

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022 7PM VIA MS TEAMS

**Present:** Cllr T Konieczny (Chair)  
Cllr N Tatam  
Cllr M Harris  
Cllr R Harris  
Cllr MA Brocklesby (left meeting at 8pm)  
Cllr T Davies  
Cllr G Jones  
Cllr D Simcock

#### **Absent without apologies**

Cllr L Van De Vyver

#### **In attendance:**

S Rosser (Town Clerk)

No public session.

E 01/22	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Apologies were received from Cllr S Burch and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
E 02/22	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  Cllr R Harris – Takes no part in consideration or discussion of planning applications as sits on MCC Planning Committee. Cllr G Jones – declared an interest in planning application 01747 as knows the owners of this property.
E 03/22	<b>To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.</b>  Minutes Approved and to be signed when able to meet in person again.
E 04/22	<b>To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:</b>  DM/2021/02052 Location – 12 Monmouth Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5HH Proposed works: Removal of 4no. trees - resubmission of application DM/2021/01852: Original application was rejected, trees now need removing and they are the same species that have just been removed from Bailey Park. They are not native species. Cllr Tatam had looked at the site and the trees lean dangerously, overhanging the footpath and road. Approval recommended.

	<p>DM/2021/02084 Proposed demolition of ex garage and proposed single storey extension to side of dwelling and a two storey infill extension to the rear of dwelling. 5 Springfield Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5TD: Big plot not in conservation area. Cllr Davies had looked at plans as in her ward, quite inventive plans without using much space. Well thought out. Recommend approval.</p> <p>DM/2021/01747 Removal of existing wall, dig out/level garden with creation of additional parking. 49 Chapel Road, Abergavenny, NP7 7DN: In conservation area. Need to ensure any works add to area and don't detract. Removal of stone wall and drop in level will have a visual impact on the street scape. No report on application from conservation officer nor a heritage statement. Needs compelling argument to improve the area. Cllr M Harris noted comments on it being a conservation area but parking on the road detracts from the area so getting these off the road would be an improvement. Cllr Tatam observed the wall was being replaced with concrete blocks which don't fit in, stone would be more appropriate. Cllr Konieczny would like to see a conservation officer's comments on this type of application which would have assisted ATC in its observations and is disappointed in the lack of input on applications received which fall into a conservation area. There are concerns it will not improve the street scape, it breaks the line of wall completely changing the view, and the property already have a driveway which this will be in addition to. 4 Councillors recommend refusing the application, 2 recommend approval. Response to be sent outlining concerns about significant change to street scape in a conservation area, with concerns that if it goes ahead the materials of the wall should meet that of others on the street.</p> <p>DM/2021/00723 Proposed single storey rear house extension. 26 Maes Y Llarwydd, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5LQ: Previous application was approved, this resubmission has changes to the boundary wall to ask the extension from view. Materials for the extension were different to original, new boundary wall uses the same materials as original and is an improvement. Recommend approval.</p> <p>DM/2021/02042 Proposed alterations and extensions to existing private semidetached dwelling comprising a replacement garage two storey extension to side and replacement single storey extension to rear with retained access and services. 5 Park Close, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5SU: Changes are within the existing footprint. Nothing to object to, it will add to the house and improve the property overall. Recommend approval.</p>
E 05/22	<p><b>To consider and comment on the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Notice and Letter for Nevill Hall Hospital Satellite Radiotherapy Unit (SRU).</b></p> <p>Councillors note they have until March to submit comments. This will see the demolition of the antenatal unit and construction of a satellite radiotherapy unit as well as improvements to parking and ambulance access for Nevill Hall Hospital. This will mean patients will no longer have to travel to Velindre for cancer treatments. Major change and advantage for people in need of</p>

