

ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 28TH SEPTEMBER 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 C Holland
Cllr M Groucutt
Cllr M Powell
Cllr B Callard
Cllr MA Brocklesby
Cllr B Nicholson
Cllr B Callard

Absent without apologies

None.

In attendance:

S Rosser - Town Clerk
K Christopher – MonLife MCC
N Mahoney – MonLife MCC

No public session

No public in attendance

PR 80/22	Receive and approve apologies for absence Cllrs Wright, Strong, Wilde, George and Burch sent apologies, and it was resolved to accept their reasons for absence.
PR 81/22	Receive Declarations of Interest Cllrs Callard and Powell declared an interest as both set on MCC planning committee. They have been advised that they can take part in discussions, however they're not to vote on any planning items on the agenda.
PR 82/22	To approve the minutes from 13th July 2022. Minutes were proposed as being a true record by Cllr Simcock and this was seconded by Cllr Holland. This was resolved to be accepted by all councillors present.

PR 83/22

Nicola Mahoney and Kelly Christopher – MCC Youth Services – presentation on Summer Play Scheme.

Cllr Bowyer welcomed Nicola Mahoney and Kelly Christopher from MonLife to the meeting. They work as part of the team providing youth club services at the cabin in Abergavenny. They talked Councillors through a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the year six Tuesday youth club already has 50 to 60 children signed up. Each primary school in Abergavenny is approached.

1-2-1 Mental health support is provided 5 days a week both at school and the youth centre as well as group therapy. this forms part of the shift project. They actively encourage engagement with the local youth council E2C. they provide a six week transition programme covering subjects such as smoking mental health bullying etc.

a level 1 course in well-being is taught to students that don't fit in mainstream school. A new project where youth staff will be on call for problem students from King Henry school will see students sent to the youth cabin to learn in that environment instead of being excluded and sent home.

Nicola and Kelly would like to approach ATC for a 5000 pound contribution to cover costs for transport for trips, workshop delivery, food and equipment.

Cllr Groucutt Explained that he is the cabinet member for education at MCC. He stressed the importance of these projects to ATC. Everything MCC do has two measures of effectiveness. These are the climate emergency and disadvantaged poverty areas. This project will affect those in disadvantaged homes add appealed to ATC to support this.

Cllr Konieczny Request for funding infers that other funding has already been secured. How much is MCC putting in to this project? Kelly explained that they sell products in the centre and funds from the tuck shop and Subs go towards the half term provision. Like the summer project that is already supported by ATC. Cllr Konieczny Explained he visited the leisure centre to see the summer provision for the younger children and were surprised it was only for this age group. Teenagers are a hard to reach group and they are not being catered for. Some leeway is there to give grants but 5000 pounds is a big ask. ATC always look to see if projects have got match funding. If MCC are doing this then ATC can consider it.

Cllr Barnes Asked if this is for 11 to 25 year olds and how many staff cover the project? Kelly and Nicola explained that the five youth workers covering Abergavenny and Monmouth have one to one work with five youths each and there is a waiting list. The youth centre caters on average for 20 to 30 teenagers per night that it opens.

Cllr eldridge Asked if Abergavenny town council are the only ones they've approached and if so why us? Kelly explained ATC have been very supportive of what they do and the previous support has been very beneficial.

Cllr Nicholson Commented that it is a great provision particularly the food aspect.

Cllr Jones The interventions are good value for money but how much of a difference has the cabin made? Nicola pointed out but the numbers of teenagers reached has gone up from 1168 to 1341.

Cllr Powell Commented that the town council should look after the children of Abergavenny as they are our future.

