

## ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 7PM IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENTNY AND ON MS TEAMS

**Present:** Cllr T Konieczny (Chair)  
Cllr M Harris  
Cllr R Harris  
Cllr G Jones  
Cllr T Thomas  
Cllr M A Brocklesby  
Cllr S Burch  
Cllr N Tatam  
Cllr T Davies (MS Team)  
Cllr F Morgan (MS Teams)  
Cllr M Hickman (MS Teams)

#### **Absent without apologies**

None.

#### **In attendance:**

S Rosser (Town Clerk)

No public session

No public in attendance

PR 11/21	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Apologies were received from Cllrs L Van de Vyver, D Simcock, P Simcock, and M Groucutt, and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
PR 12/21	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  None received
PR 13/21	<b>To receive the draft annual report from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.</b>  The draft report was received and noted. Cllr Konieczny reminded Councillors that they have until February 2022 to raise any concerns or questions. Cllr Tatam asked for clarification on the voting electorate in Abergavenny, and it was confirmed we fall in the 'below 14,000' category.
PR 14/21	<b>To receive a report on Cwtch Angel's grant funding request</b>  A £1000 grant application has been received, and Councillors noted the report outlining the request. Cllr Tatam asked if all supporting documentation had been

	<p>received and scrutinised, which the Clerk confirmed it had, and was available for all Councillors to view upon request. Cllr Jones said it was worth noting the application comes at a time when families will be feeling the effect of the cut in Universal Credit, and it is important we support this application will help the group support those people. After a brief discussion, Councillor Konieczny moved that the application be supported. 10 for, none against, 1 abstain. Grant approved.</p>
PR 15/21	<p><b>To receive a report on Friends of Linda Vista Gardens grant funding request.</b></p> <p>A grant application for £291.82 towards notice boards has been received and a report presented to Councillors detailing the request. Cllr Konieczny pointed out the amount was more than match-funded by Friends of Linda Vista Gardens as they have already raised £500 towards the cost. Cllr Morgan asked if it was an advertising board for the new café, the Clerk responded that the detail in the application did not indicate this would be the case, it was information boards for nature routes, plantings, walks, and events. Cllr Thomas commented there had been lots of improvements in the gardens thanks to the work of the group and proposed that we should support the application. All in favour. Grant approved.</p>
PR 16/21	<p><b>To receive a report by Cllr Groucutt from Cllr Konieczny on the Borough Theatre multi-year funding request.</b></p> <p>MCC officers Cath Fallon and Dave Baxter presented to Council at an extraordinary meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September requesting multi-year funding support of £20000 per year for a 5-year term. It was decided this was beyond the Council at this time, but that there is merit in supporting the Theatre for the community, so Cllr Groucutt was charged to present a paper to Council on how we could support the Theatre over the next 5 years. Cllr Konieczny presented this on behalf of Cllr Groucutt, and congratulated Cllr Groucutt on a very thorough piece of work, particularly the collaboration agreement. Preliminary discussions took place to strengthen bonds between the Borough Theatre and the Melville Theatre along the lines of a shared Box Office and Marketing arrangement, with a cooperative and diverse programme offer for the entire community and travelling groups. Having a vibrant cultural hub makes Abergavenny a very attractive destination.</p> <p>Cllr Burch spoke in support of the report, stating the Borough Theatre was integral to life within the town, with many missing it whilst it is closed for refurbishment. It was previously underused with only a few performances on a week, and not always attracting high quality theatre.</p> <p>Cllr M Harris is fully in favour as this will have a knock-on benefit to the town. It brings in people from out of the area, as theatre audiences would likely use other establishments in town like pubs and restaurants, which would encourage return visits. There are many fringe benefits to supporting this, and it has a great future.</p> <p>Cllr R Harris supported this further, saying we have a vibrant town and it is noticeable that the Borough Theatre is closed at present. Citizens in the town have a lower precept than places like Usk and Caldicot, yet we provide more</p>

	<p>facilities for the people of the town than is being spent elsewhere in the county. This provides benefits for the whole county.</p> <p>Cllr Tatam said it was a lengthy report which committed ATC to many large ongoing commitments – Councillors can at least boast to the electorate about all the good work being done, but that it's a very sad situation to be in. Cllr Brocklesby responded to this stating that ATC had a very difficult decision to make and Cllr Groucutt had to lay out all the pros and cons so we can see all the points to be considered before committing to this. Look at what we can do as a small council, with limited funds. This benefits citizens, businesses, and the wider remit. It's a shame MCC have to keep asking us for top-ups. Cllr Jones had been concerned about the size and scale of MCC's original request, but that Cllr Groucutt's report had alleviated those concerns. He moved the motion to be accepted.</p> <p>10 for, none against, 1 abstain.</p> <p>ATC agree to support a 5-year funding request as laid out by Cllr Groucutt's report.</p>
PR 17/21	<p><b>To receive and note the Town Clerk's report.</b></p> <p>Reported noted and accepted.</p>
PR 18/21	<p><b>To receive and note recent payments made in Month 7.</b></p> <p>Cllr Konieczny pointed out that although globally we are at 49.7% of the annual budget, some headings were now overspent. Dog waste bins had had a larger than expected increase as price had risen by 56% so this will be into a deficit in the next two months. We will need to vire monies from elsewhere. Office expenditure will also run in to a similar problem. Month 8 we will look to vire from other areas. The Civic and Twinning budget headings were underspent at present. Cllr Hickman pointed out the Abergavenny in Bloom heading was significantly overspent.</p> <p>Councillors all noted and received the report. All in favour to accept the report.</p>
PR 19/21	<p><b>Report from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee.</b></p> <p>None received.</p>
PR 20/21	<p><b>Items for consideration at the next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.</b></p> <p>Draft budget to be scheduled for consideration at the next meeting.</p>

**Meeting ended 7.31pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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