

ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 11TH
JANUARY 2023 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS &
IN THE MAYORS PARLOUR, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENTNY**

Present: Cllr B Nicholson (Vice 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)
Amanda Smith – Wellbeing Ukrainian Support Officer MCC
Cllr P Bowyer

No public session

No public in attendance

PC 01/23	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Jones, and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
PC 02/23	Receive Declarations of Interest None received.
PC 03/23	To approve the minutes from 2nd November 2022. Minutes from the last meeting on 2nd November 2022 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Wilde, and seconded by Cllr Simcock, approved by all Councillors present. Resolved to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.
PC04/23	To receive a presentation from Gwent Police. Apologies had been sent from Gwent Police that due to unforeseen operational issues they were unable to attend the meeting as intended so no presentation was received. Postponed to the next meeting on 1st March 2023.

PC05/23

To receive a verbal presentation from Amanda Smith – Ukrainian Support Officer North Mon.

Cllr Nicholson welcomed Amanda Smith to the meeting. AS works with the Wellbeing Team at MCC. The team are managed by a social worker, and there are a variety of backgrounds working within the team. 2 work with the general public across Monmouthshire, and 2 work specifically with Ukrainian guests and their hosts in Monmouthshire. This was under the Homes for Ukrainians Scheme. They talk to people who would benefit from support to find what matters to them. They make contact through community visits and can use various platforms like What's App to engage with people. Depending on the initial improvement to wellbeing consultation helps guide their support plan. Quite open-ended, and work with people from 18 – 80. They can also signpost to other services. Easy to access – simply make contact – no criteria, just call or email. AS and her colleague work with banks, GP's school admissions, transport issues, community events, employment, sports and after-school clubs, volunteering and more. They support hosts as it can be a challenge. There has been incredibly generous support in Monmouthshire. There can be occasional misunderstandings and issues which AS helps to mediate. They are different to other support agencies, they don't claim to be experts, but they try to be aware of what is available in the community. No time limit or constraints to accessing and offering services. Encourage self-referrals to eliminate barriers. Community and social justice team oversees them.

Cllr Nicholson thanked AS for her presentation. Cllr Wilde asked what the greatest need is? AS said housing at the moment – host placements were for 6 months that were extended and this is now coming to the end. Working with people with permanent homes now which then leads to other support needs. Cllr George asked for an explanation of PPN in the presentation – Public Protection Notice – AS explained this comes under the jurisdiction of safeguarding and the Police report these e.g. if there was a disturbance at a house for instance.

Cllr Barnes asked about access to resources – do people pay their way or can MCC assist financially? AS wasn't sure that MCC would be doing this, but there are some grants out there, like DAF funding, household furniture and white goods support. Housing scheme in private sector gets support to set up home.

Cllr Simcock asked what practical help in Housing is available to Ukrainians and do they get expedited via a point system? AS explained that Home search app does sort this, via their system. There is a Housing Gateway Team. If a family find their own accommodation then MCC could assist with bonds and deposits process. Social Housing follow the same process as Welsh Citizens. Homeless Duties also applies and would raise banding accordingly. They support only Ukrainian refugees, around 100-250 in total.

Cllr Nicholson asked if people have refugee status or asylum seekers? AS said refugees are refugees, had separate support system to award status under a new scheme to offer swift support. 3yrs right to remain. Cllr Nicholson then asked about the integration into the community, and allowing Ukrainians to access support to help themselves. AS said it would be worth considering, but nothing is in the pipeline at present. Finding lots gets through naturally.

	<p>Coffee morning is a valuable way to get information out there. Want to help them help themselves where they are capable to do so.</p> <p>Cllr Powell asked about where some are in jobs, are employers encouraged to support them? AS said its not a given, but some may do so as a good citizen. Lots of professional Ukrainians are unable to work in anything other than low skilled jobs, and are unable to use degrees and qualifications they've got. Trying to encourage their language skills and improve English Skills.</p> <p>Cllr Eldridge asked how children are coping being integrated into local schools. As said she hears very good things from local primary schools like Deri View, but older children may have psychological issues and trauma which needs additional support. Most families are very happy with the education arrangements. Support is given on a case by case basis. Currently 30 people supported by each officer.</p> <p>Cllr George asked if any provision has been made should 3 years of support not prove to be enough? Particularly the younger people now living here, forming relationships and adopting the lifestyle here. AS said it is difficult to know what will happen.</p> <p>Cllr Eldridge asked what local churches roles are in support. AS knows Gateway Church is offering food hampers and warm spaces.</p> <p>Cllr Nicholson thanked AS for her presentation, great to generate interest and questions. AS contact details will be circulated by the Town Clerk.</p>
PC06/23	<p>To receive a report from the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 13th November 2022 from the sub-committee (Cllrs Wilde, Powell and George).</p> <p>Report received and noted. Cllr Nicholson requested if Cllrs George, Wilde and Powell are happy to continue in the roles of sub-committee for the Remembrance Parade. All agreed. Meeting to be arranged in due course.</p>
PC07/23	<p>To receive a report from the Christmas Light Switch On Event for 19th November 2022 from the sub-committee (Cllrs Jones, Nicholson and Eldridge).</p> <p>Report received and noted. Cllr Eldridge asked if a physical meeting with the Y Fenni Business Community and others could be arranged, to generate ideas and promote the Christmas build-up. A handful will interact, but how do we get more to come on board?</p> <p>Cllr Nicholson said feedback from YFBC would be useful – if we meet online to see how we can move forward.</p> <p>Cllr Burch said the Food Festival have a large number of stewards that get paid for their support – could we investigate replicating this? Maybe a volunteer opportunity for 6th Formers? Training in H&S and how to be a steward?</p> <p>Cllr Eldridge said it would be good to ask Kim Waters from the Food Festival about the stewards and how they are trained. Cllr Nicholson said the pitch would need to be worded in a way that it benefits volunteers. Cllr Burch suggested looking at paid security for events. Cllr Wilde suggested if we get dates when stewards are needed out there then people can diarise it and make themselves available, which Cllr Nicholson echoed. It would be good to meet as a sub committee and see who else would be interested. Cllrs Jones, Nicholson and Eldridge happy to continue in this role. They will look at the</p>