	<p>Cllr Callard Said thank you for your work and explained the money that is spent at that age is a good investment. Kelly and Nicola thanked ATC and appreciate the opportunity to discuss their venture with us. Left the meeting 7:22pm</p>
PR 84/22	<p>To receive a verbal update on the recruitment of the Deputy Clerk, and to nominate members from the Town Council to sit on the Recruitment Panel.</p> <p>The Town Clerk updated ATC on the recruitment process for a deputy town clerk. Six applications had been received and we now require a recruitment panel to be created. Cllr Konieczny said this needs to be a balanced panel. Cllrs Nicholson, Callard, Simcock, Wilde, Barnes, Powell and George all put their names forward. The Mayor, Cllr Konieczny, will chair the Panel, and both the Town Clerk and Paul Egan from OVW will be present. Once the short listing has taken place the Town Clerk will contact Councillors to ensure there is no conflict of interest and that the interview times booked for the 11th of October are suitable.</p>
PR 85/22	<p>To discuss and approve plans for ATC Away Day on Saturday 1st October 2022.</p> <p>The draft agenda for the away day has been circulated. Cllr Bowyer asked all Councillors to look at the current strategy and action plan before the day. Cllr Groucutt explained that 5 years ago a similar day was had and this was very important as it gave focus for the legal duties and more importantly set out our stall and how we deliver it. The town has been transformed. Lots talk about quality of the town, we set objectives, some were hard edged, and they all contribute to this. This new council should go through this process again. Discussion groups should be a combination of old and new Councillors. This will help to share the vision and maintain the push for improvements. Abergavenny is a destination which can bring in millions. The away day is key to setting out and measuring this. Cllr Powell reflected Cllr Groucutt's comments saying Abergavenny is a shining light. Cllr Bowyer asked all Councillors to ensure they make every effort to attend.</p>
PR 86/22	<p>To consider a report and draft policies for the nominations of recipients for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Good Citizens Award b) Honours Board c) Freeman/Freewomen <p>Cllr Konieczny multiple policies have been circulated for the three awards and in the Clarks bundle there is a legal note from SLCC regarding the 1974 act and the ability to confer the title of honorary Burgess. This was only granted to three cities in Wales. ATC have a board for this honour yet up to 2010 no town or community councils could appoint this honorary title. Since then very strict rules regarding freeman or freewoman have come into force. So we have an illegal board with one on their still in existence we need to look and adopt these new policies for the future as it would be tricky to change anything in the immediate circumstance. The policies are straight forward. The Honours board works well. The Freeman/Freewoman policy is for the future, but the Good Citizens award is for Abergavenny Town Council to award. The Chronicle and</p>

	<p>ATC ran a scheme this year which didn't quite work. ATC may want to recognise an individual's contribution, so we can recognise that and present a scroll with a small ceremony in the Mayor's Parlour.</p> <p>Cllr Bowyer asked Councillors to go through the three policies that have been proposed. He asked for any comments on the Good Citizens award. None were received, and it was proposed to accept this policy by Cllr Callard and seconded by Cllr Powell. This was resolved to be approved by all Councillors present.</p> <p>The Honours board policy was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Holland and seconded by Cllr Powell. All Councillors resolved to approve this policy.</p> <p>The Freeman and Freewoman policy was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Nicholson and seconded by Cllr Simcock. This was resolved to be approved by all Councillors present.</p> <p>The Town Clerk will get these translated and listed as new policies going forward.</p> <p>Cllr Simcock expressed a vote of thanks to Cllr Konieczny for his work on these policies.</p>
PR 87/22	<p>To receive report and approve expenditure on purchase and installation of new IT equipment.</p> <p>Cllr Bowyer asked for any questions based on the report and quote provided for the IT equipment provision. Cllr Callard commented the screen seems particularly good value and the hardware seems good. Cllr Jones said that we have to fulfil a legal requirement of providing hybrid meetings. Costs look good on the attached quote. Makes sense to do this in one hit, as it's a statutory requirement, and we currently rely solely on being able to use the Community Room that MCC provide. It will make things a lot easier to have the facility in the Mayors Parlour, and to be able to access all files remotely and securely to enable hybrid working. Recommendation to approve the expenditure and installation of the equipment by Cllr G Jones, seconded by Cllr Holland, and resolved to be accepted by all councillors present.</p>
PR 88/22	<p>To receive a report and approve expenditure for lighting of the clock faces of town hall clock.</p> <p>Report of quote to light up the clock faces of the Town Hall was received by Councillors. Town Clerk reminded ATC that MCC are paying around £40k to renovate the Town Hall Clock and have it automated. Recommendation from Cllr Callard to accept the report and proceed with the quote provided by Technical Manager from the Borough Theatre. Seconded by Cllr Barnes. Resolved to approve by all Councillors present.</p>
PR 89/22	<p>Finance: To approve months 4 and 5.</p> <p>Finance report presented to ATC, months 4 & 5 no anomalies to report. Cllr Bowyer has been through the report and there are no issues. Cllr Jones queried if there was an update on the Dog Bin contracts - Town Clerk reported no resolution had been reached from the tender process currently underway with MCC and all TCC's in Monmouthshire. Cllr Barnes asked for an update</p>

