

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 12TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 7:26PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

Present: Cllr T Konieczny (Chair)
Cllr A Wilde (Vice Chair)
Cllr P Bowyer
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr K Eldridge
Cllr C Holland
Cllr M Groucutt
Cllr M Powell
Cllr G Jones
Cllr J George
Cllr L Wright

Absent without apologies

None

In attendance:

S Rosser - Town Clerk

No public session

No public in attendance

FC 32/22	Receive and approve apologies for absence Cllrs Barnes, Brocklesby, Burch, Callard, Nicholson and Strong sent apologies, and it was resolved to accept their reasons for absence.
FC 33/22	Receive Declarations of Interest Cllrs Powell declared an interest in the planning applications for consideration as they sit on MCC Planning Committee.
FC 34/22	To approve the minutes from 13th July 2022. Cllr Bowyer proposed accepting the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Groucutt, and it was resolved by all Councillors present to accept this.
FC 35/22	To receive a report and recommendation on the recruitment to the post of Deputy Town Clerk/RFO. Cllr Konieczny explained that 6 applications were received, and 4 shortlisted for interview. One had to withdraw due to having Covid. It was decided to proceed with interviews of the remaining three candidates. The panel was made up of

	<p>Cllrs Konieczny, Callard and Nicholson and the Town Clerk with Paul Egan from OVW as invigilator.</p> <p>All candidates had TCC experience. Each had to give a 10 minute presentation followed by answering questions from the panel, and lastly complete a 30 minute written test. Two scored very similar marks, and after lengthy discussions a decision was reached. Recommendation has been made to ATC to offer the post to the successful candidate, and confirmation of acceptance will follow in due course once references and qualifications have been verified. It is anticipated they will be able to start in January 2023.</p>
FC 36/22	<p>To consider the following planning applications:</p> <p>DM/2022/00070: Cllr Konieczny explained this is a Change of use from office based to residential home use. No material changes to building. No plans for exterior as yet, just 6 en-suite bedrooms in the property. No reason to object. Been vacant for a while, if put to use it will be of greater benefit rather than being empty. Cllr Simcock said it was a residential dwelling before being converted to offices so good to see it returned to a dwelling. Cllr Holland said it benefits from having its own parking, has slight reservations on the plans but happy to approve at this stage. Cllr Jones said no comments had been received from Grofield residents. Recommendation to approve application proposed by Cllr Konieczny, seconded by Cllr Simcock, and resolved to unanimously recommend approval.</p>
FC 37/22	<p>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to Full Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Forces Champion: Cllr M Powell & Cllr T Konieczny: Cllr Powell said the memorial service for HLM Queen Elizabeth II had been well received at the War Memorial. Meeting RBL on 24th Oct to discuss plans for the Remembrance Parade on 13th November. • Governor of Cantref School: Cllr B Callard • Governor of Deri View Primary School: Cllr G Jones: please check who is down for this as Cllr Jones should only be listed for Ysgol Y Fenni (Town Clerk to clarify) • Governor of King Henry VIII School: Cllr B Nicholson: Cllr Groucutt said that Cllr Nicholson is not on the board but he is at this stage. The Headteacher has now retired, and Mark Stockham has been appointed Head of School in the interim for a year. A new Head Teacher has been appointed and information on this will follow in due course. The playing fields are gone, and temporary tarmac has been laid for interim parking. Floodlights and 3G pitch have been removed and building will start shortly. • Governor of Our Lady & St Michael School: Cllr T Konieczny: numbers have been increasing at the school, and it is the most ethnically diverse primary school in the area. Headteacher Mr Viv Evans has steered the school from strength to strength and they are actively involved in Abergavenny In Bloom, coming 2nd in their category this year. They were the first school to start laying a wreath at the Remembrance Parade. On the face of it they may appear to have lots of children who are disadvantaged but they do so well. In 2017 they had 11% of children receiving free school meals, that has now risen to 28%, and it will keep increasing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor of Ysgol Y Fenni: Cllr G Jones: County Cllr Thomas had asked Cllr Jones how this is going, but he has not yet had any contact from the school. Cllr Groucutt explained anyone who is a governor will need an enhanced DBS check and will need to complete compulsory training. Town Clerk to check with all schools on status of Town Councillors who were nominated to be reps/governors at schools. • King Henry VIII Foundation: Cllr B Nicholson and Cllr B Callard • North Monmouthshire Area Committee: Mayor and Town Clerk • North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee: Mayor and Town Clerk • One Voice Wales: Cllr D Simcock and Cllr T Konieczny – meeting on 20th Oct 22. Larger Councils meeting held today. Opportunity for larger councils to see best practice from across Wales, look at statutory items, and receive presentations from external bodies and WG. Pembrokeshire CC had a toolkit for working with youth which would be worth looking at for the new S&A plan. No point reinventing the wheel. Town Clerk said self assessment toolkit will be circulated to all Councillors so we can pull together training schedule for publishing. Separate finance module on GPOC, which will require set training for Cllrs to acquire sufficient knowledge. Long debate at meeting initiated around the competency of Clerks, and widening of responsibilities and duties. Cllrs will need to be competent and not leave everything on the shoulders of the Clerk, more working together to share knowledge and experience. It's a lot to ask for the £150 a year. With the precept expected to go over £500,000 there will be more big decisions to be made and being more aware of the financial regulations going forward. Need to get our own house in order to be an exemplar of good practice. Cllr Wilde asked what Cllrs should now be doing to prepare? Cllr Konieczny reiterated we can't declare GPoC until we have everything in place and even then we may decide it's not the right thing for us. We will need two years unqualified accounts, the Clerk to have CiLCA, and for ATC to be a democratically elected Council. Not aware of any Councils in Wales that have declared GPoC yet.
FC 38/22	<p>To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Full Council.</p> <p>Cllr Powell said there had been a presentation about the roll out of the 20mph across the county with various views. It has affected things like Firefighter recruitment due to the time needed to get to the station when retained. MCC did receive an email saying that someone had avoided hitting a person who came off their bike in front of their car when doing 20mph = if they had been doing 30mph, they would have hit the cyclist. Cllr Groucutt said that Gwent Police had clocked someone doing 100mph on Hereford Road recently – the Police are doing regular checks from outside the Fire Station in Abergavenny, giving on the spot fines and the option to watch a 10 minute safety film. There is also an issue with cars racing on the A465.</p> <p>Cllr Groucutt clarified about governing bodies for schools. Minor authorities don't nominate Cllrs to sit on boards, that happens at MCC level. 2 types of rep: Minor authority for Primary Schools, Unitary Authority for Secondary. ATC may wish to appoint but have to wait for end of a 4yr term or a resignation. Cllr Groucutt said the A40 bus stop at Tesco had hit a stumbling block. Putting in a new westbound stop involves moving the pedestrian crossing and will</p>

	<p>mean the Eastbound bus stop will have to go. Can't go round by Salvation Army as WG deem this unsuitable. Cllr Wright said various options have been looked at but WG refused all other options. Cllr Bowyer asked how we can communicate our frustration with the process to date? Cllr Simcock said it has been 4 years so far this has been going on for. We hope to have Cllr Griffiths and Mark Hand form MCC at the next meeting so we may be able to get some clarity then.</p>
<p>FC 39/22</p>	<p>To consider items for the agenda of the next Full Council Meeting to be held on 14th December 2022.</p> <p>None received.</p>

Meeting ended 8:18pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR **DATE**