

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 2ND NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

Present: Cllr G Jones (Chair)
Cllr M Powell
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr K Eldridge
Cllr J George
Cllr S Burch
Cllr A Wilde
Cllr M Barnes

Absent without apologies

Cllr M Strong

In attendance:

S Rosser (Town Clerk)
Judith Langdon and Ashley Morgan - MCC

No public session

No public in attendance

PC 42/22	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Nicholson, and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
PC 43/22	Receive Declarations of Interest None received.
PC 44/22	To approve the minutes from 7th September 2022. Minutes of the last meeting proposed as a true record by Cllr Eldridge and seconded by Cllr George, all resolved to accept and approve.
PC 45/22	To receive a presentation from Judith Langdon (Social Justice Innovation Manager) and Ashley Morgan (Community Wellbeing Development Lead) from MCC Cllr Jones welcomed JL and AM to the meeting. JL explained their role is broad – the Social Justice and Communities Team: tackling poverty and inequality. Community Development – place based work. The cost of living crisis has intensified but lots has been going on for a long time. Money Matters campaign

shows collective organisations tackling poverty and makes people aware of what support is there. Normalize asking for help and support. Abergavenny can come across as happy and affluent, but its not the case. There is more going on out there than you think. £20k was spent on targeted social media adverts, posters, leaflets, videos, Sunshine Radio campaign. It was successful in the early days. Last few months more organic methods have come about. Looking at paid advertising again.

Summits: the cost of living summits were well attended. The purpose was to understand what communities are doing to support everyone. Not side-stepping responsibility but more to enable everyone to help each other, like encouraging collaboration between MCC and ATC.

Food Clubs: explicitly to give a helping hand – surplus food on a large scale (whole sale) where membership will be charged then you can spend up to a set threshold to get a higher value of food (eg £5 for £30 of food). Currently opening conversations with partners on this.

AM: Been in MCC for 10 yrs, previously presented to ATC with Nicki Needle and social services. Now in a broader community development role. Work engaged with currently in Abergavenny: 1) Wellbeing Information Centre – housed in the former TIC at the Bus Station. 2) Pavilion, Mardy Park. 3) My Day My Life – living with disabilities and their families. Service review until Feb/March 23. Working with team to develop workable ideas. Community Conversations. 4) |Action Support Network – new project in Gilwern and Llanfoist for a community fridge (stats 10/11/22). All coming form identified projects within the community. Lots of work with the voluntary sector, shared delivery into the community.

Wellbeing Information Centre: In March 2020 MC identified lots of queries and referrals going into Mardy Park, up to 70% were about things other than Social Services needs. More for Information Advice and Assistance. Communities Cabin in Chepstow Community Hospital has been trialled. Need is greater in Abergavenny. Decided on former TIC to house it.

Cllr Eldridge: How effective is the networking with partners across Monmouthshire? How effective is your filtration system into community networks (signposting etc)? AM: Partnership working on Public Service Board communications are really good. Bridges, GAVO, Melin, etc, with MCC Social Services – every single day in meetings with voluntary sector organisations. Really value each other in meetings. JL: Quality of the working relationships have grown and improved. Know what we all do but learning who does what best. Complex landscape to navigate so we assist with understanding needs and signposting correctly. Start with what’s strong, then what’s wrong. Not always about fixing problems.

Cllr George: food club – explain a little more on the concept? JL: A pop up supermarket, somewhere for members to come ad buy products that are dropped off by Fare Share. Can’t guarantee what will be available. Cllr George: Over £15mil in unclaimed benefits – who doesn’t claim, is it a particular group? JL: Not confined to one group. Pension Credits is one big area. Gateway benefits – one may lead to another. Council Tax Benefit is another one.

Cllr Barnes: When is the Wellbeing Information Centre opening? AM: waiting on funding to get better furniture. Someone is there every other day.

Cllr Burch: energy efficiency, is this linking into money matters offer?

Cllr Jones: The more we collaborate, the more we can achieve. We can consider this on budget setting.

