

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 25 March 2026 at 7.00 pm in the
Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Lucy Harmer (Chair), Steve Bard, Ivor Beynon, Richard Catlin, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Barrie Page, Nick Simmons and Peter Adamson.

Absent: Josh Rawcliffe, Tracey Dyson, Bernard Wall, Frankie Baker, Mike Whatley, Rob Phillips, Mark Lewis, Bruno Góes Maciel, Ben Owen-Jones, Graham White, Riley Overton (Youth Rep) and Jackson Powell (Youth Rep).

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

Others: Alana Insley (Off the Streets) and Rachel Lawrence (Blaenau Gwent Detached Youth Team).

177. Apologies for Absence

Josh Rawcliffe, Tracey Dyson, Mark Lewis, Mike Whatley, Rob Philips, Frankie Baker and Riley Overton.

178. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None

179. Minutes 25 February 2025

Council **RESOLVED** to accept one amendment for the minutes of 25 February 2026

Change from: "Steve Bard was concerned about the tech based approach, and how with have an aging population..."

Change to: "Steve Bard was concerned about the tech based approach, and how with having an aging population..."

Council **RESOLVED** that with the amendment the minutes for 25 February 2026 were a true and correct record.

180. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

181. Presentation Alana Insley – Off the Streets

Alana was invited to the meeting by the Community Empowerment Committee to give feedback on the last year and how ALCC funding of £60,000 has helped the children attending.

Off the Streets provide activities for children aged 6-16 years old.

Overall, the feedback was very positive. Engagement and participation remain at a good level and half term and summer activities are well attended. Young children and families rely on the service. Alana and the team know what works in the community and tend to focus on quality over quantity. One thing to build on and enhance going forward, is the young female representation.

Councillors asked if there were any specific needs in the community. Alana replied that digital access has made issues worse and mental health and well-being is a big issue for them. However, this is something they are working on.

The Llanhilleth Summer Fete is going ahead this year and activities for children and families are signposted on their social media page.

Chris Hill asked Alana to connect with Six Bells Tennis Club as there may be an opportunity for partnership working. Ivor Beynon also mentioned partnership working with organisations such as Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Alana Insley left the meeting at 19.22 pm.

182. Presentation from Rachel Lawrence – Blaenau Gwent Youth Team

Rachel was invited to the meeting by the Community Empowerment Committee to give feedback on the last year and how ALCC funding of £60,000 has helped the children attending.

The funding from ALCC pays for staff costs. The team currently carries out detached youth work in Abertillery on the following days:

Tuesday evening: The Youth Service Van in Gelli Crug Park and Roseheyworth Park.

Wednesday evening: The Youth Service Van in Brynmawr Welfare Park, although young people from Abertillery attend these sessions.

Thursday evening: Abertillery Youth Club

Friday evening: Street based youth work and open access football sessions at Abertillery Leisure Centre.

The Youth Centre in Abertillery has re-opened but hasn't had an official launch yet.

Overall, there has been a 50% reduction in anti-social behaviour calls in Abertillery over the last 2 years. Abertillery has the lowest number of anti-social behaviour in Blaenau Gwent.

One particular success story is a group of Blaenau Gwent young people, all girls, who will be one of the official teams participating in the 5th Street Child World Cup, to be held in North America in 2026. 30 teams from across the globe – 17 girls' teams and 13 boys' teams, will participate in this amazing event, bringing together young people from street-connected backgrounds. One of the young people involved from Abertillery, has overcome a difficult few years with the help and support of the BG Youth Team.

All councillors felt it was important to be sharing success stories of people from the area.

There is a lack of aspiration with young people in the area and a large number of young people that are not in school, college or employment. Homelessness in young people is also on the rise.

Barrie Page asked if County Lines are an issue in the area. Rachel confirmed that individuals had moved from the area and the issue was not as prevalent as it once was.

Nick Simmons asked if the funds we provide is being spent elsewhere in Blaenau Gwent. Rachel confirmed that the funding only pays for the detached youth team.

Now that partners can see the value of the Blaenau Gwent Youth Service Team, there is going to be a new partnership called the Community Alcohol Partnership. This partnership will aim to tackle and support community anti-social behaviour related to alcohol in Abertillery. The partnership will consist of the BG Youth Team, Gwent Police, Tai Calon, Fire Safety and Trading Standards.

Rachel Lawrence left the meeting at 20.03 pm

183. Bank Reconciliations and Payments

Council **RESOLVED** to note and approve the Bank reconciliations and payment schedule for January and February 2026.

Peter Adamson had two queries:

1. Why was there 3 identical payments to Llanhilleth Institute in February? The Deputy Clerk explained that there were 3 separate invoices for the same amount. These payments were allocated from the Loneliness Project.
2. What was the payment to Lloyds Bank? The Deputy Clerk explained that we have a multipay card through Unity Trust that is issued by Lloyds Bank. It's like a credit card that officers can use as per the terms of our Financial Regulations.

184. Council Grant Applications

Council **RESOLVED** the following:

Aneurin Leisure Trust - £245 to fund free family swimming lessons at Abertillery Leisure Centre (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19).

185. The Blaenau Gwent Deal

Council was asked if it wanted to give its support to the Blaenau Gwent Deal. All councillors, bar one, voted in support

Council **RESOLVED** to support the Blaenau Gwent Deal, in principle but BGCBC needs to be held accountable, closely monitored and have open and clear communication and ALCC reserves the right to withdraw its support at any time.

186. Committee Vacancies

There is 1 vacancy on the Finance and Governance Committee. No-one present at the meeting wanted to fill the vacancy.

There are 2 vacancies on the Leisure and Tourism Committee. Chris Hill wanted to join this committee.

Council **RESOLVED** for Chris Hill to join the Leisure and Tourism Committee.

187. Grants Review

On the advice of the ALCC Internal Auditor, the grants policy and the way grants are awarded needs to be reviewed. A new document was presented to council, on the recommendation by the Finance and Governance Committee.

There was some hesitation surrounding the proposed changes but the necessity for the changes was explained.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the new policy with the following amendments:

1. Grants Feedback Form to be changed to – Grants Completion and Feedback Report
2. The wording of the Eligibility Criteria in Section 2 of the grants policy and on the Grants - Criteria and Conditions page should be the same (using the wording of section 2 for both parts).
3. Section 3 Conditions – Add a line that says if the applicant is seeking and awarded funding from a different source for the same project, we may seek to recover the funding provided by ALCC.

188. Solar Farm Timeline

Council **RESOLVED** to the following Solar Farm Application timeline.

May 1 st	applications open
June 30 th	applications close
July - August	applications are assessed (councillors and officers can ask questions at this stage and request additional documentation or clarification on the application if required).
September	Council will meet to award the funding to one or more successful applicants.

189. Committee Minutes

Council noted the following Committee minutes:

Finance and Governance - 6 February 2026

Leisure and Tourism - 30 January 2026

190. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 29 April 2026 at 7pm

The meeting ended at 8:50 pm.

Minutes produced by Erika Davies, Deputy Clerk

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

Date.....

Initial

Date

Initial

Date