

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 27 November 2024 AT 7:00 pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair), Peter Adamson, Steve Bard, Bruno Góes Maciel, Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis (via video-link), Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons, Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall.

Youth Representatives: Jackson Powell.

Apologies: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Mike Whatley, Graham White.

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

Others: Frankie Baker (member of the public), Lisa Silverthorne & Karl Rowberry (K-Style) with 7 youth coaches/students from K-Style.

92. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Tracey Dyson (Chair), Cllr Mike Whatley and Cllr Graham White.

93. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

No interests were declared.

Cllr Graham White requested a 6-month dispensation from meetings on medical grounds.

Cllr Steve Bard proposed an amendment to this, suggesting that Council should offer a 3-month dispensation which should be reviewed in February ahead of the new financial year.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept this amendment, granting Cllr Graham White a 3-month dispensation.

94. Minutes – 30 October

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

95. K-Style

Lisa Silverthorne, Karl Rowberry and 7 youth coaches/students from K-Style entered the meeting at 7:11pm.

Lisa Silverthorne gave an update on the progress made by K-Style since they received a £9,000 Council Grant in December 2023.

K-Style now has 100 students of varying ages, with 20 on scholarships. They run classes 7 days a week, including Fun Fridays, ladies' circuits and mental health focused groups. They have offered sessions to youth on the streets, which seems to have reduced the amount of anti-social behaviour in Abertillery town.

K-Style has also hosted fundraisers and events, including offering their space to help others for free, such as accommodating first aid classes and a small photography business.

Lisa Silverthorne also explained that the premises they are currently in is not suitable anymore, and they are seeking a new premises in Abertillery. She welcomed any feedback or questions.

Cllr Ralph Henderson commended K-Style on their work over the past year. He questioned whether the old library had been considered as a new premises.

Lisa did visit the Community Council Offices to explain that they need to vacate their current premises, and asked whether the Officers could help put them in touch with people that could help. She reached out to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council about using the old library and was informed they already had a different use in mind.

Cllr Chris Hill suggested that some old office buildings in Abertillery could be suitable, and Cllr Ralph Henderson suggested that the Abertillery Institute could be a viable option.

Lisa explained that they would be happy to go anywhere within Abertillery, provided it had enough space for their equipment. She explained that most of their students walk to the gym, and K-Style often provides transport as well, meaning they are reluctant to move further away.

Cllr Steve Bard asked whether the Council could use quotes from the report provided by K-Style on social media and in the annual report.

Lisa responded that they would be happy for the Council to do this.

Cllr Barrie Page asked whether the Youth Coaches could stand and show their medals and belts.

The 7 Youth Coaches/Students stood and showed their awards. Lisa explained that the belts are Welsh titles, and that K-Style have attended multiple tournaments over the past year where they have had some great success. She added that they have been invited to the 2026 World Championship and will be going to Thailand next year.

Council congratulated the students on their achievements.

Cllr Bruno Góes Maciel asked whether K-Style had considered applying for funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Lisa stated that they did apply for this funding last year but were unsuccessful.

Cllr Barrie Page responded, suggesting that it could be worth applying again considering a new PCC is now in the position. The Clerk offered to contact the PCC regarding this.

Lisa told the Clerk this would be much appreciated.

Cllr Josh Rawcliffe recommended that K-Style could also look into funding from the High Sheriff of Gwent. The Officers will send contact information to K-Style for this.

K-Style thanked Council again for the grant, sharing that K-Style would not have been a reality without the funding. Council thanked the group for attending the meeting and congratulated them again on their work.

Lisa Silverthorne, Karl Rowberry and the 7 youth coaches/students left the meeting at 7:33pm.

96. Bank Reconciliations

Council noted and accepted the bank reconciliations for October 2024.

97. Council Grant Applications.

Council **RESOLVED** to award a £1,000 grant to Abertillery Piranhas Swimming Club to provide new swimming equipment. (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19).

98. Aberbeeg Ward Grant

Cllr Josh Rawcliffe explained that the Aberbeeg Ward members had been unable to meet to allocate their grants due to a vacancy in the ward.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the £280 Aberbeeg Ward grant to Ebbw Fach Community Group. (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19).

99. Councillor Co-Option

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Ivor Beynon to the Aberbeeg Ward.

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Frankie Baker to the Cwmtillery Ward.

100. Wales in Bloom

Cllr Ralph Henderson provided a verbal update on the Wales in Bloom project which the PlaCE Committee recently resolved to pursue. He outlined several areas of interest which could be planted as part of the project and community groups which could get involved.

A working group will be set up to organise this project, which will run via the PlaCE Committee.

101. Training Policy

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the addition to the training policy, in relation to charging for missed training sessions.

102. Staff Pay

The Clerk explained that the Officers all received satisfactory performance on their staff appraisals, so as per their employment contracts they should move up a pay increment in line with the National Association of Local Council (NALC) scales.

A 2024/25 pay award has also been agreed recently by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC), applicable from April 1st 2024 to 31st March 2025. As per the Officers' employment contracts, they should also receive this pay award.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the new pay increments and NJC pay award, as recommended by the HR Committee.

103. Training for Youth Representative

Council **RESOLVED** to authorise Officers to book training courses for the newly appointed Youth Representatives.

104. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 7pm.

Initials

Date

The meeting ended at 8:09pm.

Minutes produced by Molly Jones, Deputy Clerk.

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

Date.....