

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 25 October 2023 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Chair); Peter Adamson; Steve Bard; Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis; Rob Phillips; Nick Simmons; Glyn Smith and Bernard Wall.

Via video link: Barrie Page; Ben Owen Jones

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

Visitor: Ivor Beynon

Apologies: Michaela Assiratti; Tracey Dyson

Absent: Graham White

The Chair introduced and welcomed new Councillor Ralph Henderson MBE and Erika Davies and Molly Jones (Deputy Clerks) to the meeting. Councillors were warned that deliberately fractious behaviour in meetings will not be tolerated, especially as two previous councillors have resigned because of this. If disruptive behaviour occurs, the Chair will consider a motion for the Councillor to be unheard.

55. Apologies for absence

Michaela Assiratti; Tracey Dyson

56. Declarations of Interest

Mark Lewis in respect of the Solar Farm Grant Application for Friends of Blaenau Gwent village and Roseheyworth park (agenda item 6).

57. Minutes

20 September 2023

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

58. Public Question

Ivor Beynon read a letter he had sent to ALCC regarding the Abertillery Subway Mural addressing his concerns over its condition and future in the town. The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken with Caroline Matthews at BGCBC and that a plan to undertake remedial work was in its infancy. No date had been set for the works but a commitment in principal was needed from the ALCC for the upkeep and maintenance once the works had been completed.

Chris Hill queried the timescale for the remedial work to start. The Clerk proposed to speak with BGCBC to query the timescale.

The Council **RESOLVED** to continue negotiations with Caroline Matthews and BGCBC and to also investigate a community asset transfer.

Mark Lewis asked the Chair of the PlaCE Committee to put £15000 into next years budget for the mural and inform BGCBC.

59. Solar Farm Grant Application process

The motion from Mark Lewis (agenda item 5) was withdrawn after discussions about a more consistent approach in subsequent years.

60. Solar Farm Grant 2023

The Clerk advised that the application from Bethany Baptist Church should be dismissed as it was included in error. It was an application from 2021.

Mark Lewis left the room at the start of the discussions.

The final decision regarding the applications will be decided at the next full council meeting on 29th November 2023.

Mark Lewis re-entered the room at the end of the discussions.

61. Council Grants

- The Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 to Gwent and Powys Army Cadets. Peter Adamson would like his objection noted on the grounds that he views this as army recruitment.
- The Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 to Abertillery Piranhas Swimming Club
- The Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £4000 to Rotary Christmas Hampers Project, on the condition that ALCC was given an acknowledgement of the donation.

62. Ward Grant

The Council **RESOLVED** to give a grant of £200 to Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association.

63. Laying of Wreaths – Remembrance Sunday

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint the following representatives to lay wreaths at this year's remembrance Sunday locations:

- Llanhilleth War Memorial – Barrie Page
- Swffryd Community Centre – Ben Owen Jones
- Bourneville Community Centre/Memorial – Glyn Smith
- Blaenau Gwent Church – Mark Lewis

- Abertillery War Memorial – Tracey Dyson (Chair)

The Clerk confirmed ALCC will purchase the wreaths and distribute accordingly.

64. Christmas Lanterns

The Council RESOLVED to purchase 350 Christmas lanterns. 50 for Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association and 300 for Ffryndiau Tyleri.

65. Date of Next Meeting

29 November at 7pm

The meeting ended at 8.31 pm.

Minutes written by Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk)