Nick Simmons; Bernard Wall;

Via Video Link: Mark Lewis; Ben Owen-Jones.

Absent: Michaela Assiratti; Glyn Smith; Graham White.

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk); Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk); Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

Members of the public: Bruno Góes Marcel; CSO Luke Davies and PS Dan Wise (Gwent Police).

124. Apologies for absence

Michaela Assiratti; Glyn Smith; Graham White.

125. Declarations of interest or dispensations

Ralph Henderson – Abertillery Aspirations.

126. Minutes: 28 February 2024.

Council **RESOLVED** to make one amendment to the draft minutes, to include a line under item 116 “The Clerk informed Council that the company providing the Solar Farm Grant had changed from Luxcara to Lightsource BP”

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the 28 February 2024 minutes, with the amendment, as a correct record.

127. Report from Gwent Police.

CSO Luke Davies and PS Dan Wise introduced themselves. PS Wise is responsible for Abertillery. He had met with local Borough Councillors. Going forward he would like regular meetings with the Community Council.

Written Question from Barrie Page: “We are supporting a detached Youth Work team in the area Cwmtillery to Six bells and another team working from Aberbeeg to Swffryd. Do they feel this approach is helping to reduce the problems? And if so, in what ways? – **Answer:** The Police thought the detached teams did brilliant work. PS Wise was aware of the 6 detached workers. The Chair of Council reminded the meeting that Council pay for the 6 detached youth workers. The Police said the detached teams were helping improve social skills with the young people and also working on street art project so graffiti was done in a positive way.

Written Question from Barrie Page “Is there more, we as a council could do, that would help them in their jobs?” – **Answer:** PS Wise is a big fan of joint working towards outcomes. It’s not something that single organisations can do on their own. Need to improve quality of life and reduce Anti-Social Crime.

Question: Do you cover our entire Community Council areas. **Answer:** Yes.

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Question: There are a number of grants available from Gwent Police HQ, is it worth Council applying for any of this? **Answer:** The grants are there to help social problems. The police have to provide an operational order and a report of possible outcomes. There is then a strategic allocation of budgets. It's not for the Community Council.

Question: Off Road Motorcycles are causing track marks at various places throughout the council area. **Answer:** PS Wise had spent many years in roads policing. They are looking at the top 2 worst areas in Gwent to act in, which will include off road issues, joint speed operations and the Go Safe initiative and fine if over 20mph limit.

Question: Dangerous parking blocking off some streets. **Answer:** If specific email sent to CSO then police can look at the issue. Highways parking enforcement was responsibility of Borough Council. As of 1st April, BGCBC will be taking the lead on parking enforcement.

Question: Traders in the town have some disquiet as some shops are only open with one person so can be worrying. If there was a police presence they would feel more secure. **Answer:** The best outcome is being out there, with a visible presence. They will monitor how many patrols are in our area.

Question: Kids are seen hanging around Foundry Bridge because they have access to the bus shelter and shop, would a safe space shelter be better? **Answer:** Agree that they need a place to go but we need to find an area. The chair said that Youth Centre had plans for area with a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and that the Community Council had investigated the use of the space opposite the Tesco Petrol station but this had been refused by the County Borough Council.

CSO Luke Davies and PS Dan Wise left the meeting.

128. Bank Reconciliation February 2024

Josh Rawcliffe presented the bank reconciliation for February 2024. One query on the amount shown for Audit Wales, this should be £355 not £35,000.

129. Standing Orders.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Amendment from Josh Rawcliffe to add to part 26.

“Unless duly authorised no councillor shall:

(iii) contact stakeholders, partners or grants applicants without delegated authority from the relevant committee or full council”

Council **RESOLVED** to accept and adopt the new version of Standing Orders as presented with the addition of the amendment above.

130. CILCA

The Clerk stated that part of the Internal Auditors report was that Council should consider if they wanted an Officer CILCA qualified. The Clerk stated that the approximate cost would be £600 to £800 but the Council would apply for a bursary which may help with costs. In answer to a question the Clerk said that CILCA stood for Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Council **RESOLVED** that an officer should become CILCA qualified.

131. Time of Full Council Meeting

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There was a discussion to move the start of Full Council meetings to 6pm instead of 7pm.

Council **RESOLVED** to keep the start times of Full Council meetings at 7pm.

132. Ward Grants

Council **RESOLVED** the following Ward Grants

- £200 for the Hospice of the Valleys to help provide specialist palliative care. (Graham White) – S137 of the Local Government Act 1972
- £200 for Gelli Grug Allotments to help provide allotments (Tracey Dyson) – S26 of the Small Holding and Allotments Act 1908

133. Investment Policy

The Clerk stated that part of the Internal Auditors Report was that Council required an Investment Policy. A draft policy was presented to Council, this was taken from a template provided by the Internal Auditor.

Council **RESOLVED** to amend the draft policy so part 5.3. Change “The maximum of the councils cash deposits which may be held with one institution must” to “The maximum of the councils cash deposits which may be held with one institution should”.

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Investment Policy and that the Clerks will bring options to the Finance Committee to move cash reserves away from Unity Trust. Finance Committee can then make recommendations to Full Council.

The Officers will also check if the Councils bank deposits were still covered by the FSCS £85,000 compensation scheme.

134. Planning

The agenda item falls as the Councillor proposing was not in attendance.

135. Notice Boards

Council **RESOLVED** to start a Notice Board Project. The officers will bring back a report to Council concerning future Notice Board provision within the Community Council area.

136. News

Councillor Steve Bard brought to the attention of the meeting that the Town Band had won the second section of the Welsh National Championships.

Councillor Ralph Henderson brought to the attention of the meeting that Six Bells Tennis Club had won Best park in Wales at the Welsh Lawn Tennis Association award and that Chris Hill had received the President’s Award.

137. Date of next meeting

24 April 2024.

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The meeting ended at 8:12 pm..

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

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.