	<p>accessing these services, making Nevill Hall more sustainable. Plans are available in the Abergavenny Hub to view. Cllr Konieczny recommends compiling a response at the next meeting so all councillors have the opportunity to view the plans. Cllr Tatam has already looked at these and noted the use of solar panels across the roof, with no allowances for natural light by way of installing roof lights within the construction. Cllr Jones noted a new substation is being installed on the site and the changes form a single to a two storey building. The planning and social considerations are important as it is a big employer and will be used by patients both from here and in Powys. Cllr Simcock is fully in favour of the plans as it will remove the stress of patients having to travel for treatment, and it gives permanent purpose to Nevill Hall. Cllr M Harris reminded Councillors this is a pre-planning notice for the demolition, re-configuring car park, with better ambulance access, and would like ATC to submit give our outline permission now. Cllr Konieczny reminded Councillors this is a pre-application process, not a planning application, and it is open to public consultation. Not all Councillors have taken time to view the whole application before ATC submit their response. In principle no-one thinks this is a bad idea. 2 Councillors have looked at this in detail. We have a duty to our constituents to look in detail and the time scale gives us until March to do this. It is a major development hence the pre-application process. It is requested all Councillors look at the plans prior to the next meeting in order for ATC to make a formal response.</p>
E 06/22	<p><b>To receive and note an update from the Town Clerk.</b></p> <p>Report received and noted by all Councillors.</p>
E 07/22	<p><b>To discuss the formation of a sub-group of the Environment Committee to create a draft policy statement for Abergavenny Town Council on the Climate Crisis.</b></p> <p>Following on from the Town Clerk’s update, Cllr Konieczny and MCC officers met with the Clerk to discuss the creation of a Climate Policy for ATC. It was a productive and fruitful meeting. Cllr Konieczny has shared the link to the RTPi report on sustainable living in rural areas. We don’t want an aspirational policy, rather a mission statement outlining areas we can improve and strengthen. To that end, it is recommended by Cllr Konieczny that a sub-group be formed to come together to work on this and bring it to Council. We have had quite a lot of information from MCC, so Cllr Konieczny would like volunteers to work with himself and the Clerk on a draft. Cllrs Tatam, Jones, Brocklesby and Simcock are interested, and Cllr Burch was volunteered in her absence. Cllr Brocklesby expressed how we can work in partnership with other groups by taking a draft to them before we publish it, Cllr Tatam said the policy needs us to be able to deliver on it and make a difference. Cllr Jones commented that it is right we form a sub-group to form meaningful policies, but these are also public meetings which can be attended by people from groups within the town. Cllr Konieczny said we should look at a draft in the first instance then go forward – Town Clerk will organise a sub-group meeting as soon as possible for us to progress this quickly.</p>

E 08/22	<p><b>To consider a response to MCC over a lack of having a mutually agreed SLA for the Toilet provision in town.</b></p> <p>Cllr T Konieczny advised Councillors we had received an invoice for £16.5k for toilet provisions in the town and the Clerk has requested a breakdown for this as we still have no SLA with MCC. <b>(NB: Discussion took place around this being an additional charge as it was thought this was for 20/21 provision but it is for 21/22 provision)</b> With regard to the lack of response to having a fit for purpose SLA agreement, it was agreed at the last Environment Committee (E 26/21) to write a letter to MCC's CEO Paul Matthews to express our disappointment in the level of communications we receive from MCC. Cllr Simcock asked that although we have no SLA with MCC, had a budget been agreed for the continued provision? Cllr Konieczny explained that 20/21 a figure of £30k was agreed after negotiations due to receiving an invoice for £60K being received and rejected as the invoice covered a large portion of closures due to the pandemic restrictions. When they reopened, only 3 of the 4 toilet blocks reopened but with increased cleans this worked out the same – 4 visits per day across 3 blocks, previously 3 visits across 4 blocks. 12 visits in a day. ATC have had an ad-hoc agreement as no SLA is in place for this provision to protect from closures, maintenance, etc. It is a huge sum of money and we have a duty of care to protect these funds.</p>
E 09/22	<p><b>To consider and respond to the proposals for the bus stop on the A40/Park Road.</b></p> <p>Town and County Councillors were invited to a briefing on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to receive a presentation on the A40 bus stop proposals. The Town Clerk had requested copies of the slides and plans to share with ATC this evening but as of yet has received no response to this request. Cllr Tatham who attended the briefing explained that MCC are now proposing a 'road cage' not an actual pull in, so it now means moving the bus stop on the opposite side of the road. So we fix one issue, but then it creates another elsewhere. Cllr Konieczny said this was always going to be problematic. SWTRA and WG have conditions to be met which makes it difficult. We need them to get on with what they have to assist our communities, and needs actioning quickly. The pedestrianisation which caused the loss of the bus stop on Frogmore Street left us with a problem to be solved over 3 years ago. Councillors resolved to write to Paul Keeble at MCC to note the presentation and ask for plans to be expedited.</p>
E 10/22	<p><b>To consider a request to MCC to look at enforcement of keeping a dog on a lead in Bailey Park.</b></p> <p>Cllr Konieczny asked if County Councillors would consider discussing the enforcement of the byelaw at Bailey Park to keep dogs on leads when in the Park. It will need a multi-pronged approach, and there is talk of a PSPO for the area, but the byelaw already exists. Are MCC Enforcement Officers able to highlight this issue, or do we need to look at education? Cllr Jones has asked the Enforcement officers about their remit, and when they first started they were solely focussed on parking enforcement. Now they are fully</p>

