

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 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; Mark Lewis; Bev Lucas; Perry Morgan; Rob Phillips; Glyn Smith; Bernard Wall; Graham White.

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk); Steve Edwards (Deputy Clerk).

Others: Sgt Neil Pigeon, Gwent Police; PC Kate Evans, Gwent Police (until end of item 119).

ABSENT: Michaela Assiratti; Roger Clark; Tracey Dyson and Allen Rees,

117. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson and Allen Rees.

The Council expressed their condolences to Cllr Michaela Assiratti on her recent family bereavement.

The Chair welcomed Sgt Pigeon and PC Evans.

118. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Rob Phillips declared a personal interest with regards to Item 123 as his nephew is Secretary of Abertillery Cricket Club, which had applied for a Solar Farm Grant.

119. POLICE UPDATE

PC Evans reported that crime figures in the borough were currently low and that Abertillery's crime rate was now the lowest of the four towns in the borough. She reported that anti-social behaviour (ASB) calls to the Police regarding youth nuisance in the Community Council area had fallen from 207 in 2019/20 and 142 in 2020/21 to only 94 so far in 2021/22. PC Evans stated that the *Off The Streets* youth project, funded by the Community Council, had had "a measurable impact" on the number of youth nuisance incidents. Sgt Pigeon agreed to report back to the Council regarding the proportion of ASB calls to the Police that led to prosecutions.

Councillors remarked on the lack of enforcement action taken against vehicles parked on pavements and vehicles parked illegally outside businesses, preventing deliveries. Sgt Pigeon stated that the offence of causing an obstruction required the individual judgment of officers. He reported that Gwent Police were in dialogue with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) regarding both enforcement and prevention.

Councillors asked about illegal off-road motorcycling. PC Evans reported that Gwent Police has officially asked all petrol stations in Blaenau Gwent not to sell fuel for off-road motorbikes, particularly where it was suspected that the rider was under-age. Sgt Pigeon added that the Police were working with the BGCBC Enforcement Team regarding a co-ordinated response to further preventative measures.

Sgt Pigeon and PC Evans left the meeting.

120. MINUTES

Full Council 29 September 2021

Cllr Graham White questioned whether the employment status of the representative from *Off The Streets* had been stated correctly. The Chair responded that the

minutes recorded accurately how the representative had described her employment status in the meeting.

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

121. BANK MANDATE

The Council **RESOLVED** to include the new Clerk on the Council's bank mandate.

122. AR DIGITAL

Council **RESOLVED** to move payment to AR Digital for photocopying and printing services to Direct Debit.

123. SOLAR FARM GRANTS

Council considered the recommendations from the Working Group that none of the grant applications should receive a Solar Farm Grant. Cllr Graham White asked whether the unallocated grant funding could be passed to the Council. The Chair replied that the criteria agreed with CIC Community Green Energy in 2017 specifically state that the Council cannot be a beneficiary of Solar Farm Grants.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the Working Group, to extend the closing date for Solar Farm Grant applications to a date in November and to amend the criteria to permit applications from groups that have not received a Solar Farm Grant within the last two (rather than five) years.

Council **RESOLVED** to add Cllr Peter Adamson to the Solar Farm Grants Working Group and instructed the Working Group to meet as soon as possible to review the criteria for applications for future years.

124. COUNCIL GRANTS

Council **RESOLVED** that officers should request more information from Tenovus Cancer Care and that the charity's application for a Council Grant should be deferred to a later meeting.

Three applications that failed to meet the criteria for Solar Farm Grants were, with the applicants' permission, submitted for Council Grants.

The Clerk informed Members that the Local Government Act 1894 precluded councils from funding "ecclesiastical charities" for "any spiritual purpose." Although this restriction appeared to be overturned by the Local Government Act 1972, the principle had never been clarified in the courts and, consequently, such funding could be open to legal challenge.

Council **RESOLVED** to award a Council Grant of £740 to Bethany Christmas Craft and Gift Project subject to any overtly religious literature being distributed separately from materials funded by the grant.

Council **RESOLVED** that officers should provide information about previous Council grant funding for Abertillery Orpheus Ladies Choir and that the choir's application for a Council Grant should be deferred to a later meeting.

Council **RESOLVED** that officers should provide information about previous Council grant funding for Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association and should request more information about the 'Friends of Granny's Wood' group and that the association's application for a Council Grant should be deferred to a later meeting.

125. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Cllr Rob Phillips noted that, from 31 December 2021, Henley's Coaches would no longer provide a bus service to Cwmtillery, Blaenau Gwent or Brynithel. He also noted the recent reduction of taxi services in the Community Council area during the

evening. He stated that the Ebbw Fach Valley is not a wealthy area and relies disproportionately on public transport. Consequently, many local people were in danger of becoming isolated.

Council **RESOLVED** that officers should write to the constituency MS, regional MSs, constituency MP and local Borough Councillors inviting them to a meeting to address the issue.

Council **RESOLVED** that public transport should be added to the responsibilities of the Community Council's Planning and Environment Committee.

126. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Council **RESOLVED** to release the following budgeted monies to community groups:
Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association (£3,000)
Brynithel Community Centre (£1,500)
Swffryd Community Centre (£1,500)
Bourneville Community Centre (£1,500).

Council **RESOLVED** to add funding of Christmas lanterns at their usual cost.

127. CO-OPTIONS

This item was moved higher up the agenda by the Chair in order to ensure that it was addressed within the meeting's two-hour time limit.

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mihangel ap Williams as Member for the Abertillery ward.

The Clerk informed the meeting that three applicants had applied for two vacancies as members of the Llanhilleth ward. Members would need to choose two of the three to be co-opted to the Llanhilleth ward. The remaining applicant would be co-opted to either of the other wards with a current vacancy.

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Barrie Page and Jaqueline Ledbury as Members for the Llanhilleth ward.

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Ben Owen-Jones as a Member and that he be asked to become a member for either Abertillery or Six Bells.

128. PENYBONT CRAFTERS

This item was moved higher up the agenda by the Chair in order to ensure that it was addressed within the meeting's two-hour time limit.

The Clerk reported that Penybont Crafters had received a Council Grant of £185 earlier this year to fund the purchase of a food mixer but had subsequently received a suitable food mixer as a gift.

Council **RESOLVED** that Penybont Crafters be permitted to use the Council Grant for a similar purpose to that originally intended.

129. CHAIR'S CHARITY

This item was moved higher up the agenda by the Chair in order to ensure that it was addressed within the meeting's two-hour time limit.

The Chair announced that his nominated charity for 2021-22 would be Clwb Llan of Llanhilleth.

130. FINANCE AND GRANTS COMMITTEE

This item was moved higher up the agenda by the Chair in order to ensure that it was addressed within the meeting's two-hour time limit.

Council **RESOLVED** to authorise the Finance and Grants Committee to review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in the New Year.

131. CHAIRS' PHOTOGRAPHS

Council **RESOLVED** to continue the tradition of displaying framed photographs of previous Chairs of the Council but to defer releasing a suitable budget until officers had confirmed whether four previous chairs would agree to having their photographs displayed and three suitable quotes had been obtained from professional photographers.

- 132.** The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed to be 24 November 2021 at 7.00pm.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

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

Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF
ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON
3 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.00pm
virtually and in the Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Gary Oakley (Chair); Nick Simmons (Vice Chair); Roger Clark; Tracey Dyson; Bev Lucas; Perry Morgan; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Glyn Smith; Bernard Wall; Mihangel ap Williams; Graham White.

Officers: David Cartwright (Clerk); Steve Edwards (Deputy Clerk).

BY VIDEO LINK

Councillors: Jaqueline Ledbury; Ben Owen-Jones.

Others: Several members of the public attended the meeting via video link.

133. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies were received from Peter Adamson, Michaela Assiratti and Mark Lewis.

The Chair welcomed the four new Members to their first meeting of the Council and members of the public who were attending the meeting online.

The Chair read a prepared statement in which he reminded Members that the meeting had been called to fulfil a legal obligation placed upon the Council by the report *Unlawful Payments and Governance Failings – Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council* published by Audit Wales on 14 October 2021.

Audit Wales had published its evidence for all to read (and to make up their own minds) and had delivered its judgment that payments made to the Council's former Clerk and former Secretary in October 2014 were unlawful.

The Chair stated that he intended to make sure that the Council fulfilled its legal obligations under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 to consider whether to seek recovery of the unlawful payments referred to in the report.

He was determined to keep the meeting focused on what must be decided in the present and, therefore, would not allow speeches from Councillors giving their version of what did, or did not, happen in 2014 or giving their view about how previous councillors acted in the past.

134. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Glyn Smith declared a personal interest as he is mentioned by name in the Audit Wales report.

Cllr. Rob Phillips declared a personal interest as he is mentioned by name in the Audit Wales report.

135. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chair declared that this section of the meeting was 'open' and that members of the public could ask to speak.

The Clerk stated that written questions had been received from several members of the public. A number of these required a straightforward response: some requested purely factual information; others needed to be redirected to other organisations or individuals. All of these questions had received a response before the meeting and the questions and answers had been published on the Council website.

