

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH 2021 HELD REMOTELY USING MS TEAMS

Present:

Chairman - Cllr T Konieczny (Mayor)
Cllr N Tatam
Cllr M Groucutt
Cllr R Harris
Cllr M Harris
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr P Simcock
Cllr T Thomas
Cllr F Morgan
Cllr G Jones
Cllr L Van de Vyver
Cllr MA Brocklesby

In attendance:

J Lee (Town Clerk)
D Baxter (MCC Borough Theatre Manager) for part of the meeting

No public session

84/20	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies received from Cllr Davies for personal reasons, Cllr Burch for personal reasons and Cllr Hickman due to Magistrate commitments. The reasons for absence were approved.
85/20	Receive Declarations of Interest Cllr R Harris is a member of MCC Planning Committee. He took no part in the decision making and voting on planning applications and acted, where required, in a factual advisory capacity.
86/20	Receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th February 2021 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 th February 2021 as an accurate record.
87/20	Receive a presentation by Dave Baxter, MCC Borough Theatre Manager on the designs for the Borough Theatre refurbishment Dave Baxter gave an informative presentation on the latest plans for the refurbishment of the theatre. The seats have already been removed and work to date has focussed on the design and overcoming technical challenges. A principal

	<p>contractor is currently being recruited. The contract now includes an improved heating system which will bring fresh air into the auditorium which is then heated or cooled in addition to the retractable seating, wire tension grid, new toilets and bar/foyer area. Completion expected in Autumn 2021.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked Dave Baxter for giving up this time to present to the Town Council</p>
88/20	<p>To note the Town Clerk’s Update</p> <p>The Town Clerk added to the written report as follows:</p> <p>Bailey Park Gates – One site meeting with MCC Heritage Manager has taken place and the colour samples were rejected. A further site meeting is scheduled for 11th March</p> <p>Town Crew – Meeting between Cllr Konieczny and Cllr Groucutt, Town Clerk and Nigel Leaworthy from MCC is to take place on 12th March</p> <p>RFO/Deputy Town Clerk Vacancy The recruitment panel (Cllrs Morgan, Davies & Town Clerk) agreed not to proceed with interview. Town Clerk to revisit the job description and advert before readvertising.</p> <p>Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Bronze Award Self-nomination approved, certificate and logo received which can be used on Town Council’s website, letterhead etc</p> <p>Cllr Van de Vyver informed Councillors that the street cleaner had been on sick leave for a sustained period in 2020/21 so Town Crew discussions will need to cover how to deal with sick pay and absence.</p> <p>Resolved to note the report</p>
89/20	<p>Receive and endorse the decisions made under delegated authority for the period April 2020-March 2021</p> <p>Resolved to endorse the following decisions made under delegated authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council Response to MCC draft Cycling Strategy • Not to advertise in the Pathfinder magazine for Armed Forces & Veterans • Allocation of £4000 for H2O Cleaning Services to steam clean the town centre funded by a reduction in MCC contribution • Agreement to cover expenses and advertising costs max £200 incurred by Matt Lane as part of VE75 celebrations • Purchase of annual subscription for Planning Aid Wales Online training at a cost of £150 • Agreement of the contractor to construct a cupboard in the Mayor’s parlour at a cost of £6460

