



**THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH
CYNGOR CYMUNED ABERTYLERI A LLANHILLEDD**

E-mail : clerk.ALCC@gmail.com

Telephone 01495 217323

www.abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

Council Offices,
Mitre Street,
Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent. NP13 1AE.

Swyddfa'r Cyngor,
Stryd Meitre,
Abertyleri, Blaenau Gwent. NP13 1AE.

Our Ref: **NOTICE OF MEETING**

12 November 2019

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, to be held in the Council Chamber, Mitre Street, Abertillery on **Monday 18 November 2019 at 7.00pm**. The agenda for the meeting is set out below.

The Council may suspend standing order 3(x) if it wishes the meeting to last beyond two hours, at the appropriate point in the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Richard Gwinnell
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence and welcomes

2. Declarations of interest or dispensations

Members who consider that they have an interest to declare are asked to state the item in which they have an interest and the nature of the interest. Any member who is unsure should seek advice prior to the meeting in order to expedite matters at the meeting itself.

3. Solar Farm Grants Criteria

- To consider whether to amend the criteria adopted on 25 September 2019 (attached) and how to interpret criterion 17
- To consider the special motion received from six councillors, who have proposed:
"that we reverse the decisions 77 (3) and (4) made in September 2019, for the Solar Farm application" (those decisions are attached)
- To consider how to proceed going forward with solar farm grant applications.



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

What are Solar Farm Grants?

1. The Solar Farm Grant is a grant given by CIC Community Green Energy to Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC).
2. CIC awards an amount to ALCC depending on the amount of electricity generated at the Solar Farm at Hafod-y-Dafal on an annual basis.
3. The grant is not for the Council's use.
4. It is for the Council (as the elected representative body closest to local communities) to decide how to allocate the grant to local community projects, groups or organisations.
5. CIC requires the funding to be allocated to community projects which are sustainable, have a lasting legacy, are environmental in nature and are for wide community benefit.
6. CIC and ALCC require evidence (regular reports and photos) that any money granted has been spent in the manner envisaged and that the stated community benefits have been achieved.
7. Any grant from the Council (including Solar Farm Grants) must help local communities and organisations improve the well-being of local people.
8. A Solar Farm Grant will only be made if there is a clear economic, social or environmental well-being benefit to residents of the ALCC area.
9. The organisation involved must usually be based in or operate substantially in the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area, and the majority of the members of the organisation, or those it serves, should live in the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area.
10. If the organisation is based outside the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council area, evidence must be given of how (and how many) people from the ALCC area benefit from the work of the organisation.
11. The Council places a high value on voluntary and community service.
12. The Council will not make a grant to professional or commercial clubs or organisations, companies, businesses or other enterprises which aim to make a profit. The Council will only make grants to enterprises if they are not for profit and if any surplus generated by the enterprise is reinvested into improving local communities or local community facilities.
13. Organisations such as sports clubs or parks which have become companies in order to manage or run community facilities under Community Asset Transfers may be considered for Solar Farm Grants.
14. Solar Farm Grants will not be used to help fund national charities or organisations (where the principal benefit is not to residents of the ALCC area) under any circumstances.
15. Solar Farm Grants will not be given to groups to pay for ongoing running costs (e.g. insurance, water, gas and other utility supplies etc) unless in exceptional circumstances.
16. Solar Farm Grants must help as many people and communities as possible in the ALCC area.
17. The Council will not give Solar Farm Grants to the same organisation(s) within five

- consecutive years unless in exceptional circumstances.
18. The minimum Solar Farm Grant to be given by ALCC is £10,000 (if that amount is available to ALCC from CIC).
 19. The maximum Solar Farm Grant to be given by ALCC is £35,000 (if that amount is available to ALCC from CIC).
 20. The Solar Farm Grant 2019 will go to projects which:
 - involve a lasting legacy and tangible benefits to local communities
 - contribute to sustainability
 - are in themselves sustainable. The organisation must be able to run the project/ building/facility itself, after the Solar Farm Grant has ended, without further revenue support from ALCC
 - involve links with local schools
 - promote opportunities for local volunteering
 - deliver environmental improvements
 - promote links between different areas or communities within the ALCC area
 - meet the well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

How does the Solar Farm Grants process work?

1. CIC informs ALCC of how much funding is available for the following year.
2. CIC asks ALCC to decide how to allocate that funding.
3. ALCC decides how to allocate that funding and seeks agreement from CIC.
4. If CIC agrees, it pays the funding to ALCC.
5. ALCC distributes the funding, monitors the spending and reports back to CIC.

Specifically in 2019:

6. This document describing the process and criteria, and the application form agreed by the Council, will be issued to all ALCC Councillors and placed on the Council's website as soon as possible following the Council's meeting on 25 September 2019.
7. Councillors will approach groups and organisations in their wards who may be interested in applying for a Solar Farm Grant in 2019. Councillors will explain the process to groups.
8. All Solar Farm Grant applications must be made using the Solar Farm Grant application form. The Council will not consider any applications which are not on the Solar Farm Grant application form or which do not contain the required details.
9. Interested groups and organisations must supply the completed form and all relevant supporting documents to the Councillor who is supporting their application by Thursday 10 October 2019.
10. The Councillor must supply the forms and documents to the Clerk by Friday 11 October 2019.
11. The forms and supporting documents will be supplied to the members of the Solar Farm Grants Working Group (SFGWG) as soon as possible after receipt.
12. The SFGWG will meet on Friday 18 October 2019 at 10.00am at the ALCC offices.
13. The Councillor supporting an application AND a suitable representative of the organisation (e.g. Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) must attend the SFGWG on Friday

