

ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 15th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 8:14PM VIA MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENTNY.

Present: Cllr P Bowyer (Chair)
Cllr M Barnes (Vice Chair)
Cllr S Burch
Cllr B Callard
Cllr K Eldridge
Cllr M Groucutt
Cllr C Holland
Cllr G Jones
Cllr T Konieczny
Cllr B Nicholson
Cllr M Powell
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr A Wilde
Cllr L Wright

Absent without apologies

None

In attendance:

S Rosser (Town Clerk)

Public in attendance:

P Simcock
L McCarthy

No public session.

PR13/23	Receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllrs MA Brocklesby and J George, ad it was resolved by Councillors to accept their reasons for absence.
PR14/23	Receive Declarations of Interest Declaration of interest from Cllrs Powell and Callard who cannot vote on any planning applications due to sitting on MCC Planning Committee. Declaration from Cllr D Simcock on any item discussing the Melville CA CIC as his wife is a director at the Melville Centre for the Arts.
PR15/23	To receive and approve the minutes from 18th January 2023.

	<p>Minutes from the last meeting were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Callard, and seconded by Cllr Konieczny. All councillors resolved to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record on the meeting held 18th January 2023.</p>
PR16/23	<p>To receive a Finance Report and update</p> <p>The Town Clerk apologised to Councillors for not being able to circulate a full report for the meeting to consider and approve. Months 10 and 11 will be presented in full to the next meeting.</p>
PR17/23	<p>To receive and note the Audit Solutions Interim Audit report and ATC response.</p> <p>The report and response were received. Cllr Barnes said that Barclays is the most unethical bank around so would it be appropriate to move to another bank? He has previously raised this as an issue. Cllr Konieczny said it had been previously minuted, and we looked at common/best practice to see what others are doing. Wales Audit Office returned unqualified return. Previous Clerk had highly commended reports from same company and no practices have changed. Advice appears to be counter productive and challenging. ATC have robust and sturdy accounting measures. Cllr Barnes would like to add a resolution to investigate a change of banks.</p> <p>Cllr Burch commented that to have such a report the Town Clerk should be congratulated for her return. Cllr Burch volunteered to look into the various banks and accounts to see what may be a better fit for ATC.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny moved to approve the acceptance of the Auditing Solutions report and ATC response, and this was seconded by Cllr Callard. All Councillors resolved to accept the report and response.</p>
PR18/23	<p>To receive a report on updating and revising the current agreement with Melville Centre for the Arts.</p> <p>Cllr Bowyer proposed to withdraw this motion and amendment. (Section 10 (a) (iii) of Standing Orders). It was explained there was a meeting between two chairs of ATC, the Town Clerk, Cabinet member from MCC, and Directors of Melville CA CIC which was very productive, and there is another meeting between Melville CA CIC and MCC on 16th February 2023. It would be out of kilter to make an amendment now, not knowing the outcome of this meeting on 16th February. Better to wait for the report from Melville CA CIC and to look at deliverables then. Very Impressed with the new centre manager, and look forward to working with MCA CIC in the future.</p> <p>Cllr Burch asked if she could be removed as the ATC rep for Melville CA CIC as this was a conflict in her new Cabinet Role. To be considered at the next Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
PR19/23	<p>To receive a sponsorship funding request from Abergavenny Writing Festival.</p> <p>The sponsorship request was received and noted by ATC.</p>