	<p>established, they are still focussing solely on parking. They don't have many officers and are spread county-wide. Cllr Jones takes his dog to Castle Meadows to run off the lead, and doesn't know how we can enforce the byelaw in Bailey park. Cllr Davies has seen this issue come up at every meeting of the dog fouling campaign group. RTC have specific dog fouling officers who go round and issue £100 on the spot penalty notices. Many people give a variety of excuses for not clearing up after a dog when its off the lead, usually "It's too dark to see in there". Adding to this is the increase in dog owners over the pandemic. Need to reinforce the message that Bailey Park is a "People Park". Cllr M Harris reminisced this was similar to the issues at King Henry Playing Fields. They tackled this with a Public Education exercise. Need to emphasise the health implications of not clearing up the dog mess, so an education campaign backed by the Chronicle and put on social media with medical evidence to get the message across may be beneficial. Cllr Simcock agreed with Cllr M Harris, and can't see MCC changing the parameters of the current Enforcement Officers any time soon. Cllr Konieczny highlighted other council initiatives in Wales – Swansea ban dogs entirely from their beaches in Gower and Swansea Bay from April-October to stop these problems. As Bailey Park is meant to be for recreation and sport, and we are encouraging volunteers to look after the park making it a hub for the community. If MCC can't enforce the byelaw, we can look at no dogs in this park as it is for recreation and sport. Its not compatible to allow dogs on to the playing fields. We need to educate people. Cllr Jones said ti is about a small minority of people who ignore the byelaw. A small number cause damage there too. It's a question of enforcement but even a PSPO needs enforcing. We are limited on what we can do. Maybe we can look at a "spray campaign" to highlight the mess around the park? County and Town Councillor for the ward is aware of the issues, we can request a partnership with MCC and ATC to look at how we can enforce the byelaw. The alternative is to do nothing. Cllr Davies will raise this at the next meeting of the dog fouling working group. She ca organise a walk round with the CSOs as well. Cllr R Harris asked if we can commission new notices to be put at park entrances to notify people about the byelaw? Cllr Konieczny agreed we could look at current signage to see if it is adequate and well placed. Councillors resolved to request ATC write to MCC to engage them on this issue.</p>
E 11/22	<p><b>To review the Strategy and Action Plan.</b></p> <p>Cllr Burch has requested to include Belgrave Park as an area to be worked on as part of the Strategy and Action Plan, which the Councillors had agreed to in principle. Cllr Burch has also asked that the town approaches on the A40 both from Brecon past Nevill Hall Hospital and in from the Hardwick Roundabout in to town be considered. SWTRA control thee areas and previous negotiations to work with them to improve these areas have failed. The area around NHH got so bad that local residents set about cutting the grass and repointing a flower rough, when they were issued with a cease and desist order by SWTRA. SWTRA are very obstructive when trying to engage them over improvements.2 blue flower tubs pu ton the western approach at NHH were not able to be seen due t the overgrown verges. CLlr Konieczny would like to recommend that ATC have these repositioned to the entrance of Bailey Park</p>

	opposite Morrison's as this will improve that area and they will be able to be appreciated by park users. All councillors agreed to this repositioning. Cllr Simcock asked if we could consider new town signs at the town approaches.
E 12/22	<b>Report from Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee.</b>  No reports received.
E 13/22	<b>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</b>  Cllr R Harris reported that at Communities Committee MCC are now reviewing the Café Culture – traders currently pay £10 fee for a licence, and then take advantage of more than they should. Licensing will be tightening up on this and looking at the policy. Budget – Resources Cabinet members have been forced to look at a possible rise in Council Tax.
E 14/22	<b>Items for consideration at the next meeting 23rd February 2022.</b>  Cllr Konieczny asked Councillors to email any suggestions for the next meeting to the Town Clerk.

**Meeting ended at 8:55pm.**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIRMAN ..... DATE .....**