

## ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS, & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENTNY.

**Present:** Cllr P Bowyer (Chair)  
Cllr M Barnes (Vice Chair)  
Cllr T Konieczny  
Cllr D Simcock  
Cllr K Eldridge  
Cllr A Wilde  
Cllr J George  
Cllr C Holland  
Cllr S Burch  
Cllr M Groucutt  
Cllr M Powell  
Cllr B Callard

#### **Absent without apologies**

Cllr M Strong  
Cllr B Nicholson

#### **In attendance:**

S Rosser - Town Clerk

No public session

No public in attendance

PR 68/22	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Cllrs Brocklesby, Jones, and Wright sent their apologies, and it was resolved to accept their reasons for absence.
PR 69/22	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  Declaration of interest received from Cllr Konieczny as he is a trustee at the Plas Gunter Mansion trust.
PR 70/22	<b>To approve the minutes from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.</b>  Cllr Powell apologised for her absence at the last meeting as she had not received the agenda or papers due to an issue with her town council e-mail. The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Barnes seconded by Cllr Konieczny and all approved.
PR 71/22	<b>To approve a virement request for additional funds to increase the support given to CAB.</b>

	<p>Cllr Bowyer explained ATC had factored support for CAB but at the last meeting it had been requested we look at increasing the amount. Cllr Groucutt strongly supports this suggestion and informed ATC that CAB and Mind Monmouthshire are going to get additional support from MCC due to the cost-of-living crisis. Cllr Barnes suggested the additional £2k won't cover very much as postage and calls are a huge expense. The MCC increase will only be for one year. CAB will be stuck, as the number of cases is increasing exponentially. Cllr Konieczny offered a point of information that in the budget the £10k was increased to £12k originally. We now need to agree the increment over three years so the new budget will be for £14k from 2023. As we had already set the budget, we have to approve a virement from the large grant pot to CAB. Cllr Powell proposed accepting this virement request and this was seconded by Cllr Simcock. All Councillors approved.</p>
<p>PR 72/22</p>	<p><b>To receive a large grant application from Plas Gunter Mansion Board.</b></p> <p>The grant application was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for consideration. Cllr Konieczny offered a point of info on the Plas Gunter Mansion. The Welsh Georgian Trust bought the grade two listed building as it was falling into serious disrepair. The building visited by the last Welsh Martyr has a secret Chapel in the loft space where hidden Catholics held masses. The Plas Gunter Trust took over when the Welsh Georgian Trust finished. They have repaired the roof and are looking to make a capital grant to the Heritage Lottery Fund for regeneration works on the visitor centre, create a visitor space based on the theme of sanctuary, and possibly a small flat and new commercial premises. The income would support the whole building. Heritage Lottery are keen to see the development of a commercial wing. A full forensic analysis is required of the building, and the final phase is to submit this to be considered for the £1.5 to £2million Heritage Lottery Fund. Cllr Barnes asked what happens if they don't get the money from the lottery on this occasion? Would we keep the grant funding that has been requested from ATC? Cllr Konieczny said the lottery would not waste time considering applications with no backing. The trust has been advised that they need to submit a thorough business case, showing understanding of reaching groups and to be inclusive in the current space. In this round, if it is rejected it will be submitted again which the Heritage Lottery expect. Cllr Burch proposed ATC approve in principle on the basis of it being granted. The Town Clerk advised that we could agree to pay the £2500 on the provision of full funding being given and if they are unable to raise the £11500 as stated on the grant application it will be returned. This proposal was accepted by Cllr Burch and seconded by Cllr Callard and all Councillors approved.</p>
<p>PR 73/22</p>	<p><b>To receive a report on the Town Hall Clock and proposed maintenance and repairs.</b></p> <p>The report was received and noted by Councillors. Cllr George asked what the planning application would be for with regard to the town clock. The Town Clerk responded it is to do with the listed building consent as the mechanism is integral to the building so consent to change the fabric of this will be needed. It will be a statutory requirement. Cllr George asked if the automation will still</p>

	<p>enable the chimes to ring and this was confirmed. Cllr Konieczny proposed that we get a quote for lighting the inside of the clock faces, and to support MCC getting the automation and repairs carried out on the clock. This was seconded by Cllr George and all Councillors were in favour.</p>
PR 74/22	<p><b>Finance: Months 1, 2 and 3 to be received and approved</b></p> <p>Cllr Groucutt proposed the finance reports be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Konieczny. All councillors approved.</p>
PR 75/22	<p><b>To receive and note an update from the Town Clerk.</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk's report was noted and received. Cllr Konieczny said the Away Day would enable ATC to work on a new five year strategy and action plan. ATC will need to think about the structure of the day with the facilitator to achieve our aims and also look at the restructure of the council, including how we are performing as the previous ATC were meant to review the structure, but this hadn't happened due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Previous ATC looked at RFO post on 8 hours per week and were unsuccessful in filling this role. Subsequently the former clerk left, and ATC could have been left unable to operate as they would have needed a locum Clerk from SLCC if the circumstances had been different than those which transpired. Given ATC's programmes and commitments, there is a need for a Deputy Clerk to run meetings and be RFO under the Principle Clerk to future proof ATC. It is proposed the Deputy Clerk post should be 0.5 FT post per week. This recommendation was made by One Voice Wales previously. Cllr Barnes asked if there is a budget allowance for this post. The Town Clerk explained there was allowance for the 8-hour per week. RFO post and this was still in the salaries budget, and that her own role was on a lesser grade than the former Clerk. It was advised that this will be a two-to-three-month process. Cllr Callard proposed accepting both quotes as detailed in the Town Clerk's report and this was seconded by Cllr Simcock. All Councillors approved.</p>
PR 76/22	<p><b>To discuss and decide upon a date for our Away Day to work on the new Strategy and Action Plan for this term.</b></p> <p>The Away Day held at the start of the last ATC turn allowed Councillors to set a very clear action plan to be held to account. It also captured new obligations. This was reviewed after 2 1/2 years in order to check all was well. This now needs to be repeated. It is proposed that a Saturday in September, to be held at the Melville Theatre, be considered for the Away Day. After a brief discussion Cllr Barnes proposed considering the 10th or 24th September as suitable dates for the Away Day. This was seconded by Cllr Simcock and approved by all Councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny proposed approval of the cost of One Voice Wales providing a facilitator and this was seconded by Cllr Simcock. All Councillors approved.</p>
PR 77/22	<p><b>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee.</b></p>

	Cllr Groucutt had missed the last Mind Monmouthshire meeting due to a mix up in whether it was to be face to face or online. Nothing to feed back.
PR 78/22	<p><b>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</b></p> <p>None Received.</p>
PR 79/22	<p><b>To consider items for the next meeting on 14th September 2022.</b></p> <p>Away Day Planning to be put on the agenda for the next meeting if the later date is opted for.</p>

Meeting ended at 8:38pm

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR .....**      **DATE .....**