

## ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022 AT 7:45PM ON MS TEAMS, & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENTNY.

**Present:** Cllr P Bowyer (Chair)  
Cllr M Barnes (Vice Chair)  
Cllr M Groucutt  
Cllr T Konieczny  
Cllr D Simcock  
Cllr B Nicholson  
Cllr B Callard  
Cllr G Jones  
Cllr K Eldridge  
Cllr A Wilde  
Cllr J George  
Cllr M Powell

#### **Absent without apologies**

Cllr L Wright  
Cllr S Burch

#### **In attendance:**

S Rosser - Town Clerk  
J Webb – Abergavenny Pride  
C Were - Press

No public session

No public in attendance

PR 44/22	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Cllrs Holland, Brocklesby and Strong sent their apologies and it was resolved to accept their reasons for absence.
PR 45/22	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  None received.
PR 46/22	<b>To approve the minutes from 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022.</b>  Cllr T Konieczny proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr M Groucutt, and all Councillors resolved to accept the minutes.
PR 47/22	<b>To elect 8 Councillors to sit on Environment Committee (Chair and Vice-Chair already appointed).</b>

	<p>Environment Committee: Chair – Cllr Konieczny. Vice-Chair – Cllr Strong. Nominations for Committee Members: Cllrs Holland, Groucutt, Eldridge, George, Bowyer, Wright, Barnes, Powell.</p> <p>Cllr Powell declared she wishes to also be considered for a County role on Planning Committee which would cause a conflict sitting on this Committee, so withdrew from the nominations. Cllr Jones nominated in Cllr Powell’s place. Cllr Simcock wishes to sit on Environment, so Cllr Groucutt offered to withdraw. All Councillors resolved to accept these nominations and alterations for the Environment Committee.</p> <p>As Representatives on External Bodies need to report back to the committees listed, an alteration was required to replace Cllr Wilde as rep for ADTA. Proposal of Cllr Konieczny to take this representation on, all Councillors resolved to accept this alteration and amendment.</p>
PR 48/22	<p><b>To elect 8 Councillors for the People and Communities Committee (Chair and Vice-Chair already appointed).</b></p> <p>People and Communities Committee: Chair: Cllr Jones. Vice-Chair – Cllr Nicholson. Nominations for Committee Members: Cllrs Barnes, Burch, Simcock, Eldridge, Wilde, Powell, George, Strong. No objections or amendments were received. All Councillors resolved to accept these nominations to the People and Communities Committee.</p>
PR 49/22	<p><b>To receive a £600 grant application from Abergavenny Pride.</b></p> <p>Cllr Bowyer welcomed J Webb from Abergavenny Pride and thanked her for a very well written grant application. Comments or questions were invited: Cllr Konieczny commented that the application was well presented for match funding and liked the inclusion of young people in the application, gave his full endorsement, and proposing the application to be approved. Cllr Jones seconded the motion to accept and approve the application. All Councillors in favour – decision carried to approve the grant application. J Webb was keen to ensure that this year’s event will focus especially on isolation after the pandemic, and thanked ATC for their support.</p>
PR 50/22	<p><b>To receive a draft cooperation agreement from ACE.</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk explained additional information was received after the draft was circulated and needs time for proper consideration. Cllr George said he isn’t aware of what ACE do, so could we request a presentation to Councillors. Cllr Barnes explained due to the financial changes ATC need to be careful before agreeing to new arrangements and to be clear on what we can commit to – ATC needs a full breakdown of the financial year, so it may be a year before we can do so.</p> <p>Cllr Groucutt said funding isn’t just from ATC in isolation, that funds are sought from MHA, MCC&lt; Gwent Police, etc. ATC play a full part in sustaining support in an economically deprived area in Abergavenny.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny said it is prudent to have an in-depth chat with ACE. Previous priorities may change when the cost-of-living crisis starts to bite. There may be</p>

