

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 29 November 2023 AT 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Tracey Dyson (Chair); Peter Adamson; Steve Bard; Ralph Henderson MBE, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Josh Rawcliffe; Nick Simmons; Bernard Wall and Graham White.

Via video link: Ben Owen Jones

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

Apologies: Michaela Assiratti;

Absent: Glyn Smith

66. Apologies for absence

Michaela Assiratti

67. Declarations of Interest

Mark Lewis in respect of the Solar Farm Grant Application for Friends of Blaenau Gwent village and Roseheyworth Park (agenda item 4).

Rob Phillips in respect of Ward Grant application (agenda item 13)

68. Minutes

25 October 2023

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

- 1: Item 61 – Remove the statement that Peter Adamson was a pacifist.
- 2: Item 58 - add “Mark Lewis asked the Chair of the PlaCE Committee to put £15000 into next year’s budget for the mural and inform BGCBC”.

69. Solar Farm Grant 2023

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

The application from Abertillery Bowls Club was ruled out because they had a grant within the last 5 years and Council did not think there were exceptional circumstances to allow it for this year.

It was agreed that the requests from Gelli Grug Allotments and Ebenezer Baptist Church would be better off being dealt with via the Councils own grant application process.

There was agreement that the three remaining applicants all had merit.

Mark Lewis was asked back into the room to answer a few questions.

- Could Roseheyworth Group have half now and half later – This was a possibility and various items could be removed from the application to reduce the costs down to £25,600. He also stated that the group could get funding from the from the Welsh Govt
- What was the current formation of the managing Committee – 3 people. A

Chair, A Secretary and a Treasurer

- The Clerk confirmed that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council were supporting this along the lines of other “friends of” park groups and they would take up ongoing liability and maintenance when park equipment purchased.

Mark Lewis left the room.

There were a number of concerns voiced about the small management committee and that the group could get funding from elsewhere.

Josh Rawcliffe stated that grant request for Ebbw Fach Community Group could be reduced to £15,000.

Bernard Wall left the room to take a phone call during the discussions but returned before the motion was voted on.

The Council **RESOLVED** to give the following Solar Farm Grants

- £20,000 to Llanhilleth RFC
- £15,000 to Ebbw Fach Community Group

Mark Lewis re-entered the room

70. Ebenezer Chapel Christmas Hampers

The Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £3,000 to Ebenezer Chapel to supply Christmas Hampers

71. Financial Risk Register

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the updated Financial Risk Register for 2023. The Chair congratulated the Finance Committee on their hard work on this.

72. Weatherspoons

The Council **RESOLVED** to give authority to the officers to make initial enquires about purchasing Weatherspoons and then provide a report back to Council.

73. Financial Regulations

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amended Financial Regulations.

74. Personal Alarms

The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the amount to £2,500 as it felt there is a specific need and to help cover the whole Council area. The Council also requested that the Officers write to the Chief Constable and the Police Commissioner to invite them to a future meeting of Council.

75. Bank Authorisation

Graham White asked who the current authorisers were. The Clerk stated they were Tracey Dyson, Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons.

The Council **RESOLVED** for Barrie Page to become one of the Financial Authorisers and Officers to make the relevant arrangements.

76. Youth Forum

The Council **RESOLVED** for officers to investigate and set up a Youth Forum and to co-opt two Youth Councillors.

77. Council Grants

The Council asked that K Style be invited to the next Council to discuss their grant request.

Rob Phillips left the room.

78. Ward Grants

The Council **RESOLVED** to pay the Nick Simmons Ward Grant of £200 to Abertillery Rock and Blues Festival

79. Date of Next Meeting

13 December 2023 at 7pm

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

Minutes written by Steve Edwards (Clerk)