

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND
LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 20 May 2026 at 7.00
pm in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Chair – part meeting), Lucy Harmer, (Chair – part meeting), Peter Adamson, Frankie Baker, Steve Bard, Ivor Beynon, Richard Catlin, Tracey Dyson, Ralph Henderson MBE, Mark Lewis (via video link), Bruno Góes Maciel, Ben Owen-Jones (via video link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips Nick Simmons (late see minutes), and Mike Whatley.

Youth Reps: Jackson Powell

Absent: Chris Hill, Bernard Wall, Graham White, and Riley Overton (Youth Rep)

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

14. Election of Chair for 2026-27

Council **RESOLVED** to elect Lucy Harmer as Chair for 2026-27

15. New Chair to sign Declaration of Office

Lucy Harmer signed the Declaration of Office and took over the chairing of the meeting

16. Appointment of Vice-Chair for 2026-27

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Josh Rawcliffe as Vice-Chair for 2026-27

17. New Vice Chair to sign Declaration of Office

Josh Rawcliffe signed the Declaration of Office

Nick Simmonds joined the meeting at 7:03

18. Apologies for Absence

Bernard Wall and Graham White

19. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None

20. Previous years Chairs address

Good evening everyone,

It has been a privilege to serve as your chair these past 12 months. When I first joined this council, I was the youngest, and one of the most outspoken. I vowed to bring in change, and by God how things have changed!

With the support of my fellow councillors we've rolled up our sleeves, dug our heels in, and powered through bringing this council into the 21st century. This also couldn't have been achieved without you as councillors and the hard work of our clerks.

Right now we are at a pinnacle in Welsh history. We have a brand new government in the Senedd and are witnessing the rise of the far right and Reform throughout our valleys and our nation. This time next year, this chamber could look very different.

I know there will be several members here, who will not be standing again in the next elections. And I want to thank each and every one of them for their contributions over the years.

We are going to need strong, passionate, community minded councillors, and I know many of you hold these attributes close to your hearts already.

So with that in mind I implore you all to continue to dig deep, and scout out potential candidates both for ALCC and the borough, as I dread to think what would happen if Reform got in. We are closer now, more than we ever have been to being able to attain our power of competence. And for that to happen we will need two thirds of us to be elected onto this council next year. I think it'll be the first time in a long time, that community and town council seats will actually be contested.

Hopefully now, it will continue to be a relatively smooth but productive year for us.

Although we never truly know what the future holds.

I hope that we continue to hit our goals and deliver across our projects, and most importantly delivering for our constituents and communities. It's been great to see the impact we've made already, especially in our harder to reach areas such as Swffrydd and Brynithel.

I would be more than happy to stand again this year, but I think Lucy will do a great job as the new chair. She has jumped in with both feet and shown herself to be kind, passionate, understanding and stern when she needs to be. With that being said, I'm also happy to be the devil on her shoulder as vice chair for the next year too, as we'll need strong leadership next year with the anticipation of many new faces.

With that being said let us continue to drive Abertillery & Llanhilleth community council forwards!

cyngor cymuned abertyleri a llanhilledd ymlaen!.

A heartfelt thank you to you all

Diolch o galon,

21. Minutes 29 April 2026

Council **RESOLVED** the minutes for 29 April 2026 were a true and correct record.

22. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

23. Appointment of bank authorisers

There were no resignations.

Council **RESOLVED** to keep the same four bank authorisers (Tracey Dyson, Barrie Page, Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons) for 2026-27

24. Terms Of Reference

Molly Jones stated that the budget lists for each Committee needed to be updated to show the current budget amounts.

Barrie Page stated that the PlaCE Committee should have the references to Ffrindiau Tyleri £10k and Adam Street Allotments £5k removed from its Terms of Reference.

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the Terms of Reference for each Committee subject to the amendments above.

25. Standing Orders 2026-27

Barrie Page stated that the second line from the bottom of 11.a in the Standing Orders should read "Such data" not "Such date".

