

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND
LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 21st May 2025 AT 7:01 pm in the
Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair), Peter Adamson, Frankie Baker, Steve Bard, Ivor Beynon, Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis (via video-link), Bruno Góes Maciel, Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons, Bernard Wall, Graham White (via video-link).

Youth Representatives: (Sophie Townsend via video-link).

Absent: Jackson Powell, Glyn Smith, Mike Whatley.

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

17. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mike Whatley.

18. Election of Chair for 2025-26

The Council **RESOLVED** to elect Josh Rawcliffe as Chair of Council for 2025-26.

19. Chair signing Declaration of Office

The new Chair signed the Declaration of Office and took over chairing the meeting.

20. Previous Year's Chairs Address

As I finish my second year as chair, I can reflect on all our successes we have had and have still to come. Our most recent being the centenary celebrations in Six bells park. Without the deputy clerks that we have employed none of these projects would have been as successful. The projects are now better organised and this council is now working more efficiently than it ever has. Please remember that the staff are here to facilitate the projects though not do all the work for them.

I would like to thank Steve Bard and the finance committee for all the hard work they have carried out in the last two years to ensure that this council can stand up to public scrutiny and we hopefully will never be in the position we found ourselves previously.

My biggest wish when I joined this council was to have youth councillors and this year we have achieved this, not only are we involved with the School Sennedd, we also have our own two youth councillors, who are doing really well and I am hoping that they are enjoying the experience.

As I hand over the button, I hope this council stays on track I hope that we never go back to being a closed talking shop and we keep meetings focused and snappy and not wandering off topic and making meetings several hours long as I have proved over the

last two years, it is not needed as we stay focused we actually get more done. Thank you for your faith in my abilities and good luck to the next Chair.

21. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None

22. Appointment of Vice-Chair for 2025-26

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Lucy Harmer as Vice-Chair for 2025-26

23. Appointment of Bank Authorisers

The Council **RESOLVED** to keep the existing 4 bank authorisers. Tracey Dyson, Barrie Page, Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons.

Tracey Dyson left the meeting at 7:06

24. Terms of Reference

The Council **RESOLVED** the following;

- To agree the new name and amend the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Governance Committee as per the draft amendments submitted to Council by the Finance Committee
- The Leisure and Tourism Committee's Terms of Reference to properly reflect the agreed budget lines, and that reference to the Community Fun Run be changed to the RAS Viaduct Run/RAS Draphont.
- The PlaCE Committee's Terms of Reference to properly reflect the agreed budget lines.
- The HR Committee's Terms of Reference to remain the same
- The Community Empowerment Committee's Terms of Reference to properly reflect the agreed budget lines.

25. Standing Orders.

The Council **RESOLVED** to the following changes to Standing Orders;

Amend Standing Orders 4(b) from

"The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council."

to

"The members of a committee may include non-councillors as non-voting members of that committee."

Amend Standing Orders 4(d)(iv) from

"shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, allow all Committees other than the HR Committee and the Finance Committee to appoint their own Chairs, even if the Chair of Council is a member of that committee."

to

"shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, allow all Committees other than the HR Committee and the Finance and **Governance** Committee to appoint their own Chairs, even if the Chair of Council is a member of that committee."

Amend Standing Orders 14 (e)

So that the reference to standing order 20(b) should be to standing order 22.

26. Committees

The Council **RESOLVED** the following shall be the Committees of the Council;

Leisure and Tourism Committee
Planning, Commerce and Environment (PlaCE) Committee
Finance and Governance Committee
Human Resources Committee
Community Empowerment Committee
Joint Committee of Local Councils in Blaenau Gwent JCLC

27. Appointment Members of the Committees

In answer to a question the Clerk stated that if a Member was absent at this meeting they could remain on a Committee they were already a member of but they could not be nominated and appointed to any Committees they were not already members of.

The **RESOLVED** to the following memberships of the Committees:

- Leisure and Tourism to remain the same.
- PlaCE to remain the same.
- Finance and Governance – Josh Rawcliffe to be replaced by Lucy Harmer.
- Human Resources Committee – Tracey Dyson to be replaced by Lucy Harmer.
- Community Empowerment Committee to remain the same.

28. Chairs of Committees

The Council **RESOLVED** If the current Chair of any Committee, excepting the HR Committee, remains on that Committee then they shall remain Chair until such time as they resign from the position, or Council or the Committee elect a new Chair.

29. External Bodies

The Council **RESOLVED** the following nominations for external bodies

- Blaenau Gwent CBC Scrutiny Committee – Josh Rawcliffe. In answer to a question the Clerk stated that this was different to the Joint Committee of Local Council in Blaenau Gwent (JCLC)
- Abertillery and District Twinning Association – Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons
- Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Peter Adamson and Barrie Page
- Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group – Josh Rawcliffe

30. Full Council Meetings 2025-26

The Council **RESOLVED TO** agree the following schedule of meetings:

- 25 June 2025
- 23 July 2025
- 24 September 2025
- 29 October 2025
- 26 November 2025
- 17 December 2025
- 14 January 2026 – budget-setting meeting
- 28 January 2026

- 25 February 2026
- 25 March 2026
- 29 April 2026
- 20 May 2026 – Annual Meeting

The meeting ended at 7:34 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

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

Date.....

DRAFT