

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY
AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 6 February 2026 at 6:11 pm at
the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Bard (Chair), Nick Simmons, Frankie Baker (via video link). Bruno Gôes Maciel (via video link) (From 6:21pm)

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk), Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk) and Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk) - (via video-link)

Absent: Lucy Harmer, Mike Whatley.

48. Apologies for Absence

Lucy Harmer, Mike Whatley

49. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None

50. Minutes 14 November 2025

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

51. Pension Actuarial Valuation

The Clerk informed the Committee that following the usual 3 year review from the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund the employers pension contributions will reduce from 1st April from 21% + £1,000 to 15.8%. This is because the review states that the funding level is now at 141% of the its possible pension liabilities.

This will mean that it is likely that the staffing costs for 2026/2027 will see an underspend from the budgetary amount agreed in January.

Bruno Gôes Maciel joined the meeting

52. Grant Policy Review

The Officers are conducting a review of our Grants Policy to ensure that we are in line with Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and Internal Auditor guidance. A draft replacement policy will be brought before the Committee to review before it goes up to Full Council for approval. We need a funding agreement with the youth clubs we give funding to.

53. Bank Reconciliation.

The Committee agreed the following Bank Reconciliation members.

January – Steve Bard and Mike Whatley

February - Frankie Baker and Bruno Gôes Maciel

March – Lucy Harmer and Nick Simmons

54. Toolkit – Purpose of Council.

The Committee discussed the survey results, there was a 50/50 split about agreeing if the Councils Mission statement represents the Council. The Committee agreed that they

would not be making any recommendations to change current Mission Statement. The Mission Statement will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting.

55. 2026 Work Plan

The Committee agreed the following basic workplan

March – Grants Policy and feedback from Internal Auditor Meeting

April – Internal Auditor Report, year-end budget outturn

May – Annual Return for 2025/2026

June – Review progress on the Financial Toolkit

July – First quarter outturn

August – No Meetings

September – Asset Register Review

October – First Budget Review, second quarter budget outturn

November – Budgets and Review of Risk Registers

December - Budgets

56. Date of Next Meeting

13 March 2026

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards Clerk.

The meeting ended at 6:42 pm.

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

Date.....

Initial:

Date:

Initial:

Date:

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 30 January 2026
AT 6:30 pm in the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair), Steve Bard, Josh Rawcliffe, Ralph Henderson MBE
Barrie Page

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk)

Absent: Lucy Harmer and Ben Owen-Jones

60. Apologies for absence

Lucy Harmer. Mark Lewis had resigned from the Committee

61. Declarations of interest or dispensations

Barrie Page as Treasurer of Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents association

62. Minutes – 5 December 2026

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes from 5 December 2025 were a true and correct record.

63. Review of Christmas Lights

Josh Rawcliffe asked if we could look into Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) could pay for the catenary wiring in Somerset Street and the Arcade, which the Community Council had paid for but was now being used by BGCBC.

The Clerk reported that there was a current underspend on the amounts that Community Groups had spent on Christmas lighting compared to the budgetary amounts Council had agreed. The Committee will conduct a review in September 2026, at the start of the Committee's budget process for 2026/2027.

The Clerk reported on the issues with the Christmas Tree at Warm Turn, after a number of visits from Blachere, BGCBC and National Grid it had been established that the fault was in the green power junction box and rusted/loose connections. The Officers had received quotes for the work and the plan is to carry the remedial work in August/September of this year.

The general review was good, some discussion on a Christmas Tree in Jubilee Square but the Clerk reported that previous quotes had been for £9k plus. The safety certificates for the lamppost that we hang motifs on are valid for two years. Posts would have to be retested if we change the motifs.

The motion to transfer funds from Pentre Tyleri Group to Friends of Blaenau Gwent Village and Roseheyworth Community Group from Mark Lewis falls as he was not in attendance.

64. Working Groups

The committee agreed to set up the following working groups.

Six Bells Bi-Lingual Event – Tracey Dyson, Steve Bard, Josh Rawcliffe, Rob Vaughan (Six Bells Tennis), someone from the Bowls Club, Daniel Minty (Blaenau Gwent Community Development Officer), Sioned Davies (Chief Officer Menter Iaith Blaenau Gwent), Vikki Alexander (Welsh Language Support Officer BGCBC), Riley Overton, Erika Davies.

Initial

Date

First meeting 6 Feb 2026 at 5:00 pm

Town of Culture – Tracey Dyson, Ralph Henderson, Daniel Minty, Steve Edwards.

Party in the Park – Tracey Dyson, Josh Rawcliffe, Lucy Harmer, Chris Wilkins (Abertillery Rugby Club), Hannah Rogers (AYDMS), Molly Jones.

Meeting 13 Feb 2026 at 5:00 pm

Viaduct Run – Ben Owen-Jones, Josh Rawcliffe, Molly Jones, Micheal Heare (Islwyn Runners), Harriet Cleat (Cwtch Media)

A working group will be set up if required to help with the Brynithel Event. A decision will be made once further details of that event have been received.

65. Date of next meeting

As required

The meeting ended at 7:10 pm

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

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

Dated

Initial

Date