

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 20th DECEMBER 2022 AT 6:58PM VIA MS TEAMS & IN THE MAYORS PARLOUR, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.

Present: Cllr T Konieczny (Chair)
Cllr M Barnes
Cllr P Bowyer
Cllr K Eldridge
Cllr J George
Cllr C Holland
Cllr G Jones
Cllr D Simcock

Absent without apologies

Cllr L Wright

In attendance:

S Rosser (Town Clerk)

No public session.

No public in attendance.

E 127/22	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Strong, and it was resolved to accept the reason for absence.
E 128/22	To receive Declarations of Interest: Cllr Holland – planning application: due to his employment a declaration of interest was declared and recorded for DM/2022/01731.
E 129/22	To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 30th November 2022. Cllr Barnes proposed the minutes from the last meeting as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Bowyer. All Councillors resolved to accept and approve.
E 130/22	To receive and ratify the PSPO response to MCC. Cllr Konieczny advised that all Councillors had now had an opportunity to read through and examine the two proposed responses, one from the Chair of People and Communities Committee, Cllr Jones, and one from himself as Chair of Environment Committee. Recommendation to submit both responses from ATC to Huw Owen and Sue Parkinson at MCC for consideration in response to the consultation. Proposed by Cllr Bowyer, seconded by Cllr Simcock, all Councillors

	voted to accept this recommendation and resolved for both submissions to be sent to MCC.
E 131/22	<p>To receive a verbal update on the Britain in Bloom proposal.</p> <p>The Town Clerk read out the notes from the meeting held 16th December 2022 (notes circulated separately). Cllr Konieczny explained that in the Town Category, we would be up against no more than 5 entrants from across the UK and Channel Islands. 2 other entrants from Wales would be in different categories – Coastal Town and Village, both nominations from North Wales TBC. Abergavenny is the only South Wales entrant. ATC have now accepted the nomination, and the next stage will be to organise a meeting with businesses to see how we can include them and work together. We then need a wider stakeholder meeting for everyone involved. It is a huge opportunity for the town and wider area. We will link in with local press, as this will help to establish Abergavenny as a destination for 2023. Cllr Eldridge advised Councillors that regular photos are already being taken of the planters and beds around town which are being collated by the Town Clerk and Admin for the portfolio. Cllr Konieczny said a hint was given that a picture says more than an essay. Cllr Bowyer volunteered his photography skills to help with this. Cllr Konieczny said this needs a lot of collaboration across the board, and is an opportunity for all Councillors to engage with the wider community.</p>
E 132/22	<p>To receive a financial request from Friends of Linda Vista Gardens.</p> <p>The Town Clerk's report was received and noted.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny explained that 3 year agreements already are in place with FoBP and FoCM, but we didn't have a request from FoLVG. They have a arboretum in the gardens which they have asked for funding for labels to signify what the trees are, which the lack of was commented on by the Wales in Bloom Judge in July. Only 16 volunteers look after the gardens, and RHS now recognises this as a site of national importance.</p> <p>Cllr Jones asked about the wording on the labels, and if any reference can be made to ATC paying for them. The quote from Get Noticed is far more competitive particularly if MCC Grounds will supply mounts/posts. The volunteers do an incredible job.</p> <p>Cllr George asked what material they would be made from – the Town Clerk explained this would be a metal sign.</p> <p>Cllr Simcock suggested the logo be included to show our contribution.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny concluded the quote was good value and we can speak to FoLVG to include our logo somewhere to show our involvement.</p> <p>Proposal by Cllr Jones to accept the quote for the signs from Get Noticed, seconded by Cllr Simcock. All Councillors resolved to accept the quote and approve the expenditure on the signs.</p>
E 133/22	<p>To receive and note an update from the Town Clerk</p> <p>Report received and noted.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny explained that when KAT came to the November meeting it was a little tense. The author of the report circulated to Councillors has since resigned from the KAT. There were unrealistic expectations of ATC to do lots of things,</p>

