

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
(ALCC) HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2020 at 7.00pm
Held remotely via Zoom**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Gary Oakley (Chair), Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti, Vanessa Bartlett, Gill Clark, Roger Clark, Julie Holt, Mark Lewis, Beverley Lucas, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees and, Nick Simmons.

Officers: Steve Edwards, Clerk and Liz McMahon, Admin Assistant.

Others: None

ABSENT: Tracey Dyson, Perry Morgan, Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall, and Graham White

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tracey Dyson and Perry Morgan

Welcomes were extended to everyone present and an introduction to Liz McMahon.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of the need to declare interests verbally

No other members declared any personal interests.

3. AGREE BUDGET FOR 2021/2022

The Chair welcomed all and explained that where there were items for debate all would have the opportunity to put arguments for and against to allow all present to have an input. This meeting was to firstly agree the budget and then to agree the precept. All votes will be recorded so that all, including the public can see this.

Discussion then ensued during which the following key points arose:

- A large amount has been spent and budgeted for youth engagement projects including the Space Café. Against a backdrop of less activities due to Covid this did not seem reasonable.
- No data or reports have come back from the youth engagement projects as yet but these have been asked for and the Youth Working Group will look all the data.
- The Space Café is currently operating as 3 outreach workers and asked for £9,951. This was given as part of a trial and we are waiting on reports coming back as to how this is progressing.
- Between BGCBC and Space Café £94,000 would need to be found however this would not necessarily be spent. However, one or the other or both could be considered but this would be a decision for the council later in the year.
- In Bloom has £22k earmarked for it this year and this is something to get off the ground and will contribute to wellbeing within the community.

- Although events are in the budget eg Aberfest there was concern that these events may not take place.
- That the spending on Christmas lighting should be looked at
- That the figures of £260k include £94k for Youth Budget which is still to be debated on at a later date.

The Chair reminded all that the Council have a duty to provide a robust budget and agree it by end of January. The budget should cover all potential spending. A precept has to be set that will allow Council to fund all of the budget

Following a motion from Councillor Peter Adamson the Council **RESOLVED** with 6 members in favour (Peter Adamson, Mark Lewis, Gary Oakley, Rob Phillips, Allan Rees, Nick Simmons) and 6 members against (Michaela Assiratti, Vanessa Bartlett, Gill Clark, Roger Clark, Julie Holt, Beverly Lucas) and with the Chair using a casting vote to accept the budget and agree it at £260k

4. AGREE PRECEPT FOR 2021/2022

The Chair explained that the Council would now need to debate the precept for 2021/2022 either increase the precept or keep it at the current rate. The Clerk reminded members that as the RFO he needed to be mindful of ensuring that the Council have enough budget and stated that £190k as a precept would ensure the council was safe and secure. The guidance for Councils is to keep at least 25% of budget in reserves. The current account is in also in surplus as in each of the last 4 years the budget hasn't been spent in full.

A discussion ensued during which the following points were debated:

- The Council have at least £60k surplus in the current account. £90k sitting in reserves.
- That the Council should remain prudent in these times given the hardships that local families are experiencing with furlough and unemployment.

Councillor Julie Holt put forward a motion that the precept be agreed at £190k and the Council **RESOLVED** (only Councillor Peter Adamson voted against the motion) to set the precept for 2020/2021 at £190k

The meeting ended at 8.47 pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

NB these minutes are a summary of the proceedings and record of the decisions taken. They are not intended to be a verbatim record.

Minutes produced by Liz McMahon Administrative Assistant

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY
COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2020 at 7.00pm
Held remotely via Zoom**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Gary Oakley (Chair), Peter Adamson, Vanessa Bartlett, Gill Clark, Roger Clark, Tracey Dyson, Julie Holt, Mark Lewis, Perry Morgan, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith.

Officers: Steve Edwards, Clerk and Liz McMahon, Admin assistant.

