

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Gary Oakley (Chair); Nick Simmons (Vice Chair); Peter Adamson; Roger Clark; Tracey Dyson; Beverley Lucas; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Glyn Smith; Bernard Wall; Graham White.

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk).

BY VIDEO LINK

Councillors: Ben Owen-Jones, Jaqueline Ledbury; Allen Rees.

ABSENT: Mark Lewis, Mihangel ap Williams

146. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Michaela Assiratti and Perry Morgan

147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Tracey Dyson declared a personal interest with regards to Item 152 as she is a Trustee of Abertillery Workmen's Welfare Institute.

Cllr. Gary Oakley declared a prejudicial interest with regards to Item 153 as he is the current President of Abertillery and Blaina Rotary Club.

Cllr. Peter Adamson declared a personal interest with regards to Item 150 as he is a former member of the Centre for Alternative Technology.

148. MINUTES – 24 NOVEMBER 2021

Cllr Graham White noted that the minutes recorded the Chair as having said that a letter received from the trade union Unison prior to the Extraordinary Meeting of 3 November 2021 had been withdrawn. Cllr White said that he had been told that the letter had not been withdrawn. The Chair stated that the minutes are a record of proceedings and correctly recorded what he had said during the meeting of 24 November 2021. As for whether or not the letter had been withdrawn, the Chair asked the Clerk to provide a clarification for Members before the next Council meeting.

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes as a correct record.

149. DISABILITY POLICY

Cllr Ben Owen-Jones noted that the Council has Members with disabilities, that around one-in-five people in the Community Council area will live with a disability before the age of 65 and that this proportion rises significantly in people beyond retirement age. The UK is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities while the Equalities Act puts, not just a moral, but a legal obligation on the Council to protect disabled people from discrimination. Despite this, the Council has no Disability Access Policy. Cllr Owen-Jones proposed to help officers work with Disabled Persons Organisations – and with disabled people under the principles of 'Nothing with us without us' – to prepare a policy before the next Community Council elections.

Council **RESOLVED** to prepare a Disability Access Policy by 30 March 2022.

150. CARBON LITERACY FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Cllr Peter Adamson noted that the Centre for Alternative Technology organised regular two-day online courses, the next of which was scheduled for February 2022.

Council **RESOLVED** to authorise payment to enable two Members to take the course and to authorise the transfer of the required additional funds from reserves to the training budget.

151. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Barrie Page as a member of the Planning and Environment Committee.

152. SOLAR FARM GRANTS

Council **RESOLVED** to recommend that a grant of £24,050.53 should be awarded to Abertillery Bowls Club.

Council **RESOLVED** to recommend that a grant of £10,949.47 should be awarded to Abertillery Workmen's Welfare Institute. The Chair noted that thirteen Members had voted in favour of the resolution and that Cllr Tracey Dyson had abstained.

153. COUNCIL GRANTS

Council **RESOLVED** not to award a grant to Abertillery and Blaina Rotary Club. Cllr Ben Owen-Jones offered to provide the Clerk with details of several more suitable potential routes for grant funding that could be passed to the family that were the subject of Rotary's application.

The Clerk noted that an application received from Marie Curie Cancer Care was very similar to an application from Tenovus Cancer Care considered at the Council meeting of 24 November 2021 at which the Council had resolved to award the costs of supporting a telephone helpline for half-a-day. The Clerk had calculated the equivalent costs for Marie Curie Cancer Care to be approximately £205. Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £205 to the Marie Curie Information and Support Line.

154. SOFRYDD PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Cllr Ben Owen-Jones expressed an interest in the current vacancy for the position of the Council's nominee for School Governor of Sofrydd Primary School and asked to be put in touch with the school for further information.

155. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Council **RESOLVED** to exclude the Press and Public by virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

156. AUDIT WALES REPORT FOR 2015-15

The Clerk informed Council that the remainder of the meeting would involve discussion of legal advice that was protected by both legal advice privilege and litigation privilege.

Full minutes of this agenda item are contained in Confidential Annex FC2-2021

157. The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed to be 12 January 2022 at 7.00pm.

The meeting ended at 8.59pm.

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

Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.