

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY
COUNCIL (A&LCC) HELD ON 27 JUNE 2018 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Mitre Street, Abertillery**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Peter Adamson, Ivor Beynon, Gill Clark, Roger Clark, Tracey Dyson, Julie Holt (Chair) (in the Chair), Mark Lewis, Allen Rees, Nick Simmons, Bernard Wall and Graham White

Officers: Stephen Edwards, Deputy Clerk and Richard Gwinnell, Clerk

Others: Gary and Sally Oakley – for public questions
Gareth Winmill – Aneurin Leisure Trust – for Street Games presentation

ABSENT: Councillors Steve Bard, Keri Bidgood, Ross Leadbeater, Perry Morgan, Robert Phillips, Glyn Smith and Trudy Williams

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOMES

Apologies were received from Councillors Keri Bidgood, Perry Morgan, Rob Phillips, Glyn Smith and Trudy Williams. External speakers were welcomed to the meeting.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following personal interests were declared (later in the meeting, when the relevant items arose):

Councillor	Agenda Item	Minute no.	Type of interest	Reason for interest
Gill Clark	21b: Grant applications	34	Personal only	She was a member of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum (nominated by the Council).
Nick Simmons	10: Defibrillators	22	Personal only	He was a member of Abertillery Lions, which had offered to help fund a new defibrillator.
Julie Holt	22: BGCBC Home to School Transport	35	Personal only	She was a member of BGCBC, so would be involved at a later date in decisions about changes to BGCBC's home to school transport policies.

Members agreed to take agenda item 5 next, to minimise the delay for those concerned.

11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Gary Oakley of Abertillery had submitted the following questions in advance:

- (a) What are the Council's views and actions on the potential Abertillery rail link to date?
- (b) Does the Council have any plans/actions to support this venture?

Mr Oakley stated that he had been provided with the Council minutes of 31 January 2018 (when the Council met with Alun Davies AM to discuss this matter) so he was

aware of the Council's support for a rail link and the current position. He had also subsequently met with Alun Davies AM and understood that Abertillery was unlikely to get a station as it did not score enough points under the existing criteria. He told members of his background and asked what he and his wife could do to help.

Members discussed their support for a rail link and the current position. There were plans for a rail link to Abertillery but it did not score enough points under the Welsh Government criteria. A member referred to the need for a co-ordinated campaign for a rail link for Abertillery, to bring tourists and other people in to the town and improve the local economy. Reference was made to the need to campaign to change the criteria, or to adjust Abertillery's case to fit the existing criteria better. Other members stated that the Minister had been very clear; there was very little chance of the position changing.

It was suggested and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Simmons (Chair of the Well-being Working Group) meet with Mr Oakley to discuss whether something could be done under the auspices of the Well-being Working Group to progress an Abertillery rail link.

Mr and Mrs Oakley left the meeting at this point.

12. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2018

Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 April 2018 be confirmed as a correct record, for signature by the Chair.

13. MINUTES – COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2018

In answer to a query, the Clerk explained that minutes of a committee meeting would normally go back to that committee, for confirmation as a correct record, at a later meeting. However, this involved a delay in confirming minutes, when meetings were several months apart. Council wished to have all minutes submitted to full Council. Committee minutes could be confirmed as a correct record at a Council meeting, as long as the majority of the members who attended the committee meeting agreed that the minutes of that committee meeting were a correct record. As Council had adopted this system, members of the committee could see the minutes of the committee meeting in advance (of Council) for agreement as a correct record informally if convenient, but formal agreement took place at the Council meeting.

Members who had attended the Complaints Committee confirmed that they had already seen the 25 April minutes and they were correct a record of the meeting.

Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Complaints Committee meeting held on 25 April 2018 be confirmed as a correct record, for signature by the Chair.

14. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 25 APRIL 2018

Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 April 2018 be confirmed as a correct record, for signature by the Chair.

15. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 9 MAY 2018

Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 May 2018 be confirmed as a correct record, for signature by the Chair.

16. MINUTES – COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE – 11 JUNE 2018

Members who had attended the Complaints Committee confirmed that they had already seen the 11 June minutes and they were correct a record of the meeting.

Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Complaints Committee meeting held on 11 June 2018 be confirmed as a correct record, for signature by the Chair.

17. STREET GAMES

Gareth Winmill gave a presentation on the aims, objectives, history and work of Street Games, a national charity which had been in existence for approximately 11 years. Aneurin Leisure Trust (ALT) had been commissioned to deliver Street Games in the Blaenau Gwent area. Street Games was all about providing activities for young people which were responsive to their needs and not necessarily in an already established location (e.g. a leisure centre), because young people may not want to go there. Instead, a Street Games rep turned up at a community centre or youth centre or park, with a bag of kit and materials, and started whatever games the young people on site wanted to play. The idea was to break down barriers and engage young people better.

Many projects were running, including a “doorstep sports club”, “lads and dads”, “turn up and play” and “fit and fed”; a project during school holidays which not only gave children physical activity but also gave them food (because, as they were not in school, getting free school meals, some may not be eating properly at home). The amount of engagement and other results were very good, with head teachers and parents reporting that their children were much more focussed when they went back to school and much better behaved.

In answer to questions, Mr Winmill reported that (main points):

- Street Games was a charitable trust, which could raise funds through donations and apply for grants, e.g. from The Big Lottery, Children in Need etc
- Street Games was working with councils, housing associations, youth centres and many other organisations
- donations of food had been given by Tesco, Greggs and others or sourced through FairShare (a scheme whereby supermarkets could be approached by organisations for unsold food or other items)
- there had been 5 projects last year, with 8 so far this year
- further funding was needed and was always welcomed
- A&LCC's donation last year was gratefully received
- he would welcome further involvement with A&LCC's well-being working group
- county borough councils were struggling to meet the costs of sports grounds and the like; ALT was in the process of several community asset transfers, but the number of spaces where children could go and play was sadly reducing
- the Street Games Academy provided training and qualifications for young people
- its Leadership Academy was open to anyone over the age of 11
- 100 young people would receive training locally in the next two weeks
- young people could become sports ambassadors or coaches
- any suitable site with access could be used, e.g. the Fire Station yard, Scout Hut, Rotary Club, school sites etc

- any members could contact him with any queries
- A&LCC could help by raising awareness e.g. publicising Street Games via social media or on its website.

Council RESOLVED to put a link to Street Games on its website and share information on its social media pages as and when appropriate.

Mr Winmill left the meeting at this point.

18. COUNCIL ACTION LIST

The Clerk highlighted progress in relation to:

- (a) Code of Conduct training for members: only one councillor had not yet attended
- (b) Abertillery War Memorial – entrance gate and cleaning of the War Memorial
- (c) additional sites for Christmas lights in Aberbeeg and Cwmtillery: completed
- (d) enquiries being made about the need for DBS checks for members
- (e) enquiries being made into the gazebos previously available for community use
- (f) the Silent Soldier; this had now been delivered, was on display in the Council Chamber, and would soon be installed at the Castle Street / Oak Street junction
- (g) preparation of grants criteria
- (h) building security measures and key fobs.

A member suggested a further local contractor who might be interested in giving a quote to fix the War Memorial Gate.

The Chairman of the Well-being Working Group stated that there was another group in Aberbeeg who would be asked for well-being project ideas (the Ebbw Fach Trail Group).

Council NOTED the progress reported and agreed not to remove the fixing of the War Memorial gate from the action sheet, pending contacting others for quotes if possible.

19. ABERFEST

Members commented that:

- this year's Aberfest, held on 9 June 2018, was the most successful ever
- bringing it forward to June meant more people attended
- holding it in July, as in previous years, meant people were more likely to be on holiday and schools were less likely to get involved
- many people had come to Aberfest from outside the area; it was not just locals
- a number of people had said this year's Aberfest was wonderful
- people were amazed that all the children's activities were free of charge
- the children's activity zone was provided for less than £100
- the area was full of people all day long; in fact until after closing time
- the good weather helped
- it was intended to carry on holding Aberfest in June in future years.

Council NOTED the update.

20. POLICE UPDATE

The Chair explained that, as Police resources were so stretched and Council time was limited, Police representatives would in future only attend Council meetings in March and September (unless there was a particularly good reason to make an exception). Instead of attending every meeting, the Police would send the Council a monthly report in future, for Council meetings. Members could ask questions and they could be relayed back to the Police or members could email the Police directly.