Others: None

ABSENT: Michaela Assiratti, Beverley Lucas, Bernard Wall and, Graham White

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michaela Assiratti and Beverley Lucas

Welcomes were extended to everyone present

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bartlett declared a possible interest in respect of the agenda item 6 (c) ward grant.

7. MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING (a) 18 NOVEMBER 2020, (b) 16 DECEMBER 2020, AND (c) FINANCE COMMITTEE 17 DECEMBER 2020

Clerk stated moving forwards minutes would be streamline and more succinct still capturing the essence of any discussions and remaining transparent as possible. The minutes only have to record decisions made.

Minutes (A) Councillor Holt raised a motion to amend item 293b to include "a debate ensued in increasing the number of the HR committee from 5 to 7 members to be elected".
Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amendment.

Councillor Bartlett raised a motion to amend item 293b to include "the lack of gender equality was discussed" Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amendment.

Councillor Morgan raised a motion to amend item 293b to include "that Councillor Gill Clark and Councillor Julie Holt and the opportunity to be members of the HR committee but they withdrew"
Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amendment

Councillor Gill Clark raised a motion to amend 293b to include "no women were accepted on the HR committee as she felt that having 7 members increased the risk of breach of confidentiality". Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amendment.

The Clerk stated that the minutes would not have to be brought back to council once confirmed in a meeting. Council **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes (A) with all the amendments.

In respect of Minutes (B) Councillor Adamson raised a motion to amend item 322 to replace the word dates with debates and to amend Gyn Smith to Glyn Smith. Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amendments. Councillor Simmonds pointed out that the numbering of the paragraphs was incorrect and the Clerk will change this, no motion needed.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes (B) with all the amendments.

In respect of minutes (C) Councillor Smith raised a motion to amend his name from Glynn to Glyn. Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amendment. Councillor Gill Clark wished to add that she had attempted to join the meeting using Microsoft office but had been unable to do so. The Clerk responded that it was not part of the meeting and therefore would not be included in the minutes. Council **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes (C) with all the amendments.

8. FINANCE ORDER

The Clerk presented the finance order. He stated that cheque 7811 shown in table 1 is a duplicate payment of cheque 7769 in table 1. A duplicate payment was made to BGCBC. As a result, ALCC is in credit and this will be evened out by the end of the year.

A question was raised to ask about the payment of £420 to Thompsons solicitors for legal services. The Clerk replied that this payment was for legal services that had to be paid as part of the process of the former Clerk leaving employment.

A question was raised concerning the location 2 hanging baskets that had been purchased. The Clerk stated the baskets were returned to council offices.

A question was asked about payment for Zoom. The Clerk stated we have used the free version of Teams but we now have a licence for Zoom.

The Chair said that the Council would have had to fund a professional meeting platform and that Security issues with Zoom were all resolved and used by the Senedd.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the finance order.

9. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK LEWIS

A debate ensued regarding purchase of flags to thank NHS, Key Workers, Shops, Businesses and the Army/TA across a number of areas in ALCC. Councillor Lewis had enquired about some British made flags at a reasonable cost. Permission to hang any flags will need to be sought before purchase from each potential site.

Council debated some key considerations such as location, permission, local sourcing, inclusion of all wards and banners where flags were not practical. Flag and banner content was also discussed.

The Chair moved to make an amendment to the motion, that a project will be set up to cover the whole of the community council area and delegate to the Clerk the authority to spend up to

£500 with support from Councillor Lewis and Councillor Bartlett to work on this issue in consultation with Ward Members. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amendment.

10. GRANTS

The Council **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the ward grant application from Neil Fit, for £2000 not be approved as this is a for-profit company.
- (2) That the ward grant application from Welsh Air Ambulance Service be approved but the grant be increased from £500 requested to £1000.
- (3) That the ward grant application from Councillor Vanessa Bartlett be increased from £100 to £200 on request from Councillor Bartlett for Penial Church Abertillery.

11. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair stated the next meetings would be an extraordinary meeting on Monday 22nd February at 7 pm and the normal council meeting would be held on Wednesday 24th February at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.38 pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

NB these minutes are a summary of the proceedings and record of the decisions taken. They are not intended to be a verbatim record.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards Clerk and Liz McMahon Administrative Assistant



**THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH
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**The accounts Listed hereunder are presented at the 24 February Council Meeting
(Finance Order No 4 – Jan2021 to Feb 2021)**

**Payments that have been presented between 5 January 2021 and 5 February 2021
(Table 1)**

**We have not yet had the statement from the bank for January to February so there are
no payments to report as having been presented at the bank during this period.**

**Cheques and payments that have been issued but not yet presented as at 17 February
2021
(Table 2)**

Abertillery Bowls Club - Council Grant	7766	£600.00
Allotment Rental - E E Dykes	7781	£532.40
Printing/photocopying Dec - A R Digital	7782	£54.58
Mobile phone top up - S Edwards	7783	£20.00
Voided cheque	7784	
Annual payment for S Edwards - SLCC	7785	£185.00
Hosting accounting systems - Microshade	7786	£97.20
Zoom Annual Licence -S Edwards	7787	£143.88
Welsh Air Ambulance - Council Grant	7788	£1,000.00
Printing/photocopying Jan- A R Digital	7789	£54.52
Liz McMahon - Home printer for Clerk	7790	£74.99
Rialtas Business Solutions - Training for Clerk (Accounting System)	7791	£240.00
Loosemores Solicitors - Legal Advice	7792	£1,500.00
BGCBC - Staff and Payroll Costs (Oct to Dec)	7793	£17,561.35
Amazon Payments - 3 Headsets (N.Simmons, B.Lucas, M.Assiratti)	7794	£77.85
Penial Church - V Barlett Ward Grant	7795	£200.00
Centregreat Ltd - Central Christmas Lights Contract	7796	£13,512.00
Mark Lewis - Black cable Ties	7825	£12.97
Greg Hillman - New Ashs (Trophies for Christmas shop window)	7826	£13.50
Zion Mners Chapel - K Bidgood Ward Grant	7827	£100.00
Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents - K Bidgood Ward Grant	7828	£100.00
Swffryd Community Centre - G Clark Ward Grant	7829	£100.00
Graham White - Lost Members Allowance Cheque	7833	£150.00

Space Café - Council Grant 16/12/20	7836	£9,951.00
Abertilleey Blue Birds - R Clark Ward Grant	7837	£100.00
Llanhilleth Institute - G Clark Ward Grant	7839	£100.00
Total		£45,274.26

**Invoice received or expected, or Council decisions made but payments not yet made.
(Table 3)**

PAYEE	Amount
Printing for February (Estimate)	50.00
	£50.0

**Grant Applications Received but not yet approved
(Table 4)**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Date of Application</u>	<u>Amount</u>
None		
Total:		£0

**Income February 2020 to August 2020
(Table 5)**

None	
	£0

Monthly Finance Update – Current Account.

Current Account Balance 5/1/21	£ 126,270.26
Issued Cheques (Table 2):	£ 45,274.26
To be issued (Table 3):	£ 50.00
Grants, if approved (Table 4):	£ 0.00

Current Account Balance £80,946 of which **£1,161.11** is ring fenced for the Chair's Charity Appeal

Note: We are expecting the 4th quarter precept payment later in the financial year. This will be an additional £60,010.00 income to add onto the current balance, so the true balance is £140,956

RESERVES

Reserves currently stand at **£96,702.09** of which **£5,000** is ring-fenced for external auditor costs for 2014/15 to 2018/19.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Council notes the payments in Tables 1 and 2.**
- 2. Council authorise the payments in Table 3 above.**
- 3. Council notes the financial position on the current and reserves accounts**

