

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 18th MAY 2022 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

Present: Cllr Konieczny (Chair)
Cllr Wilde (Vice Chair)
Cllr Bowyer
Cllr Barnes
Cllr Eldrigde
Cllr George
Cllr Jones
Cllr Nicholson
Cllr Callard
Cllr Powell
Cllr Groucutt
Cllr Simcock

Absent without apologies

Cllr Burch
Cllr Wright

In attendance:

S Rosser - Town Clerk
Owen Davies and Ieuan Best – Smart Towns Presentation
C Were - Press

No public session

No public in attendance

FC 16/22	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Brocklesby, Strong and Holland, and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
FC 17/22	Receive Declarations of Interest None received.
FC 18/22	To approve the minutes from 9th March 2022. Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and proposed as a true record by Cllr Groucutt, seconded by Cllr Jones, and approved unanimously by all councillors present.
FC 19/22	To receive a presentation from Owen Davies and Ieuan Best on Smart Towns.

Owen Davies and Ieuan Davies are Town Centre regeneration Specialists working around the UK. They delivered a PowerPoint presentation, explaining about how they have looked at the problems faced by small towns like Abergavenny and how Digital can assist. Small steps can make a big impact. Smart Towns will enable smaller businesses and organisations to have access to the same data. Smart footfall sensors will be procured and installed around the town centre, which will collect anonymised data which you can then overlay things like weather patterns to measure effectiveness of when promotions may be running. Vivacity centre can be used for public realm monitoring. Abergavenny is the first town for a Digital Place Plan approach by Smart Towns Wales, and OD and IB have identified stakeholder priorities. From implementation to Exploitation - there will be a dashboard to draw out key figures to disseminate via newsletters and emails to local businesses and event organisers.

ATC's role – to package and distribute analytics collected by the sensors via newsletters to provide value and strengthen relations with the business community and event organisers.

Sensors can be used to monitor things like when planters need watering, or bins need emptying. It can monitor noise levels from anti-social behaviour hotspots. They can be used to monitor parking bay availability. The tech is for all – use sensors for the community – it provides open accessible tech for the town. There is funding available from Welsh Government at present and other opportunities will be available for other data/tech devices through grant funding.

Cllr Jones asked about the grant funding, and if this is how Cardigan funded their town app or if its through the Transforming Towns framework. What sort of cost would we be looking at? IB explained LoRa sensors cost between £50-£150 each and they are low cost battery powered units.

Cllr Groucutt commented that ATC priorities in their action plan include a focus for arts and events, so it would be useful to measure the impact of support via this. It will be useful to link with the Business Community. MCC are talking about promoting economic activity in the town. He asked what OD and IB's roles in this will be if we are the catalyst to maximise the potential? IB explained that events and festivals need to track investments and set goals to show how tracked data can work. OD added they are very willing to get this off the ground at no cost and want Abergavenny to be the next Smart Town, getting the right people together. Lots already prepped to go forward and exploit the data.

Cllr Eldridge asked how robust the tech is? IB said the LoRa sensors are radio wave low frequency and the Cisco sensors operate on Wi-Fi access units all outdoor powered and very reliable. OD explained they are already used in Agriculture, to monitor crops stock, machinery, etc. Simply bringing the tech into the urban environment.

Cllr Barnes: understands how they measure lengths of stay, but how do the sensors monitor where people come from, can they be used for things like road safety to give evidence for where more work may need to be done (for instance no right turn on King Street to see effectiveness of signage), are these sensors already being used on Castle Meadows, and the positioning of tech and thinking about the data, how do we put this to be good use, as not sure how useful this will be.

Cllr George asked about the Lion Street sensor already in operation and what is done with that data – was the visual live data? IB explained it was a snapshot of

	<p>a particular day. OD said there is an opportunity in time to be a conduit in the town, to build relationships and use yourselves to provide data for others to use. There has been a blockage historically to get to the right people quickly. This can create bridges, linking machines to recipients. Postcode data is used to gather details on where people travel from via public wifi log-ins around an area via anonymised data.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny: as there is no real organised business club in town, no chamber of trade or commerce, just the Y Fenni Business Community, do they see ATC as being able to use this and have a role to work with the business community going forward? Can the businesses access this data themselves? OD explained ATC would access the dashboard and distribute data. It will have a galvanising effect to utilise the data, MCC currently control the dashboard but keen for ATC to consider this going forward. Cllr Konieczny thanked OD and IB for their presentation, and it is very innovative, and ATC are very interested to see how it progresses.</p>
FC 20/22	<p>To receive and note a report from Lucie Parkin on the Abergavenny Writing Festival 2022.</p> <p>A written report was received from Lucie Parkin and Cllr Konieczny proposed we accept the report and write back to Lucie Parkin to thank her for the report, and that ATC looks forward to receiving an application going forward. Great use of activities, including for young people, and ATC offer every encouragement to continue, wishing them luck for the future.</p>
FC 21/22	<p>To consider items for the agenda of the next Full Council Meeting to be held on 13th July 2022.</p> <p>Councillors are to email any suggestions for the next Full Council Meeting to the Town Clerk, Mayor or Deputy Mayor by 6th July 2022.</p>

Meeting ended 7:45pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR DATE