

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 28 October 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, Richard Catlin, Ben Davies, Bruno Góes Maciel, Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis (via video link) Ben Owen-Jones (via video link) Barrie Page, Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons and Mike Whatley and Frankie Baker.

Absent: Tracey Dyson, Ivor Beynon, Riley Overton (Youth Rep) and Jackson Powell (Youth Rep)

Officers: Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk), Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk)

116. Apologies for Absence

Tracey Dyson and Ivor Beynon

117. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None

118. Special Item

The Chair used her discretion to add an item to the agenda due to special circumstances.

- Steve Bard wanted to acknowledge and congratulate Bruno Góes Maciel for his radio interview with BBC Radio Wales, talking about how the lack of passenger rail services in Abertillery impacts his journey to work in Bristol and, also how it affects local residents.
- Ralph Henderson MBE gave a heartfelt thanks to everyone for their efforts in Wales in Bloom. Phenomenal results were achieved this year, including the Norman Stewart Award for outstanding contribution by a local community. Britain in Bloom has also been in touch to offer their recognition and congratulations on outstanding community engagement.

119. Minutes: 23 September 2026, 30 September 2026 and 7 October 2026

Peter Adamson pointed out some spelling mistakes on the minutes of 30 September

- Frankie Bridge instead of Frankie Baker
- St. Micheals instead of St. Michael's

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept all three sets of minutes as a true and correct record with the above amendments made to the 30 September.

120. Public Questions

There were no public questions

121. Bank Reconciliation

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation and payment schedule for September 2026.

122. Council Grant Applications

No grant applications had been received in September.

123. Youth Reps

The Council was advised that the term for our current Youth Representatives will end in November. Council **RESOLVED** for the officers to open applications for two new representatives to be appointed.

124. Mitre Street

There was some discussion concerning the advantages and disadvantages of taking over the Mitre Street building from BGCBC. The Deputy Clerk reminded Councillors that the Clerk/RFO had sent an email earlier that week stating that there would be potential financial implications if we proceeded with the current offer and the building in its current condition. Overall, the majority of Councillors felt that there would be too big of a financial burden and risk in precept to continue with the offer as it stands.

The Council **RESOLVED** not to take over the building from BGCBC.

125. Remembrance Day Reps

Officers informed Council that there are 5 wreaths available. Councillors put themselves forward to lay wreaths at the following locations for the Remembrance Day Events.

- Abertillery, Lucy Harmer
- Llanhilleth, Joshua Rawcliffe
- Bournville, Mark Lewis
- Blaenau Gwent, Mark Lewis
- Swffryd, Ben Owen-Jones

Joshua Rawcliffe asked the Council to consider purchasing a wreath to lay at Aberbeeg hospital. One has been laid here in previous years and it would mean a lot to the community to have one again. The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase an additional wreath for Aberbeeg.

126. Mural Licence

Deputy Clerk Erika Davies informed Councillors that she had spoken to TAFY (who currently have the contract for the maintenance of the Abertillery Subway Mural) and that in their opinion, any cleaning materials used to remove graffiti would damage the artwork. This would mean the artist having to re-paint the artwork and the unknown costs associated with it.

The Council **RESOLVED** to officers to go back to BGCBC and say that will not adopt the artwork as it is currently but if some sort of protective layer is added, they will reconsider.

127. Stage at Cwmtillery Industrial Unit

Deputy Clerk Erika Davies explained that there was a stage at the Cwmtillery storage unit that could be used for community groups. However, due to its size and weight, the Community Council could not transport it to community events. It was suggested that Karen Williams, the Town Centre Manager for BGCBC, could re-home the stage and let community groups make use of it as they have their own van and storage facilities.

Mark Lewis asked Council why it was considering giving the stage away for free when we had a hire policy in place for assets that had been transferred from Frindiau Tyleri.

Rob Phillips explained that the stage had never belonged to Ffrindiau Tyleri and therefore did not form part of the assets that had been transferred over to ALCC. The stage has always been a community asset and should remain so.

The Council **RESOLVED** to give the stage to BGCBC for community use.

128. St Illtyd's School Governor

Barrie Page briefly outlined the role of a school governor stating that it was a strategic role, guiding how the school operates. Meetings are generally once a half term with some training required.

Bruno Góes Maciel expressed an interest in the role. The Council **RESOLVED** to nominate Bruno Góes Maciel for the role of St. Illtyd's School Governor.

129. Motion from Mike Whatley

Mike gave an overview of what he hoped to achieve by the Council having a representative at BGCBC Citizen Assembly meetings. He explained that with regionalisation and restructuring happening there will be potential constitutional changes and a shifting of traditional roles into facilitating roles and, what would this mean for communities and how we interact.

The purpose of having a council representative at the meetings would be to observe only and scrutinise the democratic process and to check that the discussions are grass roots discussions and to determine whether the options provided always lead back to a pre-determined answer. Mike is happy to put himself forward in this role.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept Mike as an observer and ALCC representative at future Citizen Assembly meetings.

The Deputy Clerk will liaise with BGCBC to check if access is allowed in future meetings.

130. Privacy Notice

Council reviewed the document (no changes had been made to the previous document last reviewed in September 2025). The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy.

131. Committee Minutes

The Council noted the Leisure and Tourism minutes of 14 August 2026.

132. Date of Next Meeting

25 November 2026

The meeting ended at 7:56 pm.

Minutes produced by Erika Davies, Deputy Clerk

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

Date.....

Initial

Date

DRAFT

Initial

Date