

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 6TH JULY 2022 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

Present: Cllr G Jones (Chair)
Cllr B Nicholson (Vice Chair)
Cllr K Eldridge
Cllr J George
Cllr M Powell
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr M Strong
Cllr A Wilde

Absent without apologies

None

In attendance:

S Rosser (Town Clerk)
Benita Kelly (Promobility Group)

No public session

No public in attendance

PC 20/22	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr S Burch, and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
PC 21/22	Receive Declarations of Interest None received.
PC 22/22	To approve the minutes from 6th April 2022. Councillors Jones and Simcock are the only two Councillors that can approve the last set of minutes. Councillor Jones and Simcock happy to approve. Proposed as a true record by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Simcock. All Councillors approved.
PC 23/22	To receive a presentation from the Abergavenny Promobility Group. Benita Kelly from the local Promobility group attended the meeting in place of the Chair Felicity Brannigan who sends her apologies. The group meets monthly to discuss how they are affected by issues around the town. Counsellors Thomas and Woodhouse used to attend these meetings. The group spends a

lot of time dealing with access issues throughout the town. Previously the Community Centre was inaccessible, but getting various groups involved has seen dropped kerbs installed. The zebra crossing is still dangerous to access and there is no dropped kerb at Park Street. The group tried to take on and fix issues around the town. They do not just focus on physical but also other disabilities. The changes throughout the town with no curbs proved challenging for the sight impaired. Outside the Catholic Church there was no tactile paving, and the group are trying to fix that. On Tudor Street there was no tactile paving and the group contacted Rob Davis at MCC Highways who has sorted this. The group are aware that the Castle Meadows facilities will be changing so they are also involved there. The annual Abergavenny Food Festival has access issues to various areas as well as disability parking being limited. They are concerns with access to shops. They estimate 20% of residents have mobility issues and can't access the shops. This can be an ongoing battle and they would like backing and support. There are ongoing issues with the Borough Theatre, with regards to mobility scooter access. Larger wheelchair and paraplegic mobility aid users cannot access it. This comes down to the issue of equality. The old lift is bigger and more spacious.

Access issues at the railway station is ongoing. Plans may not happen; they only receive occasional e-mail updates. Councillor Powell interjected saying it should be coming to planning soon but has no idea why it's been so slow going. Benita said the pavement furniture that has been installed over the last two years is lovely to see but the face profile as a food town means areas are difficult to access and unsafe to pass. Felicity is very good at knowing who to contact. The group worked on bus station issues with designated standing areas having no dropped kerbs. Requests were considered but no signs have yet been installed to show where buses will be going from. They would like an Abergavenny Town Council Councillor to attend meetings and to take on concerns and back them up. This will make us more aware of concerns and issues. They would like to see ATC come up with an accessibility plan for the next four years as far as the shops are concerned. They would like someone to keep abreast of their concerns and issues. There are a large number of mobility aid users in town on a Tuesday and we're cutting out a large footprint from accessing the shops. ATC should get an account of what is going on. Can ATC advise who to contact in MCC so a County Councillor can also be involved. We are still waiting on confirmation of who the new Equalities Officer at MCC is. Felicity already has a link with MCC Highways; however, emails are not being replied to which is very rude and in- courteous. Councillor Powell offered to talk to Highways and try and to find out who the new Equalities Officer is. With regards to the zebra crossing, alterations have been promised by MCC, Councillor Jones confirmed that ATC had submitted that this is actually in the wrong place and should be recited. Councillor Barnes asked for more information on the lift issues. The Town Clerk gave an update on previous discussions held and the suggested alternatives which CADW deemed as sufficient as did the legal team at MCC.

Councillor Jones asked for ATC to request a representative to be decided upon at the next full council meeting. He was very impressed with the work that the Promobility group carry out in the town.

Councillor Nicholson asked about accessibility issues for the new school.

Councillor Barnes ask an ATC chase MCC regarding who the Equalities Officer is, can we also chase up the lift issues, and can the group be contacted and

	<p>consulted upon about the railway station alterations. Lastly the bus stop on the A40 at Tesco's plans is out but they need to be consulted on. Can we see if someone from ATC can go to the meeting on the 13th of July?</p> <p>Councillor George asked how the Promobility group felt about the shared space on St. John's Square? Benita said the King's Arms furniture has been moved. The big issue is Market Street as it is very dangerous.</p> <p>Councillor Eldridge said that Councillor Groucutt is the Cabinet Member for Education so could answer the query on access ability at the new school. To get all areas accessible will mean outside bodies need to be involved. Councillor Jones would like ATC to be looking into getting the right contacts and thanked Benita Kelly for her presentation.</p>
PC 24/22	<p>To receive a presentation from Emma Wilkins from ABUHB to discuss the new Breast Cancer Care Unit and Breast Cancer Awareness Month October 2022.</p> <p>Cllr Jones welcomed Emma Wilkins from ABUHB. Emma has worked there for a few years fundraising for a new unit in Ystrad Fawr. She shared a presentation on the new Breast Clinic being built. October is the awareness month to turn the town pink not only to raise awareness but also to raise money, £250,000 have been raised so far. The new building opens in August 2023.</p> <p>Councillor Jones said it is auspicious that the presentation is being received the day after the NHS celebrated its 74th birthday. Nevill Hall Hospital is such a big part of the town.</p> <p>Cllr Barnes asked where than new unit is being built and why the month of October was picked for raising awareness? Emma said that geographically the Gwent area is huge, so travel was considered, and the higher rates of referrals meant that Ystrad Fawr was selected for the new unit. The current unit at NHH will close once the new building is open. Operations are already taking place at Ystrad Fawr. The October awareness month has seen poor engagement in Abergavenny previously. Letters have been sent to all the groups and shops including a poster, yet no shops have ever been involved. The only business involved is Pink Angels on Neville St. Other Town Councils often offer a £50 prize for a shop window competition, this encourages engagement. This year's awareness day is focused on the 7th of October 2022. In terms of ATC involvement, Emma can send information for circulating and any suggestions on how to engage and circulate in the business community would be appreciated. Councillor Jones commented that ATC have pink high vis and we'd be happy to assist. It will be good to communicate information to groups and other organisations. Cllr Jones will submit a proposal at the September meeting for consideration.</p>
PC 25/22	<p>To receive a presentation from Esther Weller at Sight Loss Cymru on making Abergavenny a Slight Loss Friendly Town.</p> <p>Cllr Jones welcomed Esther to the meeting. Sight Cymru is Pontypool based but covers all of Wales and Esther mainly works in Southeast Wales. She delivers sight loss training. The project started with lottery funding and the project was run over two years. 45 sessions were delivered to members of the</p>

