

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 28 January 2026 at 7.00 pm in the
Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Chair), Lucy Harmer (Vice Chair), Peter Adamson, Frankie Baker, Steve Bard, Ivor Beynon, Richard Catlin, Tracey Dyson, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Bruno Góes Maciel, Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons, Bernard Wall and Mike Whatley

Absent:, Mark Lewis, Graham White and Jackson Powell (Youth Rep)

Youth Representatives: Riley Overton

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

Others: Jodie Jones and Robert Davies from Volunteering Matters

148. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mark Lewis and Graham White.

149. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Ivor Beynon for agenda item 8 the Ebenezer's grant request. Member of Ebenezer Church.

Lucy Harmer for agenda item 8 the Abertillery Learning Community Performing Arts grant requests. Involved in the production.

Josh Rawcliffe for agenda item 8 the Abertillery Learning Community Performing Arts grant requests. Governor of Abertillery Learning Centre.

150. Minutes 17 December 2025 and 14 January 2026

The motion to confirm the minutes of 17 December was defeated as the Council felt there was not enough detail relating to the actual questions that were asked at the meeting and the answers from David Leech needed to be recorded.

Council **RESOLVED** to make two amendments to the minutes of 14 January 2026.

- "The Chair reminded the meeting that if any Council" should be "The Chair reminded the meeting that is any Councillor"
- "Council Grants would remain at £20,8000" should be "Council Grants would remain at £20,800"

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the amended minutes of 14 January 2026 as a true and correct record.

151. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

152. Presentation from Volunteering Matters

Jodie Jones spoke about the project. It has been going for 5 years and was originally just by telephone. The first face to face interaction was in 2023. It is to provide support for residents over 50 in the Blaenau Gwent area who are isolated, by means of a weekly phone call or visit.

They are looking for more volunteers to help out. They currently support 40 people in the Blaenau Gwent area, 10 in Abertillery.

She confirmed that visitor volunteers would require a DBS check but telephone volunteers do not. Volunteering Matters will pay for the DBS checks.

Erika Davies said she had been a volunteer for 18 months with someone who was housebound and had no family contacts and a visit was about an hour a week.

There was some discussion about involving the schools, but Jodie confirmed that the volunteers had to be over 18.

The Council was very supportive and will get the message out for more volunteers and also promote the project to groups.

Jodie Jones and Robert Davies left the meeting at 6:16.

153. Abertillery Indoor Market

The Clerk had met with someone who was interested in setting up an indoor market in the old Peacocks shop in Church Street. This is now not going ahead, as it was part of a larger Sports Bar project and the landlord has decided he didn't want the premises licensed.

154. Bank Reconciliations and Payments: November and December 2025

Council **RESOLVED** to note and approve the Bank reconciliations and payments for November and December 2025.

155. Council Grants

Ivor Beynon left the meeting.

Ebenezer Baptist Church – This grant request was deferred until it was clear about the future of any events that Ffrindiau Tyleri had previously managed, now that Ffrindiau Tyleri was being wound up.

Council will also look at the future of the four Ffrindiau Tyleri events at its next meeting.

Ivor Beynon returned to the meeting.

Encompass – The grant application motion was defeated. Council were concerned about assisting a “for profits” organisation. It was also stated that the repairs to the boiler had already been done and Council did not want to support a retrospective grant request.

Lucy Harmer left the meeting

Abertillery Learning Community Performing Arts

Council **RESOLVED** to treat this grant application as “exceptional circumstances” as it did not meet the standard grant criteria, as a previous grant in October 2025 was underspent.

Lucy Harmer returned to the meeting to give some background on the request and the work that is being done there by a single person with little other support. Lucy Harmer then left the meeting.

Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £1,440 towards sets, props and lighting (Local Government Act 1972 s.145)

Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £250 towards professional workshops (Local Government Act 1972 s.145)

Lucy Harmer returned to the meeting.

Note: Josh Rawcliffe remained in the meeting to chair but did not take part in the debate or voting for these two grant requests.

156. UK Town of Culture Competition

Council **RESOLVED** that it would enter the competition and that the Leisure and Tourism committee would take the lead in the initial application.

157. Solar Farm Grant Extension

A Solar Farm Grant had been given in September 2024 to St Micheals Church to help with providing a heating solution at the Church. Usually Council require the funds to be spent with 12 months.

There has been a lot of changes over the past 18 months at the Church and there is now a major refurbishment project, to include toilets and heating that Diocese is planning, and an acknowledgment that with the £25k grant awarded that the Community Council were supporting the project.

Council **RESOLVED** to grant a twelve month extension (to January 2027) for the use of the grant funding.

158. Council Office Lift

The Clerk explained that the lift at Mitre Street had been out of action for a year. It will need replacing at a cost of £110k. He is in communications with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council concerning this matter and he will report back to Council any further developments.

159. Civility and Respect Pledge

Council **RESOLVED** to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.

160. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 25 February at 7pm

The meeting ended at 8:02 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk.

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

Date.....