18 October 2019 at 10.00am (specific time slots will be given) to present the application and answer questions.

14. The SFGWG will consider all the applications submitted and make recommendations to the Council on 30 October, about which application(s) should be approved by the Council.
15. Cheques will be issued as soon as possible after that date to the successful organisations.
16. The organisation must undertake in writing to provide quarterly reports back, including photographs or other written evidence, to demonstrate progress.
17. The Council may at any time require any and all such evidence it decides that a Solar Farm Grant given previously has been spent in the manner for which it was intended. If insufficient progress is made or insufficient evidence is given, the Council may reclaim all or part of the funding granted and return this to CIC.
18. Any grant must be publicised appropriately by the receiving organisation (e.g. on its website, social media pages or posters/programmes). If appropriate publicity is not given, the organisation concerned will receive no further funding from ALCC (or CIC).

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Solar Farm Grant 2019 – Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of your group or organisation:

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Contact name:

Role in group:

Telephone number:

Email:

What is the name of your project?
.....

What are the aims of the project?
.....
.....
.....

How will your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its residents?
.....
.....
.....

Approximate number of beneficiaries

What will be delivered as a result of the Solar Farm Grant?
.....
.....

Project costs:

A. Project costs met by your group	Amount (inc. VAT)
	£
	£
	£
Sub Total	£
B. Funding being provided by other organisations	Amount (inc.VAT)
	£
	£
Sub Total	£
C. Funding requested from ALCC Solar Farm Grant	Amount (inc.VAT)
	£
	£
Sub Total	£
D. Total project costs (A + B + C)	TOTAL
	£

How will your project improve the local environment?

.....

How does your project contribute to sustainability?

.....

How does your project link with local schools?

.....

How does your project promote volunteering?

.....

[illegible]

- **A prosperous Wales**
- **A resilient Wales**
- **A healthier Wales**
- **A more equal Wales**
- **A Wales of cohesive communities**
- **A Wales of vibrant culture**
- **A globally responsible Wales?**

- [illegible]

If funding is granted, what will successful delivery of the project look like?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Will you (and when will you) supply completion reports / evidence / photos?

.....
.....
.....

Is your organisation a: Charity/community group/sports club/company/not for
profit business/other (explain and provide evidence)

.....
.....
.....
.....

Payee name:

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

This form must be submitted with any relevant supporting documents you wish to submit (e.g. business plan, group constitution, bank or financial statements, letters of support etc) to the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Councillor who is supporting your application by Thursday 10 October 2019

Councillors must submit the form and any supporting documents to: Town Clerk, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE by Friday 11 October 2019

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY
COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Peter Adamson, Keri Bidgood, Gill Clark (Chair) (in the Chair), Tracey Dyson, Mark Lewis, Beverley Lucas, Perry Morgan, Gary Oakley, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons and Glyn Smith

Officers: Steve Edwards, Deputy Clerk and Richard Gwinnell, Town Clerk
Others: None

ABSENT: Councillors Roger Clark, Amanda Edwards, Julie Holt, Bernard Wall and Graham White

EXCERPT

77. SOLAR FARM GRANT 2019

The Clerk circulated recommendations of the Solar Farm Grant Working Group, following its meeting held on 19 September 2019, along with suggested criteria for future solar farm grants and a suggested application form. He reported that the solar farm company (CIC Community Green Energy Wales) had reservations about staging future payments of solar farm grants and that they would prefer the proposed minimum grant (£10,000) to be much lower, so that smaller groups and projects could potentially benefit.

Members debated the issue at length, with the following main points arising:

- the lower limit should be £1,000 or £2,000 so that more groups could apply
- the solar farm grant was about making a big difference to more communities; lasting legacy, sustainable projects were what the solar farm grant should be used for
- ALCC already gave other grants of hundreds or thousands of pounds, to help fund smaller more local projects, groups or causes
- smaller grants could help fund larger-impact and lasting legacy schemes, when added to money from elsewhere – e.g. the Lions' 100 tree planting project
- diluting the funding meant diluting the benefit to all communities
- a pot of funding given some years ago to a local organisation had still not been spent; it was crucial that there was wide community benefit and monitoring
- some groups would be put off by the £10,000 lower limit and not therefore

- apply
- a more robust audit trail was needed, to ensure funding was spent as intended
- the criteria and forms circulated were a significant step forward.

Council RESOLVED that:

- (1) the aims, criteria, process, timescales, deadlines and other details attached at appendix A (to the group's recommendations) be adopted
- (2) the application form attached at appendix B (to the group's recommendations) be adopted, issued to councillors and posted on the Council's website as soon as possible, with the deadlines set out in appendix A
- (3) the Solar Farm Grant Working Group considers in detail the applications for 2019
- (4) the Council considers the recommendations of the Working Group including the final (up to four) Solar Farm Grant 2019 applications and (if required) presentations on 30 October 2019
- (5) the Solar Farm Grant Working Group's remit be extended to look also at the process for future Solar Farm Grants (e.g. potentially staging payments) and assist in monitoring past Solar Farm Grants (e.g. by meeting with grant recipients to scrutinise progress)
- (6) the Solar Farm Grant Working Group's terms of reference therefore be amended

from: "To consider the way forward with the Solar Farm Grant for 2019 and report back to Council with recommendations."

to: "To consider the way forward in respect of the Solar Farm Grant for 2019 and future years, take appropriate steps to monitor progress arising from past Solar Farm Grants, and report back to Council with recommendations."