Discussion ensued on the process, on the level of response from the Police to reports of crimes and anti-social behaviour and on Police resources and priorities. It was explained that members could email the Police as individual councillors, but not on behalf of A&LCC, unless A&LCC had collectively made a decision to do so. Members were advised to ring 101 or contact the Police by email if they needed a response.

The situation and the report received from the Police were **NOTED**.

21. THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The Deputy Clerk stated that:

- there had been a late amendment to the UK legislation in Parliament
- town and community councils no longer had to appoint Data Protection Officers
- a data audit had been completed, showing what data the Council held and why
- he and the Clerk were working through what policies and other documents were needed, including privacy notices
- advice had been received from the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) that they would pursue big companies that did not comply with the GDPR but small companies and councils would have longer to comply, as long as they could show they were making progress.

Council NOTED the update.

22. DEFIBRILLATORS

Councillor Simmons stated that the Lions may be able to get a defibrillator at a lower price than other organisations and that Wetherspoons looked like the best location for a defibrillator, as it had the longest opening hours of any venue in Abertillery. The Lions were willing to part fund a defibrillator in the town.

The Deputy Clerk stated that costs were around £600 for a defibrillator located indoors or £1500 for one located outdoors. Many of those sited outdoors had been vandalised.

Council RESOLVED to approach Wetherspoons to assess whether siting a defibrillator inside would be an option, and report back.

23. JOHN SELWAY – BLUE PLAQUE

The Deputy Clerk stated that a quote of £70 given previously was not correct; a blue plaque would cost in the region of £500. Discussions were being held with Reverend Michael Parker and with John Gower about siting a blue plaque at Jubilee Square.

Councillor Gill Clark referred to Roger Cecil, who had died in 2015, who was another internationally renowned artist from the local area. She proposed that a blue plaque also be erected locally to celebrate the work of Roger Cecil, that £1,000 be allocated to pay for two blue plaques, that the plaques be located at Jubilee Square and that blue plaques for other people be explored further in future.

Members discussed the wide impact of John Selway's and Roger Cecil's work; the tourist potential of blue plaques; that heritage or lottery funding may be available for blue plaques; that other people should also be considered for a blue plaque, given their contributions to the local area; and whether the location was appropriate.

Council RESOLVED (with 9 members voting in favour and 2 abstaining):

- (1) to allocate up to £1,000 for two blue plaques, for John Selway and Roger Cecil
- (2) to site them at Jubilee Square
- (3) to explore further blue plaques for other people after these two had been done.

24. COUNCILLORS' EMAIL ACCOUNTS

The Deputy Clerk reported that:

- members could change their A&LCC email passwords after all
- members should let the staff know first that they were intending to do this; or the staff would be asked to authorise a change to an account without prior notice
- A&LCC would retain admin rights for every A&LCC email account
- if people communicated using an A&LCC email account, A&LCC's insurance policy would cover what was said
- A&LCC's insurance did not cover what people said by private email
- if someone used a business account for their email, this would be subject to data rules under GDPR in the same way as an A&LCC account would
- three members were not using the A&LCC email accounts provided for them
- members who were not using A&LCC email accounts would therefore need their own policies, data destruction rules etc
- he would send members a briefing note, setting out the relevant factors.

Council NOTED the update.

25. POST OFFICE CLOSURES

The Deputy Clerk stated that the Post Office was looking to operate an outreach service in Six Bells in future and were currently considering location options. Post Offices were closing down all around the UK, mainly due to the difficulty in retaining and recruiting Post Masters, as business viability was often marginal in small towns or rural areas. The Post Office did not have a timescale for providing a new service to replace the Six Bells closure but he would report back when further details were forthcoming.

It was reported that discussions had been held about operating Post Office Counter and Credit Union services from Ty Ebbw Fach and the Llanhilleth Institute.

Council RESOLVED to receive more information when further details were forthcoming from the Post Office.

