

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 29 October 2024 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber
at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Bard (Chair), Josh Rawcliffe, Nick Simmons, Mike Whatley, Tracey Dyson and Barrie Page.

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk/RFO), Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk) and Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

Apologies: None

Absent: Bruno Goes Maciel, Glyn Smith and Mark Lewis

42. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

43. Declarations of interest or dispensations

Councillor Mike Whatley declared an interest in the Adam Street Allotment Apiary funding request as part of the PlaCE Committee budget.

44. Minutes 13 September 2024

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

45. 6 Month Budget Outturn Report

Councillor Steve Bard asked for clarification on the VAT coding. The Clerk explained that the amount shown was the recoverable VAT.

An error was noted on the amount shown for the 25/26 SLCC membership amounts. Based on an estimated £7 increase, the amount should be £718 per member.

The Clerk discussed that there would be a small increase in staffing costs once the employer NI contribution was made public following the Government budget on 30th October.

The report was noted with no other issues.

46. Budget Proposals

The Committee reviewed and discussed the budget proposals for 2025/26. The following observations were made and the Committee **RESOLVED** to make recommendations at the Full Council budget setting meeting in January.

RFO Budget:

The training budget for members needs to be sufficient to include the two newly appointed Youth Councillors.

Investigate the cost of using TEAMS as an alternative to the current ZOOM subscription. Officers will speak to Microshade about this.

Leisure & Tourism Budget:

Councillor Tracey Dyson was invited to the meeting to answer questions as Chair of this committee.

Initial:

Date:

The Clerk discussed the possibility of Lottery funding for the Summer Cinema programme and he will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

Councillor Josh Rawcliffe left the meeting at 6.26pm to take a phone call and returned at 6.30pm.

It was recommended that the planned Six Bells Centenary celebrations would be run as an ALCC event, in the same way as Party in the Park and Ras Draphont.

Any annual grant funding will be reviewed and the beneficiaries will be asked to report what the money has been spent on.

Councillor Tracey Dyson left the meeting at 6.37pm.

PlaCE Budget:

The amount of funding to Ffrindiau Tyleri needs to be reviewed as Councillor Nick Simmons does not think there will be enough money to continue with 4 events throughout the year if the Levelling Up funding from Blaenau Gwent is discontinued. Going forward, Ffrindiau Tyleri will need to submit invoices to ALCC for any payments to be made by Officers.

Community Empowerment Budget:

Councillor Barrie Page was invited to the meeting to answer questions as Chair of this committee.

The Committee agreed there needs to be a review of the youth liaison work to see what benefits and value for money it presents to the community.

The Committee does not recommend employing a Youth Liaison Officer but does suggest putting the budget for Off The Streets from £50,000 to £60,000.

The Committee recommends putting the extra-curricular transport for schools on the financial risk register and it remains in the budget.

47. Finance and Governance Toolkit

Councillor Bard gave an overview of the progress made on Theme A of the Finance and Governance Toolkit checklist. This will be a standing item on all future Finance Committee agendas to ensure it is being kept up to date.

Councillor Josh Rawcliffe left the meeting at 7.20pm.

48. Date of next meeting

Friday January 03rd 2025 at 6pm.

Minutes produced by Erika Davies, Deputy Clerk.

The meeting ended at 7:28pm.

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

Date.....