	<p>Cllr Groucutt expressed his full support as part of the cultural development for tourism in the town.</p> <p>Cllr Nicholson asked if feedback can include numbers or data on the numbers of people that are reached by the events?</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny asked for clarification on current budget position for sponsorship. Town Clerk confirmed there was £2800 remaining.</p> <p>Cllr Jones commented that growing grass roots festivals is important, and this is gathering national attention.</p> <p>Cllr Groucutt proposed the approval of the sponsorship request for 2023 from Abergavenny Writing Festival, and seconded by Cllr Konieczny. All Councillors resolved to accept the funding request to be approved.</p> <p>(Provision of entertainment and support of the arts – Local Government Act 1972, s.145 / Power to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism - Local Government Act 1972, s.144)</p>
PR20/23	<p>To receive and approve the revised Recruitment Proposal from the Town Clerk.</p> <p>Report received and noted. Cllr Bowyer explained that we are facing interesting times trying to recruit. Hopes that Councillors have given some thought to this.</p> <p>Cllr Nicholson explained that the Town Clerk has advertised twice through One Voice Wales with no success. The report lays out the stats regarding percentages of returns, from 50% on the first round, to 31% on the second, with no suitable candidates on that occasion. How are we presenting ourselves? Salary – the band offered in comparison to others? The suggested process is more human – we are a friendly council! Run this over a 4 week period in-house. Look for a written application, followed by a ‘conversation’ with applications, then a formal interview. There is an outline of the new process within the report. Prioritise the applicant’s skills and experience, rather than local government focus.</p> <p>Cllr Burch asked if we would consider using ‘Indeed’ for the listing of the job vacancy. Cllr Nicholson said we are looking to keep the process light by asking for the CV and asking applicants to answer three questions.</p> <p>Cllr Jones proposed we move to approve the new process, and this was seconded by Cllr Callard. All Councillors resolved to approve the process.</p>
PR21/23	<p>To receive and approve a revised contract cost for the Christmas Light Provision for 2023.</p> <p>The report detailing the costings and changes to the budget was received and noted. Cllr Jones confirmed that ATC had already reduced the budget for the lights and had had costings back for no reindeer installation, but ATC are looking to prioritise other projects to involve more in the community in the lead up to the Christmas Light Switch On Event on 18th November 2023. Cllr Wilde proposed to accept the revised cost and move to approve this one year extension with the current provider, and this was seconded by Cllr Simcock. All Councillors resolved to accept the revised costing and one year continuation of contract.</p> <p>(Power to provide Christmas Lights and attract visitors – Local Government Act 1972, s.144)</p>
PR22/23	<p>To receive the revised draft of the ATC Strategy and Action Plan</p>

	<p>Cllr Bowyer explained that his was the next draft of the Strategy and action plan. ATC now need to look for Councillors to take the lead on subjects – if anyone wants to volunteer, please make the Chair or Town Clerk aware.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny proposed that by the next meeting, Councillors populate the document with nominated people, to show commitment. This was seconded by Cllr Barnes.</p> <p>Cllr Nicholson said it's a lot of work – what are we going to prioritise? We need to think about what and how we prioritise these actions.</p> <p>Cllr Bowyer suggested that as we have had two meeting so far where we have run out of time, that we make a commitment to have a meeting just to discuss the Strategy and Action Plan.</p>
PR23/23	<p>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny Eisteddfod – Cllrs Jones and Simcock: DS: Dr Elin Jones will be the Master of Ceremonies at the Childrens Eisteddfod in March. • Borough Theatre MCC / ATC Collaboration – Cllrs Groucutt and Konieczny: TK: Official opening on 28th January 2023 – grateful for the support from Cllrs. Asked by BT manager to announce the opening of the Theatre – it was a successful evening. Great event and fundraising efforts. • Mind Monmouthshire - Cllrs Groucutt and Jones: Not met since last meeting, AGM is next week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny Rotary – Cllr Eldridge: Celebration of Life being held 3/3/23 for Lionel Elton who sadly passed away recently. Meeting with President to discuss what support may be needed for Steam Rally.
PR24/23	<p>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Burch said there is due to be a Building Management meeting for the Town Hall between all departments shortly. Town Clerk is to be included in this. It is a Multi-Service building and all have differing requirements. Lift issues continue for the library and theatre. Disability Access was not thought through.</p>
PR25/23	<p>To consider items for the next meeting on 15th March 2023 (moved from 8th March 2023 due to bad weather):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place making presentation from Daniel Fordham and Claire Sullivan at MCC. • Revisit Melville CA CIC agreement.

Meeting ended at 8:58pm.

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR **DATE**