Mr Anthony Partridge of Abertillery, who attended the meeting via a Zoom video link, asked the Clerk to read out a question he had submitted in writing. This asked whether the council would ask the police for a detailed reason as to why they have chosen to not carry forward a criminal investigation into the unlawful payments.

The Clerk responded that, as a matter of courtesy, Gwent Police shared the reasons for its decision not to pursue a prosecution with the Community Council in November 2018. The decision was taken by the Crown Prosecution Service that a criminal prosecution would not be in the public interest as there would not be a realistic prospect of providing the proof 'beyond reasonable doubt' required in the criminal court.

The Crown Prosecution Service will not provide more detailed or specific reasons so as not to prejudice any potential action in the civil courts, where cases are decided 'on the balance of probabilities.'

Ms Sarah Jones of Six Bells, who attended the meeting via a Zoom video link, asked the Clerk to read out a question she had submitted in writing. This asked whether all Council salaries and wages had been audited to check for accuracy since the events described in the Audit Wales report and accountability steps and measures taken to ensure that the same errors were not repeated.

The Clerk responded that the Audit Wales report details how it carried out an audit of past payments to officers going back more than a decade before 2014-15. From 2015-16 onwards, the Community Council's finances have been subject to an internal audit by new internal auditors and have been audited externally by Audit Wales.

Audit Wales met with the Community Council as early as December 2015 to detail their concerns about the Community Council's financial accountability. As the Audit Wales report states right at the beginning, Audit Wales is "satisfied that, since then, the Council has made considerable efforts to improve its governance and financial management arrangements."

The Clerk promised that the public questions and the Council's responses would be added to those published on the Council website.

The Chair stated that the Council had received a letter from the trade union Unison, written on behalf of the Council's former clerk, Mr Graham Bartlett, which included a request that it be read out at the meeting. The Chair stated that he had decided that this would not be appropriate but that the Clerk had contacted Unison to say that the Community Council hopes to maintain an open dialogue with the union.

The Chair declared that the meeting would now go into a 'closed' session where members of the public would not be allowed to speak but, as this was a public meeting, members of the public were very welcome to continue to follow proceedings via video link. The meeting was suspended at 7.16 pm to enable the microphones of members of the public to be muted. The meeting was reconvened at 7.18 pm.

136. AUDIT WALES REPORT

a) The Chair moved the motion that the Council accept the findings of the Audit Wales report. This was seconded by the Vice Chair.

Cllr. Graham White noted that the agenda for the meeting did not state that the agenda items were motions. Therefore, Standing Orders allowing a Member to speak only once on a motion should not apply.

The Clerk replied that the wording of the agenda items was such that it was clear that the items were motions that would be voted upon.

The Chair stated that the three agenda items would be treated as motions.

Councillors agreed that the findings of the report were both comprehensive and conclusive.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the findings of the report *Unlawful Payments and Governance Failings* published by Audit Wales on 14 October 2021.

The Chair noted that eleven Members had voted in favour of the motion and that three (Cllr. Rob Phillips, Cllr. Glyn Smith and Cllr. Bernard Wall) had abstained.

b) The Chair moved the motion that the Council should seek recovery of the unlawful over-payments referred to in the Audit Wales report. This was seconded by the Vice Chair.

Councillors agreed that the Council had a duty to seek recovery of public money that had been overpaid. Councillors discussed whether it should also seek to recover from former employees any extra audit and legal costs incurred due to acts of bad faith.

Council **RESOLVED** to seek recovery of the unlawful over-payments made to the Council's former Clerk and former Secretary referred to in the Audit Wales report.

Ten Members voted in favour of the motion and four (Cllr. Rob Phillips, Cllr. Glyn Smith, Cllr. Bernard Wall and Cllr. Ben Owen-Jones) abstained.

c) The Chair moved the motion that officers should be authorised to seek legal and regulatory advice. This was seconded by the Vice Chair.

Councillors discussed their wish for legal advice to be seen to be independent and not to have been edited or modified before being presented to Councillors.

Council **RESOLVED** that any legal advice should be presented in writing, in full to a future meeting of the Council.

The Chair noted that twelve Members had voted in favour of this amendment and that two (Cllr. Rob Phillips and Cllr. Glyn Smith) had abstained.

Councillors discussed whether officers should ask for legal advice in regards to each of the two former employees separately.

The Deputy Clerk noted that the Council had already resolved to seek recovery of over-payments made to both.

