

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

**Present:** Cllr Konieczny (Chair)  
Cllr Wilde (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Bowyer  
Cllr Barnes  
Cllr Eldridge  
Cllr George  
Cllr Callard  
Cllr Powell  
Cllr Groucutt  
Cllr Simcock  
Cllr Holland  
Cllr Burch

#### **Absent without apologies**

Cllr Strong  
Cllr Nicholson

#### **In attendance:**

S Rosser - Town Clerk

No public session

No public in attendance

FC 22/22	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Apologies were received from Cllrs Brocklesby, Wright, and Jones, it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
FC 23/22	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  Declaration of interest received from Cllr Groucutt regarding his verbal report on the 3-19 School as he is a Cabinet Member for Education. Declaration of interest received from Cllr Burch regarding the verbal report on the new school as she is a School Governor and also sits on MCC Planning Committee. Cllrs Powell and Callard declared an interest in the planning applications for consideration as they sit on MCC Planning Committee.
FC 24/22	<b>To approve the minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022.</b>  The minutes from a meeting on the 18th May 2022 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Bowyer and seconded by Cllr Groucutt. All Councillors approved.

FC 25/22	<p><b>To receive and approve the minutes from the Extraordinary Meeting held 29th June 2022.</b></p> <p>Cllr Simcock said apologies were sent for the Extraordinary Meeting as he was attending a wedding and apologised that they were not received by the Town Clerk in time to be recorded in the minutes. Cllr Konieczny asked all Cllrs to inform the Town Clerk as soon as possible when they are unable to attend a meeting. Minutes from the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 29th of June 2022 proposed as a true record by Cllr Wilde, seconded by Cllr Barnes and approved by all Councillors.</p>
FC 26/22	<p><b>To consider the following planning applications:</b></p> <p>DM/2022/00890, DM/2022/00902, DM/2022/00900, DM/2022/00941:</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny asked for comments on any of the four planning applications that are to be considered. DM/2022/00890 is in a conservation area adjacent to the castle, ambitious plans to remove derelict building to create an art restoration studio. General consensus is that it is well designed, the free standing demountable is also of a high standard and designed by the same architects. There are considerable grounds there now the old building has been removed.</p> <p>All applications for consideration recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Konieczny, seconded by Cllr Bowyer, agreed by all Cllrs able to participate in these discussions.</p>
FC 27/22	<p><b>To receive a verbal report from Cllr Groucutt regarding the 3-19 school.</b></p> <p>A verbal report was received from Councillor Groucutt regarding the 3 to 19 school project. He no longer sits on the governing body as he is a Cabinet Member for Education at MCC. He has asked MCC to extend the borrowing by 29 million, it is now just under 70 million due to costs going up. On site, the oak tree has been barriered off as it is a registered tree, the school design had to be amended to house the tree. A temporary governing body is now in place. The Headship has been advertised but not many applicants received as of yet. If the right person is not found, they will re advertise. It is hope they will be able to appoint from January 2023. Schools will remain where they are until September 2024 when they will move into the new building. The old school cannot be demolished until the new school is occupied.</p> <p>ATC have been asked to gauge public opinion on the name of the new school. Governing Bodies of both schools want the names retained but MCC have a statutory duty to name a school. ATC have done similar consultations on public toilets, so they want to get a feel of local opinion very quickly, ATC has been asked to act as an honest broker. Cllr George asked what the plans for Deri View school building are when the children move and what's happening with the nursery provision. Cllr Groucutt said the current plan is for the Welsh medium school to move into the Deri View building. MCC have also said the nursery will remain with the governing body and not be privatised. Cllr Eldridge asked if there is guidance on how the name should be considered. Cllr Groucutt says there is a royal connection with the name King Henry VIII School, so the Royal Equerries have to be consulted hence the procedure is</p>

