

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 29TH MARCH 2023 AT 7:00 PM ON MS TEAMS, & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.

Present: Cllr T Konieczny (Chair)
Cllr C Holland (Vice Chair)
Cllr M Barnes
Cllr P Barnes
Cllr K Eldridge
Cllr G Jones
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr L Wright

Absent without apologies

None.

In attendance:

S Rosser - Town Clerk

No public session

No public in attendance

E26/23	To receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received for Cllr George, and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
E27/23	To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda No declarations of interest were received.
E28/23	To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 22nd February 2023 Cllr Bowyer proposed that the minutes from the meeting held 22 nd February 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting and this was seconded by Cllr Holland. All Councillors resolved to accept these as a true record.
E29/23	To receive a presentation and cooperation agreement proposal from Laurie Jones Community Orchard Cllr Konieczny explained that the Laurie Jones Community Orchard committee sent their apologies that the agreement was not yet ready to be presented to ATC and requested to attend the next meeting on 26 th April 2023. All Councillors resolved to accept this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

E30/23	<p>To receive a verbal update on the Gwent Green Grid Partnership's Greater Gwent Goes Wild Event on 20th May 2023 in Bailey Park.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny explained that Colette Mooney had requested a meeting with ATC about the event on 20th May 2023 in Bailey Park at the former Lido end of the park. Poster circulated explained the event details. Meeting was also attended by Sali Palmer who is the Local Places for Nature Officer at MCC for a walk around areas that will possibly be looked at for project in the next year. Also working with Hele Fairbanks and Kate Stinchcombe (Biodiversity Officer MCC). Disconnect between MCC Planning and Countryside/Biodiversity teams. Looking at projects for Swan Meadows, green space by Wellbeing Centre, and Morrisons. These may tie in with Jane Clark's FIT project as well. Hoping that all MCC departments will be able to work together to enable the most benefit from the biodiversity gains of the projects.</p>
E31/23	<p>To receive and note an update from the Town Clerk</p> <p>Active travel: Cllr Barnes said that the 12 month trial indicates the scheme is being put back for a year. In reality does this mean nothing happening until next year? Rumours have been rife about the gate and other paths involving tree removal, which hasn't shown in any plans so far. Cllr Konieczny said any planning application would require the removal of mature trees to be stated. So far nothing has been mentioned. It is an emotive scheme and can be divisive. Cllr Barnes asked if we can get confirmation of this. Cllr Simcock said he also gets queries about the removal of trees so asked to be informed of any response ATC may receive on this. Cllr Jones said he goes to the Meadows daily, and has not seen any evidence of investigations for tree removal. Cllr Eldridge asked if we can request an Active Travel Update form Cllr Burch to clarify these points. Cllr Konieczny said this can be requested.</p> <p>AiB: Planters for the town come in a variety of colours but the only recyclable one is in black. This fits with ATC's sustainability agenda through the Climate Emergency Policy. It is also easier to swap new ones in. The current blue planters can't be recycled so will need to be rehomed. Easy to manage, could make good vegetable planters, and are accessible due to their height. To be offered out to the community groups and schools. New planters will be in a variety of styles to suit the different areas around town.</p>
E32/23	<p>To receive and note the Service Delivery update</p> <p>Report noted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept 2. Dog Bin contract 23/24: Proposed to approve the contract with current provider for one year, seconded by Cllr Konieczny. All resolved to accept and approve the contract. 3. Accept. 4. Toilets – SLA altered in clause 3.4 to reflect 2.5% increase requested by P&R 15th March 2023. Proposed to accept SLA and release payments to MCC by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Holland. All Councillors