	<p>misunderstanding the work of the Town Team, and lots wasn't made clear regarding the citizen science side of the project. Being involved from the start, even we weren't aware, so we hope that moving forward with a full understanding of expectations of all stakeholders will be helpful. Lessons have been learned. It is hoped Councillors will support the next meeting organised by KAT in collaboration with other stakeholders in early 2023. It is important for the town. They have a huge amount of volunteers who remove a massive amount of rubbish every year. It is hoped all Councillors can join in with this in some way. Cllr Jones expressed his confusion over the November meeting, as he hadn't heard anything about this – they are a great group who are working really hard. People want to be involved. Cllr Barnes said the original June meeting wasn't open to everyone so this made it difficult to know what was going on. Pleased that all Councillors will be invited to the next meeting. (Point of info: KAT arranged this meeting and it was only for selected representatives from various stakeholder organisations).</p> <p>Cllr Jones volunteered to be another point of contact for the proposed working group for the Environment Fair with Cllr Barnes. Cllr Konieczny is happy to get involved further down the line. Cllr Barnes said a core group of around 6-7 are working very hard on this already.</p>
E 134/22	<p>To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:</p> <p>DM/2022/01745 & 01746: Grofield Ward: Cllr Konieczny: Proposed plans are an improvement. Cllr Simcock: Very sensible plans. Cllr Bowyer: No comments from local residents or businesses. Cllr Jones: No comments or contact, it is an improvement to the retail are and good for the town. RECOMMEND APPROVAL.</p> <p>DM/2022/01731: Cllr Konieczny: Similar retrospective porches already in the court. Looking at drawings, its not intrusive, it is in keeping with the building designs. Should improve the insulation for the property. Cllr Simcock: No objections from residents. RECOMMEND APPROVAL.</p>
E135/22	<p>To receive and note the Service Delivery update</p> <p>Report noted and accepted.</p> <p>Cllrs Konieczny, Eldridge and Bowyer will assist with the planter audit.</p> <p>Town Team lead – he is going to be asked about further training with a view to enforcement of littering and possibly dog fouling in future. They are in town 5 days a week, and challenge people they see who drop litter or leave dog waste. It may mean regrading the job. It would be good to be able to utilise of them to enforce things like the proposed PSPO. If MCC's current Enforcement Team will only cover parking, then this seems a good fit.</p> <p>Cllr Barnes said Patrick Hannay from ATT is interested in rainwater capture so would be keen to be involved in this proposed trial in town. Cllr Konieczny has had an agreement in principle with one business on Lion Street and also has</p>

	interest from others on Nevill Street. If ATC can run a pilot scheme, ensure they are vandalised or drained, we can then evaluate it for further roll-out.
E 136/22	<p>To receive and approve a Finance update on the Environment Budget headings.</p> <p>No material changes from Month previous due to end of calendar year. Cllr Konieczny asked for Councillors to approve the report, seconded by Cllr Bowyer, and approved by all Councillors.</p>
E 137/22	<p>Report from Town Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny and District Tourist Association: Cllrs Konieczny & Simcock: further meeting with group to complete cooperation agreement, going to Policy and resources in January 2023 for approval. Cllr Konieczny asked all Councillors to look through the agreement. 3yr project related with strategic identifiables, encouraging online and digital presence. Found suitable support for this. Very productive meeting with them. • Abergavenny Food Forum: Cllrs Nicholson & Konieczny • Abergavenny In Bloom: Cllrs Konieczny & Wright • CCTV user group: Cllrs George & Jones • Friends of Linda Vista Gardens: Cllrs Callard & Simcock • Friends of Bailey Park: Cllrs Eldridge & Barnes: • Friends of Castle Meadows: Cllrs Simcock & Callard • Monmouthshire Cc Planning Committee: Cllr Konieczny • Y Fenni Business Community: Cllrs Barnes & Eldridge
E 138/22	<p>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</p> <p>None received.</p>
E 139/22	<p>Items for consideration at the next meeting 25th January 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Jane Clarke, Green Infrastructure Officer MCC to next meeting to discuss FiT programme and Green/Blue Corridors.

Meeting ended at 7:55pm.

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR DATE