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design & print of A5 Welcome Back leaflet and £150 distribution cost (NB distribution cost subsequently reimbursed) • Small grant of £1000 to Abergavenny Community Centre for floor • Donation of remaining Council Chamber tables to Abergavenny Community Centre • Offer of curtains from former Mayors Parlour and Council Chamber to Abergavenny Community Centre and ACE • MCC Christmas Wishes donation of £200 • Agreement of contractor for repairs to stone walls, Castle St raised bed cost £1660 • Frogmore St planter – use of new planter earmarked for outside Café Nero to be used as the replacement for the damaged planter located by Tesco • Agreement not to fund the planting up of the 2 new Lewis Lane planters (funded privately) but to take on the ongoing watering and maintenance • Agreement to reduce the size of the Honours Board so it can fit on a wall in the new Mayor’s Parlour • To change payroll company from Dorrell Oliver to another local accountancy company – EH Accountancy. This will take effect from April 2021 • Agreement of revised figure from MCC for contribution to the public toilets for 2020/21 and 2021/22 • All planning applications from April to June 2020.
90/20	<p>Receive the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2021-22 and agree the discretionary payments in accordance with the IRPW Annual Report 2021-22</p> <p>The Mayor informed Councillors that the proposals in the IRPW report 2021-22 have not changed from 2020-21. Cllr Tatam considered that there should be more discussion on the level of discretionary payments made to Councillors who can claim allowances and other costs such as mileage. Cllrs Thomas and R Harris welcomed that an independent body sets the level of payments and allowances. Cllr Morgan spoke in favour of the level of payments & allowances so that people are not discouraged from being a councillor due to personal financial circumstances.</p> <p>Resolved that the following discretionary payments are made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Payments in respect of travel costs (this remains at 45p per mile) ○ Reimburse subsistence expenses in accordance with list of published rates ○ Pay financial loss compensations for attending approved duties in line with published rates ○ Provide a payment to the Mayor of the Council of £1500, this is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and if relevant the £500 senior salary if these are claimed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide a payment to the deputy Mayor of £500 this is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and if relevant the £500 senior salary if these are claimed <p>And that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor costs set out below are covered by the Civic Budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mileage for Mayoral/Deputy Mayoral duties • Charitable giving (purchasing tickets, making donations or buying raffle tickets) • Clothing
91/20	<p>Receive and approve additional funding for the resurfacing of the hard courts area in Bailey Park</p> <p>The Town Council had initially earmarked £35,000 for the resurfacing of this area. However, quotes have come in higher so a request is made to allocate additional funds to enable this project to go ahead.</p> <p>Cllrs Thomas & Van de Vyver who are ward councillors expressed their support for this project and the ongoing investment in Bailey Park</p> <p>Resolved to allocate an additional £12,000 from reserves to enable this project to go ahead asap and be available for use in late Spring/Summer.</p>
92/20	<p>Receive the Allotments and Community Gardens Survey Results and approve the next steps</p> <p>Cllr D Simcock who is part of the working group introduced the report and talked through the next steps. The conclusions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the number of respondents was limited, there does appear an appetite for more growing space. There is a waiting list for the allotments in Llanfoist of approximately 3 years. • The growing space required is a mix of large plots, small plots, raised beds and shared space so that offers flexibility for the organisations that will potentially providing growing space. • A number of respondents indicated their willingness to consider sharing their large garden thus providing an opportunity to pilot the adopt a garden scheme. <p>Councillors were also informed that Abergavenny Community Trust are interested in being involved in discussions on the Adopt a Garden pilot.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to take forward the following actions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All respondents that provided an email address are sent a summary of the results and details of the next steps. (Town Clerk) ○ All County Councillors in the study area are sent a summary of the results (Town Clerk) ○ The summary is also published on Town Council website and Facebook page (Town Clerk) ○ Initial informal discussion is held with MCC (Estates & Food Development Officer) and MHA (more significant public landowners) prior to a wider meeting (Town Clerk) ○ A Teams meeting is convened by the Town Clerk involving officers and members from MCC including Estates, representatives from Melin Homes, Charter Housing and Monmouthshire Housing Association together with representatives from Abergavenny Town Council and Llantilio Pertholey CC. The purpose of the meeting would be to share findings and seek a commitment to providing a range of additional growing space in Abergavenny. ○ The working group reconvenes to identify any 'quick wins' to capitalise on enthusiasm generated by the survey. ○ Town Clerk contacts CLAS (Community Land Advisory Service) and FCFCG (Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens) and other support agencies to determine available advice and support. ○ To take forward a pilot of the adopt a garden scheme with 10 gardens maximum initially contacting those respondents that highlighted that they had a large garden that they would be willing to share (Town Clerk)
93/20	<p>Consider whether the Town Council should be involved in the NHS Social Care and Frontline Workers Day on 5th July 2021</p> <p>This item is deferred until more information is available</p>
94/20	<p>Receive reports from Councillors attending meetings of external bodies</p> <p>Cllr M Harris attended the CCTV Working Group in February. Cameras throughout the county are being upgraded. Some problems reported with the camera at the bus station, next meeting 8th June so Councillors encouraged to pass on any concerns to Cllr M Harris so she can feed them into discussions.</p> <p>Cllr Groucutt attended Mind Monmouthshire board meeting. Consideration is being given to amalgamating the different Mind groups into Gwent Mind. The Town Council will be consulted on any changes to the organisational structure.</p> <p>Cllr P Simcock reported that she has attended 3 meetings in her capacity as Tackling Poverty Champion. Discussions have been diverse and councillors are encouraged to contact Cllr P Simcock with issues that they would like to raise at future meetings</p>
95/20	<p>Receive and approve the small grants application from Abergavenny Community Trust (power of wellbeing Local Government Act 2000 ss1-5)</p>

	<p>The Mayor informed councillors that the proposal to run the playscheme during Easter holidays may not be permitted if the restrictions are not relaxed. If this is the case the playscheme will be run during a future school holiday.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the application for a grant of £1000 for an outdoor playscheme.</p>
96/20	<p>Receive and comment on the following planning applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM/2021/00034- recommend approval • DM/2021/00178 – recommend approval • DM/2021/00064 – recommend approval • DM/2021/00147 – recommend approval • DM/2021/00285 – recommend approval • DM/2021/01890 – recommend approval

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.30pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN DATE