Council **RESOLVED** that officers be authorised to seek legal and regulatory advice up to the value of £5,000 in relation to the recovery of the unlawful over-payments made to the Council's former Clerk and former Secretary and that the full, written legal advice should be presented to a future meeting of the Council.

The Chair noted that the motion, as amended, had been passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7.51pm.

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

Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Council Grant Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

Abertillery & Blaina Rotary Club
c/o 2 The Pines, Roch Street
Abertillery
Blaenau Gwent
NP13 1HH

Group Contact name: Steve Harford

Role in the group: Treasurer

Telephone number: 07890274900

Email: steve.ski@hotmail.co.uk

What are the aims of your project?

To match fund a grant application to support Emilie Thomas, please see attached email information.

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

Benefit to one resident and family to represent Wales at the upcoming Cheerleading World Championships in Florida in April 2022 which will then become an Olympic sport in which we hope she will qualify.

Approx number of beneficiaries 1 family

Details of project costs:

A. Project costs met by group (include match funds)	Amount (inc. VAT)
	£
Rotary Contribution	£250.00
	£
Sub Total	£
B. Costs requested from ALCC	Amount (Inc. VAT)
	£
Match Funding	£250.00
Sub Total	£
C. Total project costs (A + B) TOTAL	£500.00

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

Abertillery and Blaina Rotary Club is a Community Group

Payee name: Abertillery & Blaina Rotary Club

Name of person making the application:

Print Name: ...Steven John Harford.....



Signed: Signed:

Date:9 November 2021

Please return this form with any relevant supporting documents (group constitution, financial statements, letters of support etc.) to: Town Clerk, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE or to clerk.alcc@gmail.com

Attached email information:



laura Thomas

Re: Your request for funding from Rotary

To: Gary Oakley

Laura 20 October 2021 at 11:56



Dear Gary

Thank you for speaking with me today, i really appreciate you taking the time to look into our request.

As you know, Emilie has been selected to represent Wales at the upcoming Cheerleading World Championships in Florida in April 2022. Thanks to Covid the competition didnt not run last year, but so that you get an idea of what exactly cheersport is, the following link opens up a video of Emilie's team competing at Worlds in 2019: <https://youtu.be/N8ExTq4Yu1Y>

As I explained, I live in Pontypridd, but because of my health issues and Emilie's gymnastic training commitments of 20+ houes per week in Crumlin, Emilie spends much of her time residing with her grandparents who live in Abertillery.

Because of her gymnastics abilities, Emilie is one of the main tumblers in the team as well as the main flyer (the person up in the air), so alot of the routine is centered around her. Should she be unable to attend the competition in Florida, it would be very difficult, if not impossible for team Wales to attend and compete in the youth division as there would not be anyone to replace Emilie within the routine.

Cheersport is becoming an extremely popular sport worldwide, and Wales are up there with the best teams in the world, so to compete at the World Championships is not only a huge honour, it is also the first important step on the road to the Olympics where cheersport is soon to make an appearance.

Unfortunately, these competitions come with a huge cost to the athlete, with little to no funding available, leaving many amazing athletes unable to fulfil their potential. Emilie is one of those athletes who genuinely has the talent, but because of my health, our family situation has left us in a difficult position.

Back in 2011, I had a stroke following meningitis, and subsequently developed a rare autoimmune condition called Behcets Syndrome, as well as fibromyalgia and other health conditions. I am therefore unable to work, and my husband had to give up his job to care for me full time. Emilie is also a registered young carer and provides a huge support to myself when she is at home.

The cost of Emilie's additional training fees and kit is to paid in instalments, but the flights and accommodation we have to arrange ourselves and therefore does not need to be paid for until closer to the departure date. Because Emilie is a junior, she has to be accompanied by myself as her guardian, and because of my health conditions, I also need to have a carer with me. These additional flight costs also have to be factored into the overall cost of the trip. As well as flights, we need to arrange approximately 2 weeks accommodation as Emilie has to be in florida at least the week previous as she will need to attend training sessions with team wales whilst out in Florida.

Thank you again for considering oir request for help, and if there is anything else that you need, please do not hesitate to ask.

Many thanks and best wishes

Laura



laura Thomas

Re: Your request for funding from Rotary

To: Gary Oakley

RE: Team Wales World Cheerleading Championships April 2022 – Florida

I am reaching out to you on behalf of my daughter to enquire about possible support for Emilie, who is 12 and has been selected to represent Wales at the 2022 World Cheerleading Championships in Florida as a member of the All Girl Youth team. This is a great honour and a fantastic opportunity in order for her progress along the path to becoming an elite and international sports person, especially as cheer sport is set to be included in the Olympics in the future, but as I am sure that you can appreciate, it also comes with additional costs.

