

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 1ST MARCH 2023 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

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

Absent without apologies

None

In attendance:

S Rosser (Town Clerk)
Rosemary Williams and Nicola Morris (Abergavenny Eisteddfod)

No public session

No public in attendance

PC14/23	Receive and approve apologies for absence. None received.
PC15/23	Receive Declarations of Interest None received.
PC16/23	To approve the minutes from 11th January 2023. Councillor George proposed the minutes from the meeting on 11 th January 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record, and this was seconded by Councillor Powell. All Councillors resolved to accept and approve.
PC17/23	To receive a presentation from Jodie Davies and John Williams from Gwent Police. The Town Clerk apologies to the Committee as at the time of the meeting starting no apologies had yet been received, and no contact had been made by Cllr Eldridge who had arranged the presentation with the current Inspectors. Town Clerk to extend the invitation once more for the May meeting.

PC18/23

To receive a request from Abergavenny Eisteddfod for financial support.

Cllr Jones welcomed RW and NM from the Abergavenny Eisteddfod Committee to the meeting. RW explained that former Cllr Doug Edwards and his late wife Edna had worked very hard to re-establish the Eisteddfod in Abergavenny. They are keen for youngsters to have the opportunity to showcase the talent in Abergavenny and its outlying areas. It helps to give confidence in life by going on stage in front of an audience. 6-14yrs covers the 'young people's section', then 15ys + is covered by the Adults. The Young People's competition is being held at the end of March. Schools give venues for the preliminary rounds in the build up to the main event. They have had to rearrange a few of these due to ongoing strike action. KHS host the main event on Saturday 25th March. There are professional adjudicators for the preliminaries and the main event. Money is used for medals presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the lower school categories, with monetary prizes for upper school entries. Art, craft and photography sections used to be run by ATC, and this moved across to the Abergavenny Eisteddfod to manage this. These sections give others the opportunity to enter if singing and dancing is not their strong suit. They have had lots of success stories, with students going on to music and drama college. It gives opportunities for people from far and wide. They enjoy coming here. They are dedicated to making this a success. ATC did start the 'off stage' competition. This is the first time Abergavenny Eisteddfod have been asked to come in to present to the People and Communities Committee. Lots goes into the trophies, medals, certificates and prize money. They are grateful to ATC for listening to their request for continued financial support.

Cllr Powell said she supports anything where children can further their talents and confidence.

Cllr Jones asked how much the Committee were looking for financially? RW apologised as their treasurer has been very poorly so they haven't been able to complete the last request for the £1k grant funding which was previously agreed. In total they need £1050 for the Children's Eisteddfod. The Town Clerk explained that with the information RW had provided this evening the grant could now be completed, and suggested a new meeting be set up to draft a multi-year funding request with firm deliverables to ensure support going forward. Cllrs Simcock and Jones to meet with the Town Clerk to look at this. Cllr Barnes asked if the money from the grant would be sufficient for March 2023? RW confirmed they covered the 2022 event from their own funds so this money was now needed and would be sufficient.

NM said previously they used to hold a grand finale and gala in the Borough Theatre and wondered if costs for the hire of the venue could be considered in the new agreement? Adults come from all over Wales to compete and the next time this will happen will be June 2024. They also need to find a new home or large space to house the models that get handed in for judging for the Arts crafts and photography section? Cllr Jones said ATC would need to have a think about this, approach a few community groups and local halls to see what may be available. It may be possible for them to be displayed on the Mezzanine in the Library.

The next meeting of the Eisteddfod Committee is Monday 20th March 2023 at 11am in the Trading Post. Cllr Jones thanked RW and NM for their time and

	<p>presentation, and expressed his pride that ATC continue to support such important cultural events and look to build on this in the future.</p>
PC19/23	<p>To discuss arrangements for the King’s Coronation in May 2023</p> <p>Town Clerk explained the concept from the Eden Project with regard to building on the Big Lunch initiative set up 12 years ago. This was used last year to encourage street parties for the Platinum Jubilee Events in June 2022 to great effect. Details from the Eden Project had been circulated to Councillors. Would Councillors want a similar event to be considered for the Coronation this year? Cllr Jones proposed we look to hold a street party event in the Market Hall as ATC did last May, this was seconded by Cllr Eldridge. And approved by all. Cllrs Barnes and Wilde volunteered to be stewards. Cllr Jones said the Platinum Jubilee event was great – the Market Hall is a brilliant space so ATC would need to look at how we fund this and set about organising this asap.</p>
PC20/23	<p>To receive a report on the Events planned for Abergavenny in 2023.</p> <p>Cllr Jones summarised the meeting held 8th February 2023 on Teams. There had been a few clashes of events highlighted, particularly 24th June 2023 with both Abergavenny Pride and Armed Forces Day being the same date. Great to sit down and talk over forthcoming events. New events have been added and their organisers added to our Events Listing. Kieran Gething is holding a boxing event I the Market Hall in April, and Gary Smith has been added as the rep for the Environment Fair on 1st October.</p> <p>Cllr Nicholson asked who we reach with this meeting, and if we are reaching beyond the business community with this? Do we link in with new people/businesses coming to the town who may want to get involved? Cllr Jones said it would be good to have community input. Cllr Nicholson asked if we could set another online meeting for this month. Town Clerk to look at date and send out invite.</p>
PC21/23	<p>Finance Report – to receive and approve the budget report for specific budgets allocated to this committee.</p> <p>Town Clerk went through the budget headings for People and Communities explaining any under or overspends. No questions were raised. Cllr Jones proposed the report as an accurate record, seconded by Cllr Barnes, with all Councillors resolving to receive the report presented.</p>
PC22/23	<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 Cllr Barnes had asked the Town Clerk to circulate the written report he had produced which had been received by all Councillors. Cllr Barnes said they are doing really well, that staff funding had been sorted via Garfield Weston . Usage of the centre is increasing. Looking to secure funding for new windows. Board members had resigned but there was no need to replace them due to

