

## **ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY**

**Present:** Cllr T Davies (Chair)  
Cllr M Harris  
Cllr G Jones  
Cllr M Groucutt  
Cllr T Thomas

#### **Absent without apologies**

Cllr L Van De Vyver

**In attendance:**  
S Rosser (Town Clerk)

No public session

No public in attendance

PC 01/22	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Apologies were received from Cllrs Morgan, P Simcock, D Simcock, & M Hickman, and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
PC 02/22	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  None received.
PC 03/22	<b>To approve the minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.</b>  Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and approved unanimously by all councillors present.
PC 04/22	<b>To receive a report on Platinum Jubilee Plans.</b>  The report was received by councillors present. Cllr Davies has spoken to businesses on St Johns Square who are looking to put on entertainment over the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June. We want to encourage businesses to take part, as this is a chance for the community to come together for this special Bank Holiday weekend. The suggestion of facilitating a street party along Cross Street and into the Market Hall, providing tables and chairs so people can either bring their own food or buy from local vendors on the day would help make this a celebration for everyone to come together. Cllr Jones asked what would be happening in the Castle grounds – Rachael Rogers from Monlife who oversees events at the Castle and Museum has sent

	<p>through a list of events already booked and advised if we wished to utilise the castle grounds for the Platinum Jubilee weekend to let her know as soon as possible. Cllr Davies said we had also had an offer from the Rotary for the toilets and tents they are installing for the steam rally to be left in situ for the Sunday if we decided to hold a picnic in the park, but after two days of the Steam Rally it was felt that it may be a safer bet to go with holding a street party in the town centre. Cllr Groucutt asked if the toilets already in Bailey Park would be open anyway, and it will need to be discussed with MCC for additional cleaning across that weekend if we anticipate heavier than usual usage.</p> <p>Cllr Davies asked Councillors about if we want to encourage schools to get involved in some way. It was agreed this may be too much on top of what children are still trying to catch up on with Covid having affected their school terms significantly. Councillors who sit as School Governors can check this at their next meetings.</p> <p>Cllr M Harris asked if we are looking to have a piper for the Thursday celebrations, Cllr Davies said so far we have been unable to book anyone. It was suggested to ask Gwent Music, and maybe other local orchestras and bands as it will be a great opportunity for them to take part.</p> <p>Cllr Jones proposed we go with the street party in Cross Street and Market Hall on the Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022, seconded by Cllr Thomas, and agreed unanimously by all councillors.</p> <p>An additional meeting will be held in March to finalise plans and go over arrangements and costs.</p>
PC 05/22	<p><b>To nominate a councillor whose contribution to their local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic has been noteworthy to attend one of the forthcoming Buckingham Palace Garden Parties.</b></p> <p>Cllr Jones nominated Cllr T Davies for her work in her ward during the COVID-19 pandemic bringing together volunteers to assist those shielding or unable to manage throughout the lockdowns. This was seconded by Cllr Thomas, and unanimously agreed.</p>
PC 06/22	<p><b>To receive and note the Town Clerk's update.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After holding an Events 2022 meeting with local businesses and event planners online on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, ATC will be creating an Events Diary to hold centrally as a reference. Cllr Davies said that by holding these meetings online it enabled more businesses to join, and we will set up more regular event planning meetings going forward.</li> <li>2. Christmas Light Switch On: Cllr Jones was enthused to see that the Y Fenni Business Club had already engaged in discussions with ATC about the 2022 event, and wants to make sure that the Nevill Street/St Johns Square group are on board after the success of their reindeer Quarter. Cllr Davies said it was positive to get early discussions going and that this would be ATC driven to encourage more inclusion across the town.</li> <li>3. After the banner came down in bad weather which signified Frogmore Street Independent Quarter, the idea was suggested to look at lamp post lighting motifs to signify the different areas around town. This idea</li> </ol>

	<p>has been brought up in discussions with Y Fenni Business Club. Cllr Thomas supported this as a good way of helping to distinguish the different areas throughout the town.</p> <p>4. IOSH training: Cllr Thomas said depending on the costs of this, it would be sensible to have someone on ATC trained in this if we are looking to facilitate more events within the town. Cllr Groucutt thinks this is right especially as we live in a world where health and safety is paramount. If we are trying to encourage the business community to be more active we could look to offer by assisting with risk assessments for events. Cllr Harris asked if this would act like an indemnity cover, and understands where Cllr Groucutt is coming from, that the training is imperative, but offering ourselves out to do this may be too much. As ATC becomes more active with events it may bring forth more incidents which could lead to more liability claims in the future.</p> <p>5. Cllr Thomas asked if we can look at the Cross Street approach and approach landlords early on to ensure we can place the trees in prominent locations. As for the Brecon Road end of Frogmore Street (A40), it is sometimes difficult to denote where town ends, but they are part of the town and support events so need to include them in future. Cllr Davies said we have looked and brackets are there and were used previously but may not have been included in the current providers checks last year. Company to be approached and make sure current provision is suitable for use, and to look at reallocating trees between both locations.</p>
PC 07/22	<p><b>Reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee.</b></p> <p>Friends of Bailey Park Meeting: Cllr Davies attended – the new chair has called for quarterly meetings for councillors, Police and other stakeholders to attend. They have concerns about the litter, vandalism, damage and dog issues. Would like more effort to try and impose the byelaw for the park. Cllr Jones reported that benches had been moved in the park, and is meeting with CSO's shortly for a walk around so will look at this and report back. Cllr Davies said a new concrete table tennis table has been received and will be installed shortly. Cllr Harris said issues of a similar nature were problematic on KHS playing fields and they had a big push on the health risks from the dog mess which helped educate owners. Signage may not be enough. Over time things slowly improved.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas had help an online meeting with County and ATC councillors, and Police, and when speaking to officers the county there has been an increase in incidents and occurrences of this type of anti social behaviour. Enforcement is key. Officers employed specifically for this has worked well in other counties. There will be lots of opposition from the public when trying to enforce keeping dogs on leads. All agreed education and enforcement will be an important factor.</p> <p>Cllr Davies said on a positive note, the tree removal has been an improvement on the one side of the park, and native bulbs have been planted.</p> <p>Cllr Jones reminded everyone there is a monthly litter pick on the first Tuesday of each month which tackles a different area of the town.</p>

PC 08/22	<p><b>Reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</b></p> <p>Cllr Thomas – the youth centre build is now well underway, and the Rotary are now giving some assistance. This will help with giving somewhere for the Youth in town to go to and use. Should be in place by March 2022.</p>
PC 09/22	<p><b>Items for consideration at the next meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022.</b></p> <p>With the pre-election period starting 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Town Clerk has asked if an additional meeting can be held in advance of this in March to finalise the Platinum Jubilee plans.</p> <p>Any suggestions for the April meeting can be emailed to the Clerk.</p>

**Meeting ended 8:00pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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