Emilie attends Cardinal Newman High School and currently trains 5 days per week at Valleys Gymnastics Academy, Crumlin, and 2 days per week at RSD Cheer and Dance, Treforest, as well as coaching gymnastics one day per week. Emilie is also a young carer for myself, and has been recognised for her achievements by winning the Wales Online Sporting Inspiration award, South Wales Argus courage award, and SportCheer Wales Inspiration award for her role as school girl, sports person and young carer all rolled into one.

Covering the vast cost of Emilie's training and equipment is already a struggle, and whilst every little gymnast and dancer dreams of one day competing on the world stage, for Emilie, this is within her grasp, but can only become a reality with the help of fundraising and businesses like yourselves. I have attached a list of costs associated with the trip, including training and uniform costs. On top of these costs, we also need to cover the cost of Emilie's flight, accommodation, visa, and training and travel costs whilst in America. Because of her age, I have to accompany Emilie as her guardian, adding to the costs, and because of my health conditions, I cannot travel alone, meaning that I also need an adult carer with me.

If there is any help that you may be able to offer in order to help Emilie achieve her world championship dream, and help her on the way to her Olympic dreams, however small the contribution, it would be very much appreciated, and every little bit really does help, even if it is just the cost of her training top.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, it is very much appreciated, and we would be incredibly grateful if you could share this with any other acquaintances that you feel may be in a position to help.

Yours Sincerely

Laura Thomas and Emilie Allen

Costs Associated with World Cheerleading Championships 2022

Yours Sincerely

Laura Thomas and Emilie Allen

Costs Associated with World Cheerleading Championships 2022

Uniform and Required Kit Team

Wales Practice T-shirt £17.50

Opening Ceremony Kit £50

Warm-up Kit £40

Team Wales Uniform £110

ICU Wales T-shirt £15

Training and Entry Fees

UK Training Fees £50

Athlete Entry Fee £450

Florida Gym Practice Fees £30

Florida Gym Travel Fees £20

Additional Costs

Return Air fare Approximately £650 per person

2 Weeks Accommodation

US Visa

Spectator tickets £300 each

On 27 October 2021, Council deferred consideration of the application for grant funding from Tenovus Cancer Care pending further information about the nature of the Support Line and Cancer Call Back Service plus clarification about how the proposed grant funding would be used:

Tenovus Cancer Care is the biggest Wales-based funder of cancer research. It also supports the work of volunteers in hospitals and health centres, principally in South Wales. Its Support Line and Cancer Call Back Service offers advice from specialist cancer nurses on diagnosis, treatment, side-effects and other matters. The support line responds to calls regardless of where the caller is based, but the majority of enquiries are from South Wales.

The charity reports that this national service costs more than £200,000 a year to run, or £543 per day. The grant application is for £271, or fifty per cent of the service's costs for one day. The charity has made similar grant applications to other community councils throughout South Wales.



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Council Grant Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of group, organisation or project:

Tenovus Cancer Care
Head Office
Brunel House,
2 Fitzalan Road,
Cardiff
CF24 0EB

Project, Support Line and Cancer Call Back Service.

Group Contact name: Ceri Hill.....

Role in the group: Regional Fundraising Manager
.....

Telephone number: 07964688148
.....

Email:
ceri.hill@tenovuscancercare.org.uk.....
.....

What are the aims of your project? I'm applying for a grant to help cover the cost of Support Line and Call Back service.

Our Support Line service has been more valuable than ever during the Covid-19 pandemic with people worried about whether their treatment will go ahead or worried about symptoms. People have been able to speak to someone about their worries. Our Support Line is the only nurse-led telephone service that deals with all types of questions about all types of cancer, from patients or their loved ones.

Our experienced nurses are at the end of the phone, 365 days a year. From the very first call, they can tell if someone needs urgent medical care, meaning we don't just help, we help save lives. If someone's worried about cancer they can talk to us for as long as they want, and call whenever they need

us – even Christmas Day.

But we don't just wait for the phone to ring. Our nurses make regular calls out to cancer patients, supporting them through their treatment via our Call Back Service. So whether they're struggling with the side-effects of chemo, anxious about surgery or feel alone, we're there for them.

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

Anyone that's affected by cancer whether that's a patient, someone who's loved one has been diagnosed with cancer, a carer or someone who is bereaved can call our Free Support Line to get the help and support they need.

Approx number of beneficiaries: It's hard to offer precise numbers for the people using our services in the area on a weekly basis. However people from Abertillery and Llanhilleth the and surrounding areas have access to use all of our services.

