MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 18 December 2024 AT 7:00 pm in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.

PRESENT

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair – via video-link), Peter Adamson, Frankie Baker, Ivor Beynon, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis (via video-link), Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link), Barrie Page, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall.

Youth Representatives: Jackson Powell. (Sophie Townsend – Absent)

Apologies: Steve Bard, Bruno Góes Maciel, Lucy Harmer, Rob Phillips, Mike Whatley.

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk)

Others: Amy Hughes and Alex Nicholas (Gwent Police)

105. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Steve Bard, Bruno Góes Maciel, Lucy Harmer, Rob Phillips, Mike Whatley

106. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: No interests were declared.

Cllr Graham White has a meeting dispensation until March 2025

107. Minutes – 27 November 2024

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record of the meetings.

108. Gwent Police – Sgt Amy Hughes

Sgt Amy Hughes introduced herself as the Police Sgt for the neighbourhood Team that covers the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area. She has only been in post for 6 weeks. She also introduced Alex Nicholas who will be the Ward Manager from January 2025. The main highlights from her report are: -

- There has been a big decrease in the number of youth anti-social behaviour incidents.
- The off-road bike issues were not only confined to this area but was an issue throughout the country. Three bikes had been confiscated in the past 6 weeks.
- Following a recent dog incident in Nantyglo the issue of XL Bullies is now a priority for Gwent Police. The police do have issues of over-reporting where the dogs concerned are not XL Bullies.
- There have been a spate of shoplifting at Lakesides Industrial Estate, but the shop keepers had formed a Whats App group so that information can be shared.

The Chair opened the meeting up for questions.

Q: Barrie Page – Will the specialist off-road tracking unit still be funded in 2025?

The Police are looking at keeping this unit and are looking at finding some internal funding but no decisions have been reached yet. Sometime specialist unit staff are released to deal with 999 emergency calls.

Q: Ralph Henderson – How close do the police liaise with the schools? Cllr Henderson also thanked the police for the good work they are doing.

There are no longer dedicated school officers as this now falls under the overall neighbourhood Team. There is one officer who is heavily involved with the schools and the community Support officers are also engaging with the schools.

Q: Peter Adamson – Expressed concerns over the parking on the pavements in Somerset Street. (A number of other Councillors expressed the same concerns across the Community Council area).

If cars are causing obstructions then people should report it. They can send pictures of parked cars to the Gwent Police FaceBook page. Also, councillors can email direct to Sgt Amy Hughes email.

Q: Ivor Beynon – Was Sgt Hughes aware of the plans for the old library as a youth training centre?

As she has only been in post 6 weeks she is just getting to grips with the area so does not have any information on that.

Q: Mark Lewis – Had Sgt Hughes been in contact with Sgt Dan Wise as Clr Lewis had sent in a number of previous complaints about parked cars.

Sgt Wise is no longer part of this area so Sgt Hughes had not spoken to him about car parking.

The Council thanked Sgt Hughes for her time, and she thanked the Council for inviting her.

Sgt Hughes and Alex Nicholas left the meeting at 7:30, the Chair adjourned the meeting so they could escort the police from the building.

109. Bank Reconciliations

There was one query from Peter Adamson concerning the payment to Vision ICT. The Clerk confirmed that this payment was a year in advance and if the contract was terminated during 2025 then money will be refunded. Council noted and accepted the bank reconciliations for November 2024.

110. Christmas Lights

The Clerk gave an update on the Christmas Lights.

- We are going to receive a credit of £400 from our Christmas Lights Contractor because of an issue with Merry Christmas sign in Somerset Street
- The socket in Somerset street has now been repaired so all the motifs should now be on.
- Mark Lewis has been helping with the lights at Pentref Tyleri, it looks as if the light will be up in the tree at the corner leading to west bank in Cwmtillery.

Ivor Beynon mentioned about a reply he had received from Nick Smith MP concerning the railway station, it will be copied to all members.

Chris Hill mentioned that Abertillery Learning Campus had won an award from Tennis Wales.

111. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7pm. (The budget setting meeting)

The meeting ended at 7:45 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair……

Date……