	<p>public, private sector, and voluntary organisations. Esther wishes to promote the sight loss friendly scheme. This is to create site loss friendly communities and as she lives in Abergavenny, she would like our town to be the first. Have ATC considered people with sight loss? This is the very beginning of plans and Esther wishes to deliver training to 10 organisations across a mixture of sectors in the town. She wishes to offer organisations to become site friendly and nominate a Champion to keep things on the agenda. Esther would like a network of these around the town to develop the scheme and encourage others to join. It could be part of ATC's committee or a standalone project. There has been a logo designed to be used on press releases, websites, Facebook etc. Esther's aim is to deliver training and encourage others, to recruit Champions in each organisation who could attend regular group meetings. There is also fundraising for the project as the training is free, but Sight Loss Cymru want to encourage fundraising towards the cost of delivering the scheme. It is very flexible and can be made to fit.</p> <p>Cllr Jones said we are already a fair-trade town, a town of sanctuary, and have lots of strings to our bow. The training is very interesting.</p> <p>Cllr Barnes asked how long is the training? Esther said if it's delivered online, it is 2 1/2 hours long and can be flexible. If delivered face to face it will take three hours and the groups will be no more than 12 people at a time. She very much wants to encourage businesses to take this on.</p> <p>Cllr Jones said linking with the Promability Group would be very good.</p> <p>Cllr Powell said there is one thing that is an issue, street furniture is not where it should be for the poorly sighted users of the town. Esther said we cover this in the training delivered. It is become a huge problem in the pandemic. Training helps with raising awareness.</p> <p>Cllr Eldridge asked how long is the funding running for and is it a quick fix or a legacy project? Esther said the project isn't funded any longer, but that's why they're looking at fundraising opportunities. They have applied for lottery funding but were turned down. They hope the project will be long term but there is no external funding as of yet.</p> <p>Cllr Jones thanked Esther for attending the meeting.</p> <p>Cllrs asked the Town Clerk to share the proposal and poster which could be circulated to all and to look at training dates for in house training for ATC Cllrs to attend.</p>
PC 26/22	<p>To receive and note the Town Clerk's update.</p> <p>13th of November and 19th of November 2022 would take a large amount of planning for both Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Light Switch On events. It will be good to see all the town come together. Cllr Barnes said what checks are needed for the Christmas Lights Switch on to be held at Frogmore St. He can see the logic, but would businesses contribute to this? It would be good to consider this.</p> <p>Previously the switch on has been held at the Town Hall, and also Cibi Walk which was very good and successful even in bad weather. Cllr Eldridge said the Y Fenni Business Community only include ATC when needed, so what sort of collaborative working are they hoping for? The Town Clerk was requested to check who the ATC representatives are on the business community meetings and let Cllrs know.</p>

	<p>The Town Clerk is to meet with MCC representative from the Summer Play Scheme project and will report back on the plans for this year. Councillors asked for a report on the Shift project. Christmas lighting budget - it was previously £25,000 and has now been reduced to £24,000 and Cllr Jones suggested it could be trimmed to £20,000. Additional costs were incurred due to vandalism of the reindeer. Tenders and contracts will need proper scrutiny at the renewal stage towards the end of this year for the next three-year contract. Safety matting may be needed for the reindeer installation this year. Positions for Christmas trees in the brackets along the A40 also need confirming.</p>
PC 27/22	<p>Finance Report – to receive and approve the budget report for specific budgets allocated to this Committee.</p> <p>Current report recommended for approval by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Powell, all approved.</p>
PC 28/22	<p>Report from Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Wilde reported that she had attended the Relief in Need charity meeting. Cllrs Jones and Simcock reported that the Beaupreau twinning trip was very successful but there has been no meeting of the twinning group as of yet. ACE: no report received from rep. CAB Cllr Barnes has not yet been to a formal meeting. Abergavenny Community Trust: Cllr Barnes had written a report and sent this to the Town Clerk for circulating. They are trying to continue fundraising, but the loss of Jeremy Gass has proved hard on the organisation. They are looking for a volunteer coordinator. The solar panel launch was very good. Abergavenny Eisteddfod meeting invites are now reaching Cllrs Jones and Simcock. No report received. Mind Monmouthshire: no report from rep .</p>
PC 29/22	<p>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</p> <p>None received.</p>
PC 30/22	<p>Items for consideration at the next meeting 7th September 2022</p> <p>Proposal for ATC to sponsor a Turn the Town Pink Campaign for 7th October to be run across businesses in the town.</p> <p>13th November – Remembrance Parade Update</p> <p>19th November – Christmas Light Switch On Update</p>

Meeting ended 8:41pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR..... DATE