	<p>interventions from other stakeholders. Its important not to write a declaration that won't address these needs.</p> <p>Cllr Jones said the previous council met at ACE itself, so could we meet there? A point of information was offered by Cllr Konieczny – hybrid meetings are essential to be offered so unless ACE could offer this facility, we couldn't do that. It may be easier to invite them to join us in person or virtually.</p> <p>Cllr Bowyer proposed that we continue conversations with ACE and invite them to our next Policy and resources Meeting. Cllr George seconded this proposal. All Councillors approved the proposal.</p>
PR 51/22	<p><b>To receive and adopt the Social Media Policy (review due date May 2022).</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk advised Councillors that this policy is reviewed annually to ensure we keep up with any changes to legislation. Cllr Simcock asked if any changes had been necessary this year, of which there were none made.</p> <p>Cllr Barnes expressed how easily personal Facebook accounts can be open to abuse and that this should be considered – it may be wise for Councillors to have separate personal and professional social media accounts.</p> <p>The Policy was noted, and Councillors resolved to accept it as it stands, to be reviewed again in 12 months' time.</p>
PR 52/22	<p><b>To review and appoint signatories to the bank and investment accounts held by ATC.</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk explained what accounts are held and who we have as signatories currently.</p> <p>Current accounts: Add Cllr Bowyer and Cllr Barnes, remove former Cllr Hickman and current Cllr Groucutt. Change proposed by Cllr Wilde, seconded by Cllr Groucutt. Approved by all Councillors.</p> <p>Mayors Charity Account: Not necessary to have Chair and Vice-Chair of Policy and Resources as signatories. Cllr Eldridge and Cllr Powell put forward to replace former Cllrs P Simcock and M Hickman. Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Jones. Approved by all Councillors.</p> <p>Investment account: Cllr Bowyer and Cllr Barnes to replace Cllr Groucutt and Cllr Konieczny as signatories – proposed by Cllr George, seconded by Cllr Jones. Approved by all Councillors.</p>
PR 53/22	<p><b>To receive a verbal report on Month 12, including all relevant income and expenditure reports, from the Town Clerk.</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk talked Councillors through the final month breakdown as accepted and approved by the last ATC. Cllr Groucutt asked for clarification on relinquishing allowances as a former Chair of a Committee. The Town clerk explained this ended automatically when the elections of the new Chairs took place at the AGM.</p> <p>Cllr Barnes asked for clarification of when the year end process takes place. The Town Clerk explained the process is carried out with the provider Rialtas online and is booked usually in May each year – 21/22 process is due to be carried out on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny explained to Councillors they need to review all expenditure and</p>

	<p>monitor underspends should the need arise to vire monies to areas where there are overspends. Any underspends will get transferred to General Reserves. ATC can spend from General reserves on projects not factored in the budget, which has already been set for 2022/23. ATC were asked last year to match fund a new cabin for the Youth Service form MCC, this was not planned, but it was within our regulations to agree to this. Money was then vired from General Reserves. We must be clear where money comes from and his leads to unqualified returns which leads to General Power of Competence. Financial Scrutiny is very important. Any questions can be brought to ATC for clarification.</p> <p>Cllr Barnes also enquired what EMR was – this stands for Earmarked Reserves.</p> <p>Cllr George asked who creates the budget? It was explained the restructure of ATC created three executive committees, each with a Chair and Vice Chair. These meet with the Town Clerk around September to review the budget, to take advise, and then set a draft budget to bring to Policy and Resources Committee for input and scrutiny. This then gets put before Full Council for discussion and ratification. The process has been streamlined and more is achieved, and all can have input.</p> <p>Cllr Eldridge asked where funds for the Planters in town comes form – Town Clerk explained the plants and ongoing maintenance is Abergavenny In Bloom, and replacement planters from Implementation of Action Plan.</p> <p>Cllr Bowyer thanked Councillors and the Town Clerk for the explanations.</p>
PR 54/22	<p><b>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee.</b></p> <p>None received.</p>
PR 55/22	<p><b>To consider items for the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.</b></p> <p>Suggestions are to be emailed to the Town Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.</p> <p>Cllr Powell asked if ATC can find out who owns the building in Tiverton Car Park which lets down the impression of the town as it has had no work done to it for a number of years? It gives a bad impression to visitors using that car park.</p> <p>Cllr Eldridge informed ATC that he and Cllr Barnes are meeting with Friends of Bailey Park on 30<sup>th</sup> May at 10am at the Bandstand, and a report on this meeting will follow.</p>

**Meeting ended at 8:40pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR ..... DATE .....**