Details of project costs:

A. Project costs met by group (include match funds)	Amount (inc. VAT)
	£
	£
	£
Sub Total	£543
B. Costs requested from ALCC	Amount (inc. VAT)
	£
	£
Sub Total	£271
C. Total project costs (A + B) TOTAL	£543

Is the organisation a: Charity

Payee name: Tenovus Cancer Care

.....

Name of person making the application:

Print Name: Ceri Hill

Signed:

Ger Hill

Date:

8th October 2021.....

Please return this form with any relevant supporting documents (group constitution, financial statements, letters of support etc.) to: Town Clerk, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE or to clerk.alcc@gmail.com

On 27 October 2021, Council deferred consideration of the application for grant funding from Abertillery Orpheus Ladies Choir pending further information about previous Council grant funding for the choir.

There is no record of the choir ever having received a grant from the Community Council but they were awarded a Solar Farm Grant of £1,000 in 2017 to cover the cost of purchasing an electronic keyboard and stand.

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Solar Farm Grant 2021 – Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of your group or organisation:

ABERTILLERY LADIES ORPHEUS CHOIR

Contact name: MARILYN ALLEN

Role in group: ACTING SECRETARY

Telephone number: 01495 215831

Email: mar52@hotmail.co.uk

What is the name of your project? PROMOTION OF THE CHOIR IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

What are the aims of the project? TO ENHANCE THE CHOIR'S REPERTOIRE AND TO ATTRACT A WIDER RANGE OF AGE GROUPS FROM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

How will your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its residents? IT WILL HELP TO PROMOTE THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL BENEFITS OF COMMUNAL SINGING TO THE RESIDENTS.

Approximate number of beneficiaries 35 CHORISTERS PLUS POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS.

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

- USING MODERN TECHNOLOGY WILL HELP TO PROMOTE OUR ORGANISATION AND WILL UPDATE THE GENERAL IMAGE OF OUR CHOIR.
- PURCHASE OF NEW MUSIC WILL CREATE INTEREST AND ENJOYMENT OF THE PUBLIC.

How does your project promote links between communities?

IT WILL RAISE AWARENESS OF OUR ROLE AND HELP TO INCREASE LINKS WITH OTHER CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS, IN THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL EVENTS.

How does your project help deliver the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, namely:

- 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?

- PROMOTION OF OUR CHOIR THROUGH THE RECORDING OF CONCERTS AND MUSICAL PIECES WILL BE HELPFUL IN RECRUITING FUTURE MEMBERS.
- THE USE OF "U-TUBE" AND SIMILAR PLATFORMS WILL INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE HUGE BENEFITS THAT CHORAL WORK BRINGS TO INDIVIDUALS AND TO OUR COMMUNITY.
- WE ALWAYS SUPPORT LOCAL CULTURAL EVENTS AND OUR CHOIR HAS HELPED TO RAISE MANY THOUSANDS OF POUNDS IN SUPPORT OF A WIDE RANGE OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHARITIES.
- WE STRIVE TO PROMOTE THE RICH CULTURE OF OUR LOCALITY AND WE ARE KEEN TO FURTHER PROMOTE OURSELVES AS A SUPPORTIVE AND INCLUSIVE ORGANISATION.

(continue on a separate sheet if needed)

Project costs: £600.00 (Audio/visual recorder - £350)
(sheet music - £250)

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)
Recording equipment	£ 350
Sheet music	£ 250
Sub Total	£ 600
D. Total project costs (A + B + C)	TOTAL £ 600

How will your project improve the local environment?

Promoting the choir will boost membership and increase participation in more local events.

How does your project contribute to sustainability?

How does your project link with local schools?

We have undertaken school projects in the past and the choir is keen to support further links with young people

How does your project promote volunteering?

We all give our time freely, to support charities and to take part in community events. We are self-financing and pay for all expenses incurred when we participate in concerts etc

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

- REGULAR USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO RECORD AND PROMOTE OUR CHOIR
- PURCHASE OF NEW MUSICAL PIECES TO ENHANCE OUR REPERTOIRE

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

AS THEY BECOME PART OF CHOIR CONCERTS AND PRACTICES.