	resolved to accept and approve the SLA and pay outstanding invoices to MCC.
E33/23	<p>To receive and approve a Finance update on the Environment Budget headings.</p> <p>Error rectified on TIC figures to vire £9k to cover shortfall in budget heading so invoice can be paid.</p> <p>4456 will have final balance once year end is complete.</p> <p>Work on Bus Station beds is likely to be carried out as a community project by Griffiths. This will save us a large amount of money from this budget if we'd had to pay MCC or another contractor.</p> <p>Proposal to accept finance report and Month 11 Figures as a true and accurate record by Cllr Eldridge, seconded by Cllr Bowyer. All Councillors resolved to receive the report as a true and accurate record.</p>
E34/23	<p>To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:</p> <p>00070: Cllr Jones said there are a few local comments about the boundary. Scaling of plans – mostly internal. Cllr Simcock said there is a disputed boundary with nearby homes which is nothing to do with this application. Cllr Jones said there used to be delivery complaints, but there is less traffic of this sort now it is no longer a petrol station. Cllr Konieczny said the refurbishment recommendations ask for soft landscaping onsite – there is none at all. We have a commitment to increase biodiversity – it is disappointing there is no provision to increase biodiversity or improve the visual amenity on site. Civic Society commented as did Abergavenny Transition Towns on same issue. Cllr Barnes commented it is a desert site. Cllr Holland suggested we submit comments to reflect disappointment at lack of landscaping, and reference comments on previous app. Proposal to include comments on biodiversity and previous application – proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Bowyer, all Councillors resolved to accept the proposal.</p> <p>00274: Cllr Simcock said he had received no objections. Cllr Konieczny said it is well designed to good standards, shows the applicant really cares about the improvements being made. Applaud the quality and choice of materials for the construction – good green credentials. Recommend approval.</p> <p>00329: Cllr Jones commented the elevation appears okay. Cllr Wright agreed there seems to be no issues. Recommend approval.</p> <p>00286: No reference to building being listed – major improvement to the building. Cllr Simcock asked if this is retrospective consent? Cllr Holland said they are just bringing things up to date – a vast improvement. Cllr Konieczny said it's possible they weren't aware they needed planning consent for this. Cllr Jones added they may not have known they live in a conservation area. Recommend approval.</p> <p>01595: Old Railway Barracks. Cllr Jones said previously there had been numerous objections across the board on this new build. Parking, pedestrian access and traffic issues not addressed. Cllr Konieczny agreed with this, and</p>

	<p>that we should reiterate the same concerns although some issues have been addressed, many still remain. Cllr Wright agreed with all comments, and has been to visit the site – looking out, it is an imposing build. The effect on traffic due to Baileys and the vets – this will only make things worse. Cllr Konieczny said a resident had commented on the permanent roadworks at the side of Baileys Garage – increasing the capacity would currently be a nightmare. Proposed to note changes of readmission, concerns raised about pedestrian access, parking, and traffic issues, remaining unaddressed, noting the Grofield Cllrs are particularly concerned. Proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Wright, all approved submitting comments with no recommendation.</p> <p>00402: Cllr Bowyer explained there had been a campaign for changes since 2011! In 2017 it snowballed with lots of people involved and signatures collected – this seems fairly close to the 2018 plans. It has been a long time coming. Minor complaints on the ‘looks’ of the bridge. Hugely important for all users particularly mobility scooter users, parents with buggies and those with heavy luggage. Cllr Konieczny said ATC played a pivotal role in getting this through. Comments on structure not being in keeping are unfounded. Ease of access will encourage more users. Cllr Barnes asked does this in any way look at parking at the station, and can we ask Network Rail to use other land nearby to compensate? Cllr Jones said the design is very clever, and it doesn’t interfere with the building or signal sight lines. Proposed recommending approval, seconded by Cllr Bowyer – all resolved to accept recommending approval.</p>
E35/23	<p>Report from Town Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee:</p> <p>ADTA launch – all Councillors are invited to launch evening on 18th April at 5:45pm in the TIC. Please confirm attendance asap.</p> <p>Food Forum – not met</p> <p>Abergavenny In Bloom: Cllr Konieczny said in due course we need to hold another stakeholder meeting and we are looking for more involvement – Opticians on Nevill Street is keen to take on the bed underneath the Birch Tree behind the Hen and Chickens pub. Cllr Eldridge asked if ATC is approaching YFBC? Cllr Konieczny said that he and the Town Clerk have been invited to talk to them at their next meeting to persuade businesses to get involved.</p> <p>CCTV – no report, Cllr Jones said we are asking MCC for more info when cameras are out of action. Lots of ASB issues, looking for meeting or more info.</p> <p>FoLVG: Cllr Simcock had no report, just that works are continuing, and that the house is up for sale again. Cllr Konieczny said that he had spoken to the group about the tree planted for the Platinum Jubilee, it had been snapped again, so won’t grow into a tree. Asked if ATC would consider providing an Almond Tree to replace it? £60 approx and a plaque for the Platinum Jubilee. Checking on garden age – it is around 150 years old, so establishing actual date to plan celebrations of some sort.</p> <p>FoBP: Cllr Barnes said there is an issue being raised about the old toilet block in the far corner of the park. Is anyone doing anything with it? Cllr Konieczny said Cllr Thomas is the Ward Member at MCC so may be able to assist.</p>

