

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND
LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 29 September 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, Bev Lucas, Rob Phillips, Allen Rees (by Video Link), Glyn Smith, Bernard Wall, Graham White

Officers: Steve Edwards-Clerk

Others: Deborah Pitts and Alana Insley (Off the Streets), Greg Morgan (Blaenau Gwent Youth Services), Barry Page (public) and Mihangel Ap-Williams (public), David Cartwright (public)

ABSENT: Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson, Roger Clark and, Perry Morgan.

104. Apologies for absence and welcomes

The Chair asked that all Mobile Phones be switched off for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies from Councillors. Michaela Assiratti, Tracey Dyson, Perry Morgan.

The Chair welcomed the members of the public and the representatives of “Off the Streets” and Blaenau Gwent Youth Services.

The Chair introduced David Cartwright as the new Clerk who will be starting on 11 October 2021.

The Chair wished to thank Sian Hookins, the Administrative Assistant who had been working for us for 6 months, for their hard work and the support she had given to the Clerk.

105. Declarations of Interest

None

106. Report Back from Youth Projects

The Chair moved this item up the agenda so that the representatives from the Youth Engagement groups wouldn't have to sit through other Council business.

Deb Pitts gave the first update. During the summer the Off The streets group which covers the southern half of our community area had engaged with 350 young people. They now had good links with Ffyn Dance and Rotary. She talked us through an individual case where a young person who wouldn't even leave the house had been out on events with Off the Streets and had even been bowling with them.

Greg Morgan gave his update. The youth workers we are funding are not building-based but engaging with young people on the streets. There had been issues with Anti-Social Behaviour near Anvil Court, some small fire lighting near the Old Bowls

Club/Leisure Centre and some bad language by groups in Cwmtillery Park, where the Youth Workers had engaged with the youths responsible.

The group had signed up for the national Million Mile Clean Up campaign and had contributed 2 miles to that.

Both agreed that it had been a very successful last 3 months.

Councillor Mark Lewis asked about the re-opening of the Youth Centre. Greg Morgan replied that the centre had been shut during the Covid shutdown and it was now being re-opened. Traditionally it has only been open during term time.

Councillor Graham White asked if Deb Pitts worked for the Borough. She replied that Off the Streets was a voluntary group with youth workers funded by us. They have also encouraged volunteers to help and do have 2 young volunteers and an adult volunteer.

The Chair remarked that the youth were our future and it was not just dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour.

A member of the public asked if the groups asked the kids what they wanted. Greg Morgan replied that there was full engagement with youths. Deb Pitts also added that there had been a remarkable reduction in poor behaviour.

Councillor Peter Adamson asked if any groups of young people were missing from the one that were being engaged with. Deb Pitts replied that things had evolved over the last year so were hitting lots of groups and different age groups and had links with Community Centres. Greg Morgan also added that their work was with youths 11+ as any younger would be dealt with by the formal Blaenau Gwent Council Youth Services.

The Chair thanked Deb, Greg and Alana for their attendance, a good Q&A Session and that Council would invite them back in the next year for an update.

Deb Pitts, Alana Insley, and Greg Morgan then left the meeting.

104. Minutes (a) Council 28 July 2021 and (b) Council 8 September 2021.

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes (a) and (b) as a correct record of those meetings.

105. New Clerk Appointment

The Chair welcomed David Cartwright as the new Clerk who would be starting on 11 October 2021.

106. One Voice Wales (OVW) Alternatives

The Clerk gave an update. There are no alternatives in South Wales. The Clerk explained that NALC was the organisation for English Councils but they were also the organisation that gave the legal advice to One Voice Wales. Council agreed it wasn't in a position to debate if to re-join OVW, and would leave a decision to a future meeting

107. Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that the Planning and Environment Committee had decided that the two new units will be located at the B&S Convenience Store in Roseheyworth and the Bridgend Pub.

108. Councillor Vacancies

The Clerk reported that to date there had not been any applications for Co-option and after November the Council would no longer have a duty to Co-opt as we would be within 6 months of a Council election, due in May 2022.

109. Town In Bloom Update

Councillor Peter Adamson took the Council through the written report. Councillors reported positive comments from members of the public. Council agreed that this was a job well done and congratulated the members of the working group.

Councillor Nick Simmons said that the Town in Bloom working group would not rest on its laurels and were making plans for the next year.

110. Remembrance Sunday

Council **RESOLVED** the following members would lay wreaths over the Remembrance Sunday weekend.

- a. Abertillery War Memorial – The Chair, Councillor Gary Oakley
- b. Llanhilleth War Memorial – Allen Rees
- c. Swffryd Community Centre – Allen Rees
- d. Bournville Community Centre – Glyn Smith
- e. Blaenau Gwent Church – Mark Lewis
- f. Aberbeeg – Graham White.

111. Date and Time of Next Meeting confirmed to be 27th October 2021 at 7pm

The Meeting ended at 8:15 pm

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Deputy Clerk