

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND  
LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON  
24 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); Peter Adamson; Mark Lewis; Perry Morgan; Barrie Page; Rob Phillips; Allen Rees; Bernard Wall; Graham White.

**Officers:** David Cartwright (Clerk).

**BY VIDEO LINK**

**Councillors:** Jaqueline Ledbury; Beverley Lucas; Ben Owen-Jones.

**137. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES**

Apologies were received from Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson, Glyn Smith and Mihangel ap Williams.

**138. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Allen Rees declared a personal interest with regards to Item 141 as he is a member of Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association through residence.

Cllr. Barrie Page declared a personal interest with regards to Item 141 as he is a member of Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association through residence.

Cllr. Rob Phillips declared a personal interest with regards to Item 141 as he is an honorary member of Abertillery & Blaina Rotary Club.

Cllr. Gary Oakley declared a personal interest with regards to Item 141 as he is a member of Abertillery & Blaina Rotary Club.

**139. MINUTES – 27 OCTOBER 2021 AND 3 NOVEMBER 2021**

Cllr. Graham White complained that the nature of his exchange with the Chair under Item 120 of the meeting of 27 October 2021 had not been recorded correctly in the minutes, but offered no amendment. Council **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr White's objection and to confirm the minutes as a correct record with Cllr. White's objection duly recorded.

Cllr. Allen Rees noted that he had been present at the Extraordinary Council Meeting of 3 November 2021. Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes as a correct record subject to Cllr. Rees's attendance being recorded.

Cllr Bernard Wall asked why a letter submitted by the trade union Unison on behalf of the Council's former clerk Mr Graham Bartlett had not been read out at the Extraordinary Council Meeting of 3 November 2021. The Chair answered that he had stated at the start of the Extraordinary Council Meeting that he would not allow speeches from Councillors giving their version of what did, or did not, happen in 2014. He had, therefore, decided that it would not have been appropriate to read out the letter from Unison which largely repeated evidence from 2014 that Mr Bartlett had previously given to Audit Wales. This had been communicated to Unison before the meeting and the letter was subsequently withdrawn.

**140. STATEMENT FROM CHAIR**

Cllr Gary Oakley (Chair) noted that he had commented during the Extraordinary Council Meeting of 3 November 2021 that Cllr. Perry Morgan should have known that the Council was no longer a member of One Voice Wales as he had attended the

Council meeting at which it had been decided not to renew membership. Cllr. Morgan had not pursued the matter further during the meeting of 3 November 2021 but had “very courteously” pointed out to the Chair in private that he had not, in fact, been present at the Council meeting in question. The Chair offered an unreserved apology for his comment and any distress caused.

#### **141. COUNCIL GRANTS**

Gary Oakley (Chair) left the meeting at 7.26pm before discussion of a grant application submitted by Abertillery & Blaina Rotary Club. Nick Simmons (Vice Chair) took the chair.

Council **RESOLVED** that officers should request more information regarding whether the Rotary Club of Rhondda, or any organisation in the Pontypridd area, had been approached for funding and that consideration of the application submitted by Abertillery & Blaina Rotary Club be deferred to a future meeting.

Gary Oakley returned to the meeting at 7.35pm and resumed the chair.

Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £271 to Tenovus Cancer Care.

Council **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 to Abertillery Ladies Orpheus Choir.

Council noted that Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association had requested a grant in excess of the usual limit of £500. Council **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of the grant application and to invite the Chair of Llanhilleth TRA to a future Council meeting.

Cllr. Perry Morgan left the meeting at 7.55pm.

Council **RESOLVED** not to support a request from Brynmawr Rotary Club for “a financial donation.”

#### **142. ADOPT-A-KIOSK**

The Clerk reported that a telephone kiosk in Cwmtillery had passed into the Council's ownership under BT's Adopt-a-Kiosk scheme. Cllr Allen Rees stated that the Council would now begin discussions about future use of the kiosk with Pentref Tyleri.

#### **143. WAR MEMORIAL UPLIGHTERS**

Cllr Bev Lucas reported that the Leisure and Tourism Committee had considered three tenders to provide replacement uplighters for the Abertillery War Memorial. The tender from the preferred bidder would take spending on War Memorial Maintenance above the planned budget for 2021-22. Council **RESOLVED** to allocate an additional £690 to the appropriate budget line.

#### **144. 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.

#### **145. 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 FC1-2021

Cllr. Allen Rees left the meeting at 9pm.

Council **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 3x to enable the meeting to continue.

Council **RESOLVED** to institute protective proceedings to seek to recover overpayments and unauthorised payments made to its former clerk and former secretary and to authorise the payment of the required court fees and legal costs.

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

The meeting ended at 9.12pm.

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

*Minutes produced by David Cartwright, Clerk.*