26. COUNCIL INSURANCE POLICY

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Council's insurance policy was due for renewal in July. Quotes had been sought and the current insurer was again by far the best value. The fee for the year ahead from the current insurer (Zurich) was £635. If the Council signed up for a 5-year contract, it could save £53 per year. However, this could hamper the Council's freedom and was not advisable, in light of the minimal saving. The Council's insurance allowed the Council to put on an event for up to 1,000 people.

Council RESOLVED to renew the Council's policy with Zurich for one year.

27. WELL-BEING WORKING GROUP REPORT

Councillor Simmons (Chairman of the Working Group) stated that:

- two meetings had been held
- a meeting had been held with the Leader of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) (who was also the Chairman of the Public Services Board) and officers, who were very impressed with A&LCC's progress on well-being
- no other town and community councils locally appeared to be doing anything under the well-being agenda
- the current projects were somewhat short term
- the Council needed to be planning for the next 10 to 15 years as well
- 28 projects had been suggested, with 5 common themes being progressed by individual members of the working group
- better links were needed with other community councils in the area, given the current town and community council review
- 25% of the population of Blaenau Gwent was in the A&LCC area
- the Ebbw Fawr valley did not have a community or town council.

Other members commented (main points):

- BGCBC were very supportive of A&LCC's efforts
- BGCBC stressed the need for willing volunteers to take projects forward – not members who were press-ganged into doing it because it was in their ward
- there were opportunities for cross-boundary working with other T&CCs
- a member had attended a seminar on community asset transfers (CATs)
- CATs were really about county borough councils offloading services and transferring liabilities, not assets
- service failures would be the responsibility of the organisation which took the service over
- it was a shame more A&LCC members had not attended the seminar.

Council **NOTED** the update.

28. CENTENARY EVENTS 2018 WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Chair reminded members that Councillor Morgan had resigned as Chairman of the Working Group, in his email dated 19 June 2018. It was not clear whether he had resigned from the working group altogether. He was not here today, so would be asked later.

Council RESOLVED (with one abstention):

- (1) that Councillor Tracey Dyson be elected as Chair of the Centenary Events Working Group for the remainder of the civic year.

Councillor Dyson reported progress made by the working group as follows:

- a “WW1 Centenary Celebration in the Park” was proposed for 8 September 2018 at Abertillery Park, from 3pm to 8pm or 9pm
- it was intended that there would be military vehicles, displays, live music, stalls, food, children’s entertainment and so on
- she had asked Abertillery Rugby Club, who were happy for the field to be used
- she and the A&LCC officers were meeting Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council officers next week (BGCBC owned the site) to seek permission to use it
- it had already been agreed that Aberystroth would provide stewards for the event, Ffrindiau Tyleri would provide a stage and gazebos, Des Ward would provide sound systems for any music and there would be 5 standard bearers
- the event would be very positive for the area, building on Aberfest and Winterfest
- Council approval was needed, in order to proceed further
- there were only two Council meetings before the event; today and 25 July
- bookings and payments would need to be made; waiting for approval at Council meetings was not going to work
- she had sought advice from the Clerk on the best way forward
- she proposed that decisions on the spending of the £4,500 already set aside for centenary events therefore be delegated to the Clerk, so full Council approval was not required before commitments had to be made
- she proposed that the Deputy Clerk be appointed Project Manager for the event, given his extensive previous project management experience
- the Deputy Clerk had agreed to do this and to attend all meetings of the working group, to help progress and deliver the event at speed
- she had asked the scouts, guides, schools and others to get involved
- it may be possible to apply for an Armed Forces Covenant grant for up to £20,000 to help with the costs; soundings had already been taken on this.

The Clerk proposed that the event be called “WW1 Party in the Park”; explained that Council could only delegate to committees, sub committees or officers (or joint committees with other authorities); confirmed that the delegations proposed by Councillor Dyson were the best route, given the lack of time available until the event; and explained that the Council had already spent £500 of the £5,000 set aside for this.

Councillor Rees informed Council that he and other ward councillors had also used part of their ward donation funding for Silent Soldiers in Swfrydd and Llanhilleth.