	<p>on the outstanding invoice for the Toilet Provision – Town Clerk advised there was still no sign of the Final Draft SLA after the meeting in March 2022. Cllr Konieczny proposed to accept the finance reports for Months 4 & 5, seconded by Cllr Jones. All councillors present resolved to accept the reports.</p>
PR 90/22	<p>To receive and note the Audit Report from Audit Solutions.</p> <p>Cllr Bowyer said it was a very positive report and the Town Clerk was thanked for her work on this. Councillors resolved to accept the report.</p>
PR 91/22	<p>To receive and note an update from the Town Clerk.</p> <p>The Town Clerk’s report was received and resolved to be accepted by all councillors present.</p>
PR 92/22	<p>To receive a verbal Training Update.</p> <p>Town Clerk shared the most recent training schedule as updated by the admin officer. This will be shared imminently on the website as per new statutory obligations. Some Cllrs still have no training listed as being undertaken, yet there will have been training delivered to those at a County Level, so please notify the Clerk or Admin of any training undertaken. Cllr Konieczny reminded ATC that we have paid for one year’s access to the Planning Aid Wales portal and recommends all Councillors undertake this training. There is a step-change from Welsh Government to empower local councils to grow locally and we have a responsibility to do this to the current best practice.</p>
PR 93/22	<p>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny Eisteddfod – Cllrs Jones and Simcock • Borough Theatre MCC / ATC Collaboration – Cllrs Groucutt and Konieczny • Mind Monmouthshire <p>Cllrs Simcock and Jones had no update from the Abergavenny Eisteddfod group.</p> <p>Cllrs Konieczny and Groucutt – Borough Theatre update: meeting was postponed but can share that there has been a delay to the opening now until January 2023. Lots of reasons for this and the inevitable issues arising through supply chains and cost rises. Huge disappointment for all from artists to audiences. There is one opportunity to get this right, so decision taken to push back to January 23. Mayors Charity Performance by Daniel Morden will be on 28th January 2023 including raffle, and all proceeds will go to the Mayors Charities. Cllr Groucutt also added he had spoken to the CEO at MCC and asked for a report on the theatre project. It has been accepted there were errors in project management. MCC accept responsibilities in the chopping and changing of senior roles at MCC which had an effect. Dave Baxter has been praised for his efforts throughout.</p> <p>MIND Monmouthshire Cllr Groucutt explained the last meeting clashed with one at MCC so he was unable to attend. New trustee has been appointed – Peter Marsh Jenks – and it has been very helpful to have his expertise. Dramatic improvement in the training now available.</p>
PR 94/22	<p>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny</p>

	<p>relevant to this Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Barnes explained he had met with Paul Keeble regarding the Castle Meadows development with the Promobility Group and they have been told the trial gate will be installed in October. Also the pedestrian Crossing on Tudor Street has been requested to be included in plans for the Meadows Scheme. Cllr Powell confirmed the bridge works had been approved and started previously but were stopped by NRW, the decision is now anticipated to come shortly from NRW then the bridge info can be submitted once again. Cllr Groucutt – cabinet for Education – 3-19 School Head has been appointed; announcement will follow shortly.</p>
PR 95/22	<p>Planning Applications for consideration:</p> <p>DM/2022/01302: A welcome reinstatement to the shop front of the Air Ambulance building. Proposal more in keeping with the street scape. Great deal to commend when landlord looks to improve a building in this way. Recommend approval.</p> <p>DM/2022/01595: Tentatively approved this subject to access and parking. New submission, major objections from Highways and NRW. Wider question: is it a good idea to increase housing stock? Cllrs agreed Yes. Permitted development as long as it is in compliance with necessary developments. A40 may be adopted in future by MCC from SWTRA, promoting change of use to this road. NRW have highlighted the issue around phosphate capture for the development. Cllr Jones said many objections have been received, many not applicable, but some regarding the A40 are of merit. Cllr Simcock agreed we should respond with a recommendation of approval with reservations. Conflict around the entry point with the garage. Cllr Callard has spoken to a few residents on Avenue Road, who say the 3 storey development will overlook gardens plus concerns over increased traffic. Cllr Holland asked if they can consider lowering the height of the build. Cllr Konieczny said a precedent was set with the Melin Homes development on St Michaels Road which is three storeys, where similar objections were received. This is a nice development, we could recommend that 35% of the site be affordable housing for the town. Cllrs resolved to approve the accommodation scheme with reservations – it must be in compliance with MCC Highways recommendations, and phosphate requirements from NRW. Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Eldridge, all approved response.</p>
PR 96/22	<p>To consider items for the next meeting on 12th October 2022.</p> <p>Any items for the next agenda to be sent to the Town Clerk as soon as possible.</p>

Meeting ended at 8:40pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR DATE