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

COMMUNITY GROUP

Payee name: ABERTILLERY LADIES ORPHEUS CHOIR

Signed: MA ALLEN

Print Name: MARILYN ALLEN

Date: 19th September 2021

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 Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council by Friday 24th September 2021, either by mail to Town Clerk, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE or email clerk.alcc@gmail.com

On 27 October 2021, Council deferred consideration of the application for grant funding from Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association pending further information about the status of the group and confirmation that it has permission to carry out the proposed project. Llanhilleth TRA has provided the following additional information:

Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association has no plans to set up the “Friends of Granny’s Wood” as a separate organisation. The “Friends of Granny’s Wood” would be a group within the TRA. It would be covered by the TRA’s constitution and would use the TRA’s banking arrangements. Currently, the group has six volunteers but, as all residents of Llanhilleth are, constitutionally, automatically members of the TRA, the TRA believes that there is great scope for the number of volunteers to grow when the “Friends of Granny’s Wood” group starts work.

Granny’s Wood has three owners. Much of the land is owned by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, who were partners in the successful Rural Communities Development Fund project that secured the funding for the Granny’s Wood pathway reinstatement scheme that was completed three years ago. Blaenau Gwent CBC continue to operate an on-going woodland maintenance plan to look after the trees etc.

Two private individuals jointly own the remainder of the wood. The TRA has a signed permit, dated 23 January 2019, granting access to their land for twenty years.

Previous grants

Despite being one of only two fully-constituted tenants and residents associations in the Community Council area, Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association has previously received a total of only £700 in grant funding from the Community Council over the last seven-and-a-half years.



Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council (ALCC)

Solar Farm Grant 2021 – Application

(see criteria and process attached before applying)

Name and Address of your group or organisation:

Llanhilleth Tenants & Residents Association

Contact name: Lyn Maloney.

Role in group: Chair.

Telephone number: 01495214039.

Email: lynmaloney2010@hotmail.co.uk.

What is the name of your project? Friends of Granny's Wood.

What are the aims of the project? To establish a group to maintain and develop Granny's Wood, Llanhilleth.

How will your project benefit the Abertillery and Llanhilleth area or its residents? As well as keeping the pathway through the wood in good order our plans include, extending the pathway to expose the capped shafts of Llanhilleth Colliery and so creating more communal space, establishing a forest school for the pupils of St. Illtyd's School, improving disabled access, and providing an off-road cycle track. We will also investigate the possibility of establishing allotments.

Approximate number of beneficiaries? 1080 (the population of Llanhilleth)

What will be delivered as a result of the Solar Farm Grant? Equipment, Training, and Insurance to enable the group to work effectively and safely.

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)
Brush cutters: 2 @ £299	£598.00
Training in safe use and maintenance of brush cutters: 2 @ £260	£520.00
Insurance cover for volunteers: 1 year @ £75.85	£75.85
Sub Total	£1193.85
D. Total project costs (A + B + C) TOTAL	£1193.85

How will your project improve the local environment? Our Granny's Wood project, completed 3 years ago, reinstated an impassable pathway through the wood that miners took to the colliery. It has created a peaceful and tranquil spot enjoyed by everyone who visits. The wood has many different types of trees, maintained by the Borough's woodland management scheme. A recent ornithological survey identified 29 different species of bird. Our project will keep the wood and pathways in good order and develop it.

How does your project contribute to sustainability? Covid restrictions helped nature to reclaim areas we had cleared before the pandemic. Without regular maintenance, the pathway and the wood would deteriorate and lose its appeal.

How does your project link with local schools? We have worked with the Borough's Ecology & Biodiversity Officers and the pupils, on establishing a forest school and other woodland and wildlife projects for St. Illtyd's School.

How does your project promote volunteering? The Friends group will encourage volunteering by their fellow residents, **regardless** of age. There are few opportunities, today, for important intergenerational activities. Encouraging young people to get involve will persuade other members of their families to take part too.

How does your project promote links between communities?

The Llanhilleth Colliery Memorial is within the wood and forms the start and finish points of the popular Ebbw Fach Trail, which links heritage sites the length of the valley. People enjoy the peaceful, tranquil atmosphere in the wood, some use it for a just quiet stroll, maybe they walk their dog or just sit and let the cares of the world drift away. Many have commented on the friendly people they have met on their visits.

How does your project help deliver the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, namely:

- **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?**

Creation of the group will contribute to community wellbeing by encouraging inter-generational community engagement and participation and all-important community awareness and ownership.

- **A prosperous Wales:** The project will not have a direct financial impact on the community but will enrich the lives of those taking part and members of the community who will benefit from their efforts.
- **A resilient Wales:** Rest and recuperation are a fuel for resilience and hobbies and volunteering can contribute hugely.
- **A healthier Wales:** Outdoor activity plays an important part in good health. WE are currently speaking to Small Woods Wales regarding woodland and wildlife taster sessions.
- **A more equal Wales:** Enthusiasm and a love of our community are the only qualifications to join.
- **A Wales of cohesive communities:** The intergenerational activities with simple, achievable aims, will bring our community together.
- **A Wales of vibrant culture:** The links to our mining heritage, via the colliery memorial, are important but so is the future. Our project will help bring the community together and rekindle the spirit communities like ours were so proud of.
- **A globally responsible Wales:** Biodiversity is vital to the future wellbeing of our communities. Participation in Granny's Wood will promote awareness and provide an important sense of ownership and responsibility for the future.