	<p>Cllr Jones thanked JL and AM for attending the meeting and ATC look forward to being invited to visit the Wellbeing Information Centre when it is officially opened.</p>
PC 46/22	<p>To receive an update on plans for the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 13th November 2022 from the sub-committee (Cllrs Wilde, Powell and George).</p> <p>Cllr Powell said the last meeting finalised who is doing what and that we are looking for help for afterwards to clear up. Cllr Wilde said the RBL are very organised this year. Cllr Jones asked if there were any volunteers to steward at the event. Cllrs George, Jones and Eldridge offered – town clerk will confirm times and locations. Cllr Jones thanked the sub-committee for their work – this is good for the community.</p>
PC47/22	<p>To receive an update on plans for the Christmas Light Switch On Event for 19th November 2022 from the sub-committee (Cllrs Jones, Nicholson and Eldridge).</p> <p>The Action Plan was shared with Councillors. Posters which had been designed for the events were shared and approved. Stewards were requested for 19th November – please email the Town Clerk asap. Reminder about free parking every weekend in December in all Monmouthshire Car Parks, and free bus travel at weekends for journeys within Monmouthshire. Cllr Eldridge reminded everyone to help get our social media some more traction by using the Christmas hashtag #christmasinabergavenny .</p>
PC 48/22	<p>To receive and note the Town Clerk’s update</p> <p>Report was received and noted. Cllr Eldridge – item 3: Gwent Police – he had chaired an event (Gwent Autism Code of Practice) where all 5 authorities and multi-agency attended. Presentation on how Gwent Police are working with autistic people. After the meeting, discussed further collaboration – Inspectors John Williams and Jodie Davies can come along to deliver the presentation on how they work with disabled residents. Chief Inspector and others may also attend to talk about crime issues in Abergavenny. Cllr Jones also said about discussing the TukTuks currently in storage in the bunker.</p>
PC 49/22	<p>Finance Report – to receive and approve the budget report for specific budgets allocated to this committee</p> <p>Cllr Jones asked councillors to consider budget impacts for 2023/24. Current report noted – proposed to be accepted by Cllr George, seconded by Cllr Barnes. Resolved to be accepted.</p>
PC 50/22	<p>Report from Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny Community Trust – Cllrs Barnes and Jones

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny Eisteddfod – Cllrs Jones and Simcock- date for 2023 events to follow. • Abergavenny Relief In Need Charity – Cllrs Simcock and Wilde – Cllr Wilde had attended their meeting with Cllr Simcock, - investments create money for individuals through agencies. Problem is that agencies aren't finding those 'in need'. People have to be referred by particular agencies to be considered if they are able to access funding support. Cllr Simcock said the model is very limiting. • Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE) – Cllrs Groucutt and Brocklesby • Beaupreau Twinning Association – Cllrs Jones and Simcock – visit to Abergavenny in April 2023 between sports clubs, cultural visit May 2023 to Beaupreau (musical exchange) • Borough Theatre A4B – Cllrs Eldridge and Simcock – Cllr Eldridge advised everyone that there are now Christmas Cards on sale and that staff and volunteers were going for a Christmas Meal. Cllr Burch advised works have slipped, looking to open by Feb 2023. • Mind Monmouthshire – Cllrs Groucutt and Jones • Monmouthshire CAB – Cllrs Barnes and Simcock – Cllr Barnes has written a report which was circulated to all prior to the meeting. Yvonne sent a comprehensive report which will also be shared with Councillors. Development plan is progressing, and they are now moving out to villages to allow access, and incorporating the Welsh Language plus tech development. Keen to recruit more volunteers, looking for anyone to join and train. Very pleased with increased contribution from ATC. A number of initiatives have been enabled by success in gaining funding. Project funding still vulnerable. Embarking on overlap to look at what's happening in the community Councils across Wales – conference in Spring 2023. Want to engage, to encourage funding. Restructured so new CEO is now also in place. MCC have improved Council Tax Support, but increase in debt and energy issues. • Ostringen Twinning Association – Cllrs Simcock and Nicholson
PC 51/22	<p>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Burch responded to PC40/22 that the door in the skate park fence was to enable school children access directly to avoid the roads. Also question on accessible changing places toilet, can this be directed to Ashley Morgan form MCC to see if the new Wellbeing Centre has space for it – possibility to look at Mardy Park but not a central point for town.</p> <p>Cllr Powell said further review is due of the 20mph zones. Cllr Burch said that as a pilot town the learning so far is that unless you change the physical environment and enforcement, it gets ignored. Civil enforcement deal with parked vehicles, Gwent Police deal with moving vehicles. This all goes hand in hand with Active Travel. Budget situation will be biggest effect.</p> <p>Cllr Eldridge asked if the budget will affect ATC. Cllr Burch said lots will – CC has an unprecedented pressure of £8mil shortfall 22/23, and £23mil approx. in</p>

	23/24. That based on what they do now. Cllr Jones said there are a number of factors brought huge pressures to bear – flooding, pandemic, and others. Going to see impact across the board. Powys looking at school closures one day a week.
PC 52/22	<p>Items for consideration at the next meeting 11th January 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from Gwent Police • Coronation planning

Meeting ended 8:47pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR..... DATE