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the Standing Orders subject to the amendment above

26. Banking

Council **RESOLVED** to agree continuing the Councils current banking arrangements, BACS and the name of the banking organisations for 2026-27.

27. Appointment of Members of Committees

Council **RESOLVED** the following:-

Leisure and Tourism Committee – Frankie Baker to join and Jackson Powell to join as a non-voting member.

Planning, Environment and Commerce (PlaCE) – Peter Adamson to resign but remain as a non-voting member. Lucy Harmer to join.

Finance and Governance Committee – Lucy Harmer to step down as she is now Chair of Council. Josh Rawcliffe and Rob Phillips to join.

Human Resources Committee – Remain the same.

Community Empowerment Committee - Peter Adamson to resign but remain as a non-voting member, Mike Whatley to join.

Joint Committee of Local Councils in Blaenau Gwent – Peter Adamson to resign, Steve Bard and Ralph Henderson to join.

28. Chairs of Committees

Council **RESOLVED** that if the current Chair of a Committee, excepting the HR Committee and the Finance and Governance Committee, remains on that Committee then they shall remain Chair until such time as they resign from the position, or Council or the Committee elect a new Chair.

The Chair asked if any current Committee Chairs wished to resign. No one resigned so the Chairs of Committees other than the HR Committee and the Finance and Governance Committee remain the same

Council **RESOLVED** that Steve Bard remain as Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee.

29. External Bodies

The Council **RESOLVED** the following:-

Blaenau Gwent CBC Scrutiny Committee (1 rep) – Josh Rawcliffe remains as representative.

Abertillery and District Twinning Association (2 reps) – Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons to remain as representatives. This association has not met for some time but there are moves to establish a new relationship with Royat

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum (2 reps) – Peter Adamson and Ralph Henderson as representatives. It was also explained that any member of the public could attend this forum.

Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group - Josh Rawcliffe remains as representative.

One Voice Wales Gwent Valleys Area Committee – (2 reps) – Josh Rawcliffe and Steve Bard.

One Voice Wales Larger Local Councils Committee – (1 rep) – Josh Rawcliffe.

A query was raised about the Council's representative as a School Governor at Sofrydd Primary School. The Officers will write to the relevant authorities to confirm Ben Owen-Jones as the representative.

30. Insurance

The Clerk explained that the Fidelity Insurance was to protect Council against any loss of its Cash or assets by actions of Officers or Councillors. The current limit is £200,000 which the Internal Auditor has pointed out is insufficient for the amount of cash that the Council could hold at any one time.

The Council will only know the increased premium costs at the date of the Insurance renewal in July, which will be authorised by Council.

31. Policies

There being no changes, the Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the following policies

Complaints Procedure

Freedom of Information

Data Protection

Press/Media

32. Section 137 Spending

Erika Davies reported that the last financial year the Council had the following spending for Section 137.

The Extra Curricular School Transport Costs

Llanhilleth Institute for 24 Food hampers

Rent for Abertillery Institute shop

Council noted the report.

33. Chairs Charity

Council noted that £2,609.78 had been raised. £1,076.13 for AYDMS, £1,076.14 for The Mitre and £457.51 for Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

The new Chair confirmed that their Charities for 2026-27 are the Abertillery Town Band and Pentref Tyleri.

34. Full Council meetings 2026-27

Council **RESOLVED** the following schedule of meetings:

- 24 June 2026
- 29 July 2026
- 23 September 2026 – Solar Farm Grant meeting
- 30 September 2026
- 28 October 2026
- 25 November 2026
- 16 December 2026
- 13 January 2027 – budget-setting meeting
- 27 January 2027
- 24 February 2027

- 31 March 2027
- 28 April 2027
- 19 May 2027 – Annual Meeting (has to held within 14 days of the election on 6th May 2027)

The meeting ended at 7:38 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk

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

Date.....

Initial

Date