(continue on a separate sheet if needed)

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

Well maintained pathways and woodland with additional facilities.

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

As progress will, to a large extent, depend on the weather and season, we will supply reports, with photographs, in the spring of 2022.

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

We are a community group formed in 1998. Our constitution is attached.

Payee name: Llanhilleth Tenants & Residents Association.

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 Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council by Friday 24th September 2021, either by mail to Town Clerk, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Mitre Street, Abertillery, NP13 1AE or email clerk.alcc@gmail.com



Draenog Countryside And Wildlife

07837501172

www.draenogcountryside.co.uk

draenogcountryside@gmail.com

QUOTE
QUO0033

DATE
03/08/2021

TOTAL
GBP £260.00

TO

Lyn Maloney, Granny's Wood

DESCRIPTION	RATE	QTY	AMOUNT
City and Guilds NPTC Brushcutter and trimmer course inc. assessment, price per person	£260.00	1	£260.00
TOTAL			GBP £260.00

Brynmawr Rotary - Christmas Hamper Funding request

1 message

Rotary <rotary@donnawallbank.co.uk>
Reply-To: rotary@donnawallbank.co.uk
To: clerk.alcc@gmail.com

22 October 2021 at 13:12

Dear Members of Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Brynmawr Rotary has a proud history since it was formed in 1968 of assisting the community we serve and across its geographical wider areas too, an example being that throughout the pandemic we supported the whole of Blaenau Gwent and we continue to do so.

I copy a few news article links below which highlight what we did to help and we proudly continue to support the community via the Rotary Supplementary Foodbank which we run. We deliver when people in need cannot collect and we now run the project from 2 community houses which are gifted to us by Tai Calon.

Ahead of **Christmas 2020** we created a project to provide 50 Christmas week food hampers...it escalated as they need was huge and we eventually delivered **184 Christmas Hampers** which were suitable for 7 days with 3 meals a day across Blaenau Gwent which included festive items, tins, jars, dried foods as well as Chickens, meat, fresh fruit and vegetables! We used funds we could raise, we begged, hunted for bargains and worked with companies we knew....it was a huge success as you will see from the pictures and articles.

Please watch this film of what we did with the 2020 Hampers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5RsMkeWkqE>

Christmas 2021

Christmas 2021 already shows signs of need and although we undertook the project originally for one-year we agreed at our Rotary meeting this week that we must offer the food hamper service again in 2021...as I said we already cover the whole of Blaenau Gwent, so we are communicating with each Town Council in the Borough, as we know someone in all areas have been in receipt of a food parcel that we have supported them with...and many will need support at Christmas and into the New Year.

So why do I write to you?

Well, quite simply Rotary are asking for your considered support of this project via a financial donation and if any of you wish to volunteer to let us know so we can schedule you a suitable slot for hamper packing.

If in doubt of what we did in 2020 please ask Cllrs John Hill, Wayne Hodgins and Lyn Elias who came and saw the work we did and helped bag the vegetables! Wayne with others delivered parcels, supported people who through schools, other 3rd sector groups, churches and community leaders identified as families and people in need. Wayne, continues to collect and deliver parcels and food when donated and can attest first hand to the need of the people we are helping.

Please visit our Facebook page or website and see images of people of action taking action and feeling good because a family or person was going to have a better Christmas than they would have had, if the project was not created. www.facebook.com/BrynmawrRotary

If you have questions or wish the project co-ordinators to speak to the Town Council at one time we would be delighted to do so physically or remotely.

Links to articles

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/18988789.brynmawr-rotary-supporting-community-help-youngsters/>

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/covid-heroes-amazon-brynmawr-coronavirus-19220944>

I can provide the bank details, or an office address should you wish to make a donation and all donations will be acknowledged after the Hampers have been delivered.

We truly need your support to continue to offer this help to those who are not as fortunate as we may be, 'please' consider a donation to what we believe to be a more than worthy use of our community efforts.

Yours in Rotary Service

Donna

Donna Wallbank

Proud Member of Brynmawr Rotary

President 2019 -2020 Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

M: 07778 509001 | E: Rotary@donnawallbank.co.uk



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