

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GRANTS COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2020 at 4:30pm in the Council Chamber Mitre Street, Abertillery**

**PRESENT: Councillors:**

Gill Clarke (via phone connection – voice only. See 289 below as only present for first couple of minutes of meeting) Gary Oakley (Chair), Perry Morgan, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith.

**Officers:** Steve Edwards, Deputy Clerk

**Others:** None

**ABSENT:**

**305. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES**

No apologies, but it was apparent that having Councillor Clark attend via a phone communication was not viable as she could not hear others in the chamber and it was difficult for the people in the chamber to hear her. There was brief discussion between Councillor Clark and the Deputy Clerk and Councillor Clark agreed to terminate her phone call and catch up on the meeting when the minutes were issued.

**306. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No Declarations of Interest

Note: Agenda Item 3 was moved to the end of the meeting

**307. Provision of Credit/Debit/pre-paid Card for the Council.**

Councillor Simmons raised this issue as he had been in discussions with the Deputy Clerk over the purchase of the 65” Monitor for chamber and how Council was limited in its choices when purchasing things to only companies that would except cheques.

The Deputy Clerk gave a recent example of trying to purchase specific flood lights for the War Memorial site and the company wouldn’t accept payment by cheque. The Deputy Clerk went on and explained that increasingly Council would require some sort of payment card to pay for things like annual Gmail storage subscriptions, postage on large meeting bundles and possible mobile phone top-up costs. The current situation is that this is paid for by the officers and then claimed back. The office does not have its own franking machine.

The Deputy Clerk went on to explain three options.

- A credit card would require Council to enter into a Credit Agreement which it may not be able to do so. It would also mean that the Council would always carry a potential liability on whatever the credit card limit was.
- A prepaid card would require front loading of Council funds onto the Card, most prepaid cards also come with administration costs

- A Business debit card should be able to be set up with a spending limit on it within our current banking arrangements.

In answer to a query from Councillor Rees the Deputy Clerk confirmed there was a locked safe in the Clerks Office, where any cards could be held.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that the Officers arrange for a debit card with a limit of £500 to be arranged with our current bankers.

**308. Youth Engagement Working Group update and Projections.**

No recommendations from the Youth Engagement Working Group for the Committee to discuss.

**309. Auditor.**

The Committee was concerned about the cost of the previous Internal Auditor and the Chair said that the usual going rate for a Council of our size is around £500. The Chair also said he was not impressed by the audit work that had been carried out and that Auditor should audit and not do accounting. Councillor Morgan also commented that he thought the previous Internal Auditor had got too involved and that in his view he thought that the Internal Auditor was in charge of us and not us in charge of him.

The Chair stated that it was for the Council to appoint the Internal Auditor not the officers. The Deputy Clerk replied that the officers would manage the process and bring tenders back to Full Council for a decision on who to appoint.

**310. Council Grant Applications.**

There was no Grant Applications to consider.

**311. Ward Grant Applications.**

The Committee **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the ward grant application from Councillor Keri Bidgood, for £100, for Zion Miners Chapel, be approved
- (2) That the ward grant application from Councillor Keri Bidgood, for £100, for Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents association, be approved
- (3) That the ward grant application from Councillor Gill Clark, for £100, for Swffryd Community Centre for Childrens Activities, be approved

The meeting ended at 5:10pm.

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, Acting Clerk*