

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 27 May 2026 at 7.00 pm in the
Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Lucy Harmer, (Chair), Josh Rawcliffe (Vice Chair) Peter Adamson, Steve Bard, Ivor Beynon, Richard Catlin, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, (via video link), Bruno Góes Maciel (via video link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons and Mike Whatley.

Absent: Frankie Baker, Tracey Dyson, Mark Lewis, Ben Owen-Jones, Bernard Wall, Graham White, Riley Overton (Youth Rep) and Jackson Powell (Youth Rep)

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

35. Apologies for Absence

Tracey Dyson, Mark Lewis (email after start of meeting), Jackson Powell and Bernard Wall

36. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Steve Bard for Agenda Item 6 Council Grant application from Abertillery Town Band. He is a member of the band.

37. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

38. Minutes 20 May 2026

Council **RESOLVED** the minutes for 20 May 2026 were a true and correct record.

39. Bank Reconciliations and Payments

The date of an initial on page 8 of 22 was not complete. The officers will get it amended after the meeting.

Council reviewed and then **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliations and payment schedule for April 2026.

40. Council Grant Applications

Aneurin Leisure: There was a discussion concerning the how valuable would free one day passes be in achieving the aims set out by Aneurin Leisure and that any surgical rehab should be done via the NHS. Council **RESOLVED** to pay a grant of £2,250 to fund 100 free one-month memberships and 50 free one-day passes to residents for use at Abertillery Leisure Centre (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19).

Abertillery Town Band: Steve Bard left the meeting at 7:16. He returned to the meeting at 7:21 to answer some questions concerning the size of the party for the trip and to confirm that any shortfall in match funding would be made up by the band members themselves. Council **RESOLVED** to pay a grant of £3,000 to the Abertillery Town Band towards the costs of attending the National Brass band Finals (Local Government Act 1972, s.145).

Chillax: There were some concerns raised about Chillax not getting any further funding in October. However, Council **RESOLVED** to pay a grant of £3,000 to Chillax to pay

the salaries of two detached youth workers employed for Chillax Charity (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19).

41. School Transport Grants

It was queried why Sofrydd was only for £1,500, it was explained that they were entitled to £1,666 but had only requested £1,500.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the following grant requests (Local Government Act 1972, s.137)

ALC Roseheyworth Campus £1,666

ALC Secondary Campus £1,666

ALCC Six Bells Campus £1,666

ALC Tillery Street Campus £1,666

Sofrydd Primary School £,1500

The Officers confirmed that no payments will be made direct to the schools and that we pay the suppliers on receipt of invoices.

42. Audit Wales Reports

Steve Bard highlighted to Council that there are going to be significant audit costs arising from the work Audit Wales had to take in order to deal with queries from a member of the public and Councillor concerning the staffing costs in 2023/24. This is likely to be a five-figure sum.

The Clerk gave a summary of the objections that had been made to Audit Wales over the 2023/24 accounts, concerning the appointment of the Clerk and the increase in staffing resources. The Council have already taken steps to limit the ability of the HR Committee to increase staffing budgets beyond 10%.

It was noted that the 2024/25 accounts are unqualified which ties in with the Councils aim to have the Power of Competence after the May 2027 elections.

Council noted the two reports

43. Investment Policy

The Clerk explained that our agreed Investment Policy, item 5.3, stated that we should not have more than 60% of our cash assets in one institution. There are times during the year when the precept is paid that there is more than 60% of the council cash assets being held at Unity Bank

Council **RESOLVED** that for 2026/27 that there should be an exception to this rule.

44. Direct Debit Authorisation

The Council **RESOLVED** to the setting up of a direct debit mandate for the monthly payments to Microshade/Flotek which are currently paid by BACS.

45. Ffrindiau Tyleri Budget Line

Council **RESOLVED** the virement of the £10,000 budget line from Ffrindiau Tyleri to the Leisure and Tourism Committee and for the Committee to use the funds to hold Town Centre events.

The next Leisure and Tourism Committee meeting will discuss what events it will hold. The current proposals are for a job fair, a Halloween event and a Christmas event.

46. Allotments

The Clerk explained we currently do not have leasehold arrangements with any of the Allotment Associations. We have not taken any rent off them since 2024 as he was of the opinion in doing so it would constitute the Council as de-facto Landlords with all the liabilities and responsibilities that could occur. He was also of the opinion that Council does not add any value in being the middle sub landlord, and that the associations should have lease agreement with the owners direct. The PlaCE Committee has discussed this issue and recommend to Council that the Council disengages with the Allotment Associations and sets them up to liaise directly with the land owners to set up leases.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the PlaCE Committee recommendation and allow the Officers to disengage the Council from the six allotments it currently has a relationship with.

47. ID Card/Lanyards

The Community Empowerment Committee had raised the idea that of having ID Cards/Lanyards for Councillors and Staff so we can be identified in dealings with the members of the public member. The proposed ID card would show a QR code which would link back to the Councils Website to provide verifications of Councillor /Staff ID.

The Council **RESOLVED** to amend the motion to “Council make the use of ID Cards/Lanyards advisable for staff and councillors when attending official council business outside of the chamber”.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amended motion.

48. Proposals to Reduce Capacity at Abertillery Learning Community

The Chair asked if there were any new objections from the Council regarding the proposed closure of Roseheyworth Campus. There were none forthcoming. It was confirmed by the Clerk that as Council had already set its policy in a previous meeting to oppose the closure then individual Councillors could also raise their own objections, even using the letter that Council had previously sent.

49. Abertillery Subway Mural

Council **RESOLVED** to mutually terminate the current cleaning contract with TAFY at the subway mural and replace with a contract of £300 per year for quarterly visits.

Council **RESOLVED** that any annual surplus budget above £300 be set aside to carry out any repair work that the PlaCE Committee agrees to have done up to a maximum of £1,700 per year. **(Clerks Note:** for the sake of clarity this is a financial year not a calendar year)

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the repair work to be carried out as per the quote from Community Murals CIC of £1,250

50. Committee Minutes

A point of order was raised that the Minutes of the HR Sub Committee of April 2026 had been include in the pack of papers for the meeting, but was not listed on the agenda so could not be noted at this meeting.

The Council noted the following confirmed minutes

PlaCE Committee 13 February 2026

HR Sub Committee 25 February 2026

51. Date of Next Meeting

24 June 2026 at 7pm where the Annual Return and Report will have to agreed and signed off.

The meeting ended at 8:01 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk

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

Date.....