Council RESOLVED:

- (2) that the Council agrees to the holding of an event in Abertillery Park on 8 September, along the lines outlined by Councillor Dyson
- (3) that the event be called “WW1 Party in the Park”
- (4) that the spending of the £4,500 left from the £5,000 already set aside for centenary events, and of any monies which are granted from external sources for the event,

be delegated to the Clerk, without further reference to Council
(5) that the Deputy Clerk be appointed Project Manager for WW1 Party in the Park
(6) that Councillor Morgan be asked whether he wishes to remain on the working group.

The Chair thanked Councillor Dyson for her hard work in preparing for this event.

29. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 1(z)

Council **RESOLVED** that standing order 1(z) be suspended, to extend the time limit for the meeting.

30. SHOP LOCAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Clerk circulated colour copies of the posters and surveys issued with the agenda.

Councillor Lewis, Chairman of the Working Group, stated that he had been ready to go around the shops, with a poster and survey, only to be told they were not acceptable as they implied the Council would pay for shop local initiatives. The officers had shown him the shop local products produced by Barry Town Council, who spent £55,000 a year (of their £1 million+ budget) on shop local initiatives. He felt the spending of £250 by A&LCC was essential to kick start a shop local campaign. This had been agreed by the Shop Local Working Group. He had spoken to four traders, who were very positive about a shop local campaign. In his view, it was time for A&LCC either to put up money to progress shop local or abandon the idea and leave it to shopkeepers. He was happy to use the poster and survey he had produced previously.

Other members commented that (main points):

- the poster produced by the officers (“Keep Calm and Shop Local”) was preferred; it was a well-known brand and would stand out well in shop windows
- they preferred the survey designed by officers as it was simple, with only 4 easily understood questions, no further text, no commitment to A&LCC spending and it would be easy to analyse responses
- if A&LCC implied it would spend money, traders were not likely to say no to that
- the Council had not agreed to spend any money, so the survey should not imply that it had
- the Council should get the commitment of shopkeepers before committing to spend public money on improving trade for the shops
- the Nash Partnership had recently done a study on town centre regeneration and were expected to report back to Blaenau Gwent soon; they perhaps should be approached or asked to attend a meeting
- the Shop Local Working Group should discuss the detail and report back to Council with its recommendations.

The Clerk explained the reasoning behind the alternative poster and questionnaire and reminded members that working groups could not take decisions and action. Instead their role was to work up proposals and make recommendations back to the Council, before any resources were committed. The Council may if it wished use a small amount of its budget to kick-start a shop local campaign, with the support of traders, as this was about promoting Abertillery and the area, but that would have to be agreed by Council, not only by the working group.

Council RESOLVED to await further recommendations from the Shop Local Working Group before proceeding any further.

31. REPORTS BACK ON OTHER MEETINGS OR TRAINING ATTENDED ON BEHALF OF A&LCC

Councillor Dyson stated that:

- she had attended Tredegar Armed Forces Day, as the Chair could not attend
- funding may be available from the Armed Forces Covenant for WW1 Party in the Park on 8 September
- a grant was also available for the Council to obtain 10 transparent perspex “there but not there” soldiers
- the grant application needed to be made very quickly, so the Deputy Clerk had submitted it on behalf of the Council by the deadline last week
- these perspex soldiers could be placed on chairs at the 8 September event
- the Council had already paid for WW1 talks in primary schools
- the perspex soldiers could be loaned to schools to help illustrate the WW1 talks
- WW1 talks were also proposed for Llanhilleth and Swfrydd Schools
- WW1 talks had not been organised for the Welsh school, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, as the speakers could not deliver talks in Welsh.

Councillor Peter Adamson asked for the minutes to record his strong objection to “there but not there” soldiers being placed in primary schools, as this would be disturbing for young children, in his view.

Other members commented that:

- primary school children learnt about the Wars as part of the history curriculum
- WW1 talks should also be provided at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg
- the Police should be told when the Silent Soldier was installed
- the Silent Soldier may be vandalised
- PCSOs should keep an eye on it.

Council **NOTED** the update.

32. ZEBRA CROSSING AT ALEXANDRA ROAD

The Chair suggested that Council defer this item, in the absence of Councillor Bard, who had raised this issue.

Council **DEFERRED** this item to a future meeting.

33. FINANCE ORDER

A councillor asked why the Council paid so much for Microsoft 365 licences and why wages were not broken down further in the Finance Order.

