

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 14 January 2026 at 7.01 pm in the
Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Chair), Lucy Harmer (Vice Chair), Peter Adamson, Steve Bard, Ivor Beynon, Richard Catlin, Tracey Dyson, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis, Bruno Góes Maciel, Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons, and Mike Whatley

Absent: Frankie Baker, Bernard Wall and Graham White

Youth Representatives: Riley Overton and Jackson Powell

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

The Chair reminded the meeting that if any Councillor was in arrears of Council Tax of more than two months they were not eligible to vote on the budget and precept setting, and they should declare this under Declarations of Interest.

143. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Bernard Wall.

144. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None

145. Budget 2026/2027

Steve Bard, the Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee, explained the proposed budget had been through the various Committees and had been scrutinised by the Committee. Some points were confirmed.

- The decision to join One Voice Wales did not have to be made at the budget meeting only a decision to allocate a budgeted amount. It was also confirmed that the Council could still access One Voice Wales training without being members.
- The amount of £8,000 for Wales In Bloom was confirmed as the correct figure, and the explanation that Council were fully supporting this project. In the current year the project had relied on individual donations and crowd sourcing.
- The Clerks salary costs remain the same as it had been overbudgeted for in 2025/2026
- Staff Costs were tied to national spine/pay points so will increase year on year.
- The Chair noted that two of the Committees had reduced budgets from 2025/2026.

The Council **RESOLVED** the following:-

- The budget for One Voice Wales membership would remain at £1,700.
- Section 137 Grants would remain at £3,000. (The Clerk gave an explanation of what section 137 grants were, a power of last resort where no other spending power existed. The Clerk also confirmed that Section 137 grants could not be used to fund individuals).
- Council Grants would remain at £20,800 (Previous years Ward Grants budgets were now part of this overall budget line).
- No Chairs Allowance would be paid.

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- No Deputy Chairs Allowance would be paid.
- No Attendance Allowance would be paid.

The Council then **RESOLVED** to agree the proposed budget of £503,400.

146. Precept 2026/2027

There was a discussion about using Council Reserves to reduce the precept amount. The Clerk stated there would be at least a £10k underspend of this years budget, mainly from the Christmas Lights Grant funding, so we could reduce the precept from £455,611 to £445,611. This would mean an overall increase of precept of approx. 2.5% (Note after the meeting the calculation was made and it's actually a 2.67% increase).

The Council **RESOLVED** to set the precept for 2026/2027 at £445,611

147. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 28 January at 7pm

The meeting ended at 7:37 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

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

Date.....