

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 16 May 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Council Offices, Mitre
Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Bard (Chair), Josh Rawcliffe, Bruno Goes Maciel (from 6:05), Frankie Baker Nick Simmons and Mike Whatley

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk), Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk), and Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk) via video link.

Absent: Glyn Smith

8. Apologies for absence

None

9. Declarations of interest or dispensations

None

10. Minutes 14 April 2025

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record.

Bruno Goes Maciel joined the meeting.

11. Annual Return 2024/2025

The Committee reviewed the RFO report and the annual return. The only minor issue that the RFO said needed monitoring was the amount of General Reserves. Even though audit guidance was to hold reserves between 25% to 75% of budget, he would be happy if General reserves were at 20% because our income streams are guaranteed.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council to accept the RFO report and to sign off the Annual return.

12. Internal Audit Update

The Clerk presented the Internal Auditor letter. The Chair stated he was very pleased with the Internal Auditor outcomes and only having 5 negative responses out of 179 possible areas was a good result for the Council and for the hard work that is being done by the Finance Committee. The Committee will review all the Internal Audit observations and report back.

13. Motion from Nick Simmons

“To recommend to Full Council that the Resolution from the Finance Committee meeting of 7 Feb 2025 to be amended to allow any organisation to receive an annual block grant, instead of Council paying their invoices direct, if they agree to produce a detailed summary of expenditure to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and allow Officers to examine any and all invoices as required by Council to confirm expenditure.”

The Chair explained that the original motion was that Council could have greater transparency about what grant funding was being spent on. The issue of VAT reclaim was raised but the Clerk said that Council would not be claiming any VAT back on the invoices it paid for services provided to another organisation.

The Motion was defeated.

14. Date of next meeting

This will be set after the Annual meeting of Council on 21st May when the membership of the Committee is known

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

The meeting ended at 6:35 pm.

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

Date.....

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