	<p>urgent. Cllr Powell was on the governing body for 12 years and asked if it's a new school will there be a new name. Is there any way they can merge the names of the two schools, so no one is upset? King Henry VIII School is so well known and historic it would be a shame to lose it. Cllr Barnes asked about the time scale. Is the Active Travel provision to the school still on track? Cllr Groucutt said this is the same as before. Councillor Barnes also asked does the monarch need to be consulted first before considering what to name the school. This is a difficult exercise and lots of thoughts need to be put into that. Cllr Konieczny said if we proceed and ATC would be happy to do so, then we must engage the community. Vast majority may want the King Henry school name to remain. MCC are building a 21st century school, KHS starting over 500 years ago, history teaches all kinds of things. KHS was a boys grammar school, this new school is for the community, amalgamating 3 to 19 years. MCC have proposed names, we can ask the community what the preferred option is. It may be as simple as something like Abergavenny Community School. MCC can check if it's possible to change the name and come up with some suggestions, then ATC could consult the community.</p> <p>Cllr Groucutt said the safe routes will be built across the bottom of the playing field. MCC are going to build a separate safe route in the lower Meadow, negotiating with the Abergavenny Thursdays Trust for this installation. Cllr Callard referred to the naming, saying he went to the school, his children will go there and lots of his friends went there, there is a great fondness for the school. It is nice to have touchpoints like this, similar to the fact that the oak tree is being kept. He would be keen to see the name remain as King Henry the Eighth school. Deri View primary school is relatively new.</p> <p>In principle ATC are prepared to assist engage opinion on the name of the new school. They will wait for guidance from MCC and Councillor Groucutt to give names to choose from. A simple sticker board or nomination boxes will be used to gather information on opinions. Cllr Konieczny expressed thanks to Cllr Groucutt for the update.</p>
FC 28/22	<p><b>To receive a verbal report on a nomination for the Honours Board from Cllr Konieczny.</b></p> <p>Cllr Konieczny gave a verbal report on nominations for the Honours Board in the Mayor's Parlour. In the recent Queen's birthday honours in June this year, Alun Griffiths was awarded a CBE for his contribution to the construction industry and the community in Wales. ATC last addition to the honours board was in 2018 when Cllr Simcock was Mayor and Keith Davies was added for his charity work. Cllr Konieczny would like to ask ATC if Alun Griffiths CBE could be added. This would be in recognition of the CBE and his work in the town and quiet philanthropy that he does throughout the town. Proposed by Cllr Konieczny and seconded by Cllr Bowyer. All Councillors voted to agree to this. The Town Clerk is to look into costs of a plaque, report back to ATC and when appropriate, an invite will be extended to Alun Griffiths to attend a small ceremony in the Mayor's Parlour. Cllr Konieczny also asked Councillors to consider nominations for the Honorary Burgess Board, as this was last added to in 2017. The Honorary Burgess award is similar to giving freedom of the town to those who've given long service to the community. Traditionally this has been awarded to former Councillors. It recognises considerable</p>

	<p>contribution to the community only allowing three people to be nominated at any given time. We have one currently on the board. Most tend to be elderly and retired from council and other duties in order to be considered. Cllrs are asked to consider who ATC may wish to nominate in future.</p>
FC 29/22	<p><b>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to Full Council.</b></p> <p>None received.</p>
FC 30/22	<p><b>To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Full Council.</b></p> <p>Cllr Callard reported at MCC planning had considered the KHS school application which has now been approved. The next major consultation is likely to be in relation to Castle Meadows.</p> <p>Cllr Powell said the 20-mph limit will be rolled out all over Wales, this has been discussed at length at Cabinet. Cllr Konieczny said the unitary authority will have flexibility to have some 30 mile per hour zones but residential will all be 20 mile per hour. The schemes have been in many places in Scotland and England for a while. There is a huge decrease in injuries with pedestrians. Also, evidence that cycling has increased. People feel safer. He is pleased that Abergavenny was a pilot town.</p> <p>Cllr Burch reported there are a number of things at MCC that are ongoing. There is routine business which will affect ATC in good time. Rivers quality - Cllr Catrin Maby is working to bring partnerships together. Energy efficiency - looking at proposals to animate the community to reach everyone and cost savings. With her ward hat on Cllr Burch has spoken to residents on the Sugar Loaf who have great concerns over the management of visitors and the amount of traffic. It is gridlock at the weekends. Overnight camper vans are parking up there. There is a meeting with BBNPA and MCC to discuss the issues around this major tourism site shortly.</p> <p>There has been lots of disquiet on the MCC Active Travel proposals for Castle Meadows. There was a presentation to ATC, and ATC offered to act as an honest broker between MCC and the wider community. Cllr Burch as Cabinet Member for implementing Active Travel alongside ATC has organised a stakeholder meeting to get those who've expressed strong views on the proposals around the table with MCC and WSP in order to go through the consultation results and have a solution focused meeting. Cllr Powell said that the Active Travel team delivered a briefing to Cabinet last week regarding the Active Travel proposals. Cllr Konieczny said it has become contentious and it didn't need to be. ATC offered to host the meeting for all stakeholders to come together. The scheme has funding, but planning will now be needed for the next stage. MCC has a statute under section 6 of the Environment Act to cover mitigations of the effect that the Active Travel proposals will have.</p>
FC 31/22	<p><b>To consider items for the agenda of the next Full Council Meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honorary Burgess nominations</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plaque for Honours Board</li></ul> <p>Any other items for consideration to be included on the next agenda are to be emailed to the Town Clerk by 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022.</p>
--	---

**Meeting ended 7:54pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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