new streamlined way of working. Car park is still on a short lease, looking to get a longer lease for both the building and car park. Cllr Nicholson thanked Cllr Barnes for his report and its great to see how well the centre is doing.

- **Abergavenny Eisteddfod – Cllrs Jones and Simcock**

- **Abergavenny Relief In Need Charity – Cllrs Simcock and Wilde**

Cllr Simcock: Very little engagement despite a campaign to show they are there, but they can only offer help via references they receive.

- **Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE) – Cllrs Groucutt and Brocklesby** Cllr Jones to assist in finalising their agreement which was due to be completed and signed after their presentation in June 2022 on the agreement of a stakeholder meeting with other funders being arranged. Cllr Groucutt and Brocklesby are currently reps for ATC on this but this may need reviewing.

- **Beaupreau Twinning Association – Cllrs Jones and Simcock** Mr Prosser had been in to see Town Clerk about advertising the music competition in May as they are struggling to find a group that can go to represent Abergavenny.

- **Borough Theatre A4B – Cllrs Eldridge and Simcock** Cllr Eldridge said they had been talking about the costs for staging a panto. Their meeting had been joined by MCC officials as A4B said Borough Theatre didn't want to work with them. ATC want to make sure the Borough Theatre continues to be supported and supportive. Cllr Jones said we put in a large amount of funding to the Theatre, so can we possibly facilitate a meeting between the groups? Not sure we can do anything. Cllr Burch said relationships had become difficult and over personalised. Now that the theatre is managed through MonLife, what is the key role of A4B going forward? How do they see their role? Cllr Eldridge proposed we invite A4B, Borough Theatre and MonLife reps together to talk about a way forward. Cllr Powell said that costs are more, which is one issue A4B have. They always worked well together in the past. Cllr Simcock said that as a rep previously, the first meeting he went to was so acrimonious it led to him not attending any others! It would be good to establish what A4B's function is going forward. They are no longer 'management' for the Theatre now it is no longer a Trust. Cllr Jones asked Cllr Eldridge to explore A4B's plans and role, to speak to their chair and secretary to look at a way forward. Cllr Eldridge said A4B feel like they aren't being listened to. Cllr Burch said the last meeting was intended as a step forward, as community groups are coming back – there is a balance to be struck between community and professional use. Renovations designed a space for the widest possible range of uses to be able to put on an exciting programme. Cllr Eldridge said a face to face meeting will help to break down the barriers and be future focused.

Cllr Jones said if the Committee is happy, that he proposes a meeting be set up with the Chair and Secretary of A4B, reps from MonLife, Borough Theatre and ATC. Seconded by Cllr Eldridge, all Councillors agreed. Cllr Powell said due to things being different its all strange and new, so in the past A4B did front of house and volunteered, so they felt they belonged. Happy balance with local performers so everyone is reassured.

- **Mind Monmouthshire – Cllrs Groucutt and Jones** No Update

- **Monmouthshire CAB – Cllrs Barnes and Simcock** Cllr Simcock - due to illness unable to make meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ostringen Twinning Association – Cllrs Simcock and Nicholson Mr Woodhouse had presented to the last Full Council about the possibility of the group wanting to ask for a civic reception should the Ostringen contingent decide to visit this year.
PC23/23	<p>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Burch said MCC are waiting to here for WG on whether they have been successful in securing funding for the continuation of playschemes. Cllr Powell said they had been tied up with debating the budget. Cllr Burch said an energy efficiency scheme offering help to rural households could be useful for some in Llanwenarth Citra. Solar PV, Insulation, heat pumps etc.</p>
PC24/23	<p>Items for consideration at the next meeting 3rd May 2023</p> <p>Town Clerk advised this falls between the two bank holidays and is directly before the Coronation, so an additional meeting may be required to authorise any expenditure for celebrations for the Coronation.</p> <p>Invite to be extended to Gwent Police again.</p>

Meeting ended 8:11pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR..... DATE