	design and scope, and the lights tender. Christmas Light Switch On Date to be Saturday 18th November 2023.
PC08/23	<p>To consider a report on Events Planning and resourcing for 2023 and beyond.</p> <p>Report received and noted, Cllr Nicholson asked everyone to look at version one, speak to ESAG to ensure all points are covered. Bullet point on one side of A4, to be collated by Town Clerk, and bring back as soon as possible. Look at resourcing and diarising as soon as possible.</p>
PC09/23	<p>To receive and note the Town Clerk's update.</p> <p>Report received and noted. Cllr George said a previous Council gave out Jubilee Mugs, so every child in every school in the former Bryn y Cwm Area received one. This may cause controversy. Cllr Nicholson asked if anyone wanted to do an event, and if so, how do we resource it? Cllr Eldridge asked what has the Council done previously, and the Town Clerk only has the Platinum Jubilee to compare to. Cllr Nicholson said it would depend on the the community and their expectations. Cllr Burch will discuss with the Borough Theatre what they may have planned as well as other event planners in the town. Some will want to mark the occasion the bank holiday weekend. Look to connect with community groups to see if anyone already has plans as time is tight.</p>
PC10/23	<p>Finance Report – to receive and approve the budget report for specific budgets allocated to this committee.</p> <p>Finance report explained by the Town Clerk. Finance report was received and proposed as a true record by Cllr George, seconded by Cllr Barnes, and all councillors resolved to accept the report as a true and accurate record.</p>
PC11/23	<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 • Abergavenny Eisteddfod – Cllrs Jones and Simcock • Abergavenny Relief In Need Charity – Cllrs Simcock and Wilde – • Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE) – Cllrs Groucutt and Brocklesby • Beaupreau Twinning Association – Cllrs Jones and Simcock • Borough Theatre A4B – Cllrs Eldridge and Simcock • Mind Monmouthshire – Cllrs Groucutt and Jones • Monmouthshire CAB – Cllrs Barnes and Simcock • Ostringen Twinning Association – Cllrs Simcock and Nicholson <p>No reports received, request from Cllrs Groucutt and Jones for someone to attend the Mind Monmouthshire meeting as neither can attend. Cllr Wilde volunteered.</p>

PC12/23	<p>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Burch said their meeting with the Community Growing Initiative at Nevill Hall Hospital had gone well. The new unit build is starting soon. Community Involvement to bring the woodland up tot spec again. Cllr Simcock said they met with tom Williams, and MCC officers. Early days, field beyond the hospital site that could be used as a growing space. Cllr Burch said the potential for similar 'friends' group to be set up for historic gardens that are there. May be time to re-establish the Allotment Sub-group. There is a scoping paper being looked at for the provision in town, survey the needs and potential sites. Town Clerk to check where this should sit going forward.</p> <p>Cllr Burch said that public toilets at Scrutiny committee on 12th January will be discussing WHL. Tudor Street had been a big issue and is now coming to Full Council at MCC to discuss. Social Services are conducting a review to report back on. Cllr Powell said it was a front facing club for people to meet and is needed in the town. They need a focus to give a space for them to continue to meet and socialise. Cllr Burch said a day centre provision was no longer appropriate, but they recognise the need for a social space.</p> <p>Cllr Burch said the gate for the Meadows in coming next week. Bridge should be coming in the summer. Results on the drainage tests due soon. Flexi-pave and other surfaces are still being investigated.</p>
PC13/23	<p>Items for consideration at the next meeting 1st March 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from Gwent Police • Events Meeting feedback

Meeting ended 8:43pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR..... DATE