The Deputy Clerk stated that one licence was needed for each PC. He would look into whether the licences were available cheaper elsewhere. The Finance Order showed when monies were paid out or needed to be paid out. Salaries, national insurance, tax

and pension payments had never been identified as separate items in the Finance Order. That was not its purpose. Salaries, tax, NI and pension payments were identified separately in the Council's budget and in quarterly budget monitoring reports.

Council **RESOLVED** (with one member abstaining from the vote) to approve the payments listed in the Finance Order.

34. GRANT APPLICATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Clerk outlined and answered questions on the applications attached to the agenda. He also explained that £635.55 was due to be paid to the Hospice of the Valleys soon, as that had been the Chairman's Charity three years ago and the funds raised during that year had not yet been paid out, as officers had only recently been able to gain access to that account. Following discussion of each application:

Council **RESOLVED**:

- (a) to receive a report back on whether the Council had given money last year to Abertillery Cricket Club, as it would not do so again this year (if it had last year) in light of the Council's "two-year rule"
- (b) to grant £250 to the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum to help fund their annual heritage day at Ty Ebbw Fach on 7 October 2018
- (c) to note that Hospice of the Valleys would shortly receive £635.55 from the Council, as that money was held in the Chairman's Charity Appeal account from 2015/16
- (d) not to grant any further money to Hospice of the Valleys.

35. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair stated that she had not been able to attend any events as Chair in the last month, but other people had done so on her behalf.

Councillor Dyson had attended Tredegar Armed Forces Day. Their staff had high visibility jackets with Tredegar Town Council on the back. A&LCC should provide similar jackets for its staff in her view.

Councillor Gill Clark had attended Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg Talent Show, which was very good; especially their rendition of Calon Lan and the Can Actol.

Councillor Beynon referred to a Memorial Service held at St John's Church, Six Bells.

The Clerk reported on a request that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's (BGCBC's) Home to School Transport Consultation be placed on the A&LCC agenda.

The Chair (Councillor Holt) stated that she had a personal interest in that issue as she would be asked to decide on it later, as she was a member of BGCBC. She could not comment on the plans or give an opinion on them and she had an open mind. Nevertheless, she was aware of significant opposition to the BGCBC plans and she encouraged everyone to comment on the plans individually if they wished to do so.

The Clerk read out a letter from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) dated 21 May 2018. The letter concerned the Employment Liaison Panel, its change of name and the setting of the Clerk's salary in February 2017. The WAO had expressed concerns over elements

of historical record keeping and lack of clarity over the name and powers of the panel. The WAO also noted that the Clerk's salary was the same as the previous Clerk's salary, that the Council had given delegated powers to the Employee Panel, that there was now (since the beginning of the 2017/18 civic year) a Human Resources Committee, with proper terms of reference, and that procedures for submitting minutes to Council meetings more quickly had been introduced at the beginning of the 2017/18 year.

The Clerk read out his email reply to the WAO dated 21 May 2018, pointing out that the Council at its extraordinary meeting on 29 March 2017 was provided with the advert, which showed the salary of the Clerk and that the Employee Panel minutes had been submitted to the Council's ordinary meeting a week later, on 5 April 2017, which was the earliest date available after the minutes had been confirmed by the panel as a correct record of their meeting.

36. CELEBRATING LOCAL SUCCESS

It was reported that:

- Abertillery Bluebirds AFC had won the Gwent Seniors Cup Final, 5 goals to 1, and won the Gwent Cup, 3 goals to 1. They had also been runners up in the league (by 1 point)
- a congratulations letter had already been sent, after the announcement made at the last Council meeting
- Abertillery Youth Drama and Music Society (AYDMS) had delivered outstanding performances of the musical CATS recently
- several letters had already gone to AYDMS about previous successes
- members did not wish further letters to be written
- these announcements would however appear in these minutes.

Council **NOTED** the achievements and successes outlined.

The Chair reminded members of the meetings scheduled for 18 and 25 July.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

NB these minutes are a summary of the proceedings and record of the decisions taken. They are not intended to be a verbatim record.

Minutes produced by Richard Gwinnell, Clerk