

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021 HELD REMOTELY USING MS TEAMS

#### **Present:**

Chairman - Cllr T Davies  
Cllr N Tatam  
Cllr D Simcock  
Cllr P Simcock  
Cllr S Burch  
Cllr MA Brocklesby  
Cllr M Groucutt  
Cllr G Jones  
Cllr T Konieczny  
Cllr L Van de Vyver  
Cllr M Hickman  
Cllr R Harris  
Cllr M Harris

#### **Absent without apologies**

Cllr F Morgan

#### **In attendance:**

J Lee (Town Clerk)  
V Pearson for part of the meeting (Director of Melville Centre for the Arts CIC)  
S Rosser (appointee Town Clerk)

No public session 1 member of the public joined after the start of the meeting

50/21	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Apologies received from Cllr Thomas for personal reasons. Reason for absence was approved.
51/21	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  Cllr P Simcock declared an interest in agenda item 3 & 9 as she is Director of Melville for the Arts CIC. Cllr P Simcock left the meeting for agenda item 9 and took no part in the discussion or vote.  Cllr D Simcock declared an interest in agenda item 3 & 9 by association with Cllr P Simcock. Cllr D Simcock left the meeting for agenda item 9 and took no part in the discussion or vote.  Cllr R Harris is a member of MCC Planning Committee. He took no part in the decision making and voting on planning applications.

52/21	<p><b>Receive a presentation from Viv Pearson, Director of Melville Centre for the Arts CIC</b></p> <p>In light of the paper that Councillors are to consider later in the meeting, Viv Pearson one of the directors at Melville for the Arts gave a presentation setting out the work that has been taken to date to strengthen the Board and to agree a way forward for the CIC to undertake a comprehensive refurbishment of the Centre. She also set out short term aspirations in developing a programme of activities and volunteering opportunities. The Board have identified that a Centre Manager is critical for developing activity, running the centre and supporting the Board. An application to the Moondance Foundation has been successful for 50% 12months funding with the Board seeking match funding from Abergavenny Town Council in addition to 100% of year 2 should the Melville Centre for the Arts be unable to secure additional funding for the post.</p> <p>Councillors had the opportunity to ask Viv questions.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor thanked Viv for her presentation.</p>
53/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b></p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 as an accurate record.</p>
54/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b></p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 as an accurate record.</p>
55/21	<p><b>Receive and note the Town Clerk's Update</b></p> <p>Town Clerk reported that there is a site meeting with the contractor regarding several issues with the newly tarmaced surface at Bailey Park. There is evidence of cracking and pooling of water. Also reported that Andrew Mason, Community Safety Officer at MCC had put in a bid for two additional CCTV cameras for Abergavenny</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to note the report</p>
56/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the budget reports for Month 3</b></p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the budget reports for Month 3</p>
57/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the report on the opening of Bailey Park toilets for the school holiday</b></p> <p>Cllr Jones suggested that the toilets should be inspected to ensure that they were up to standard. Cllr Jones and Cllr D Simcock volunteered to do this.</p>

Resolved unanimously to approve the reopening of Bailey Park public toilets 7 days a week from 8am – 5pm commencing 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 ending 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 at a cost of £800 to MCC and £496 for the provision of and emptying of nappy and sanitary bins for the duration

58/21

**Receive and approve the partnering agreement with Melville Centre for the Arts CIC**

Cllrs P & D Simcock left the meeting

Cllr Groucutt as Chair of Policy & Resources Committee spoke in favour of the proposal describing it as an exciting proposal for Abergavenny and one that meets with the Council’s wellbeing objectives. He expressed a view that the centre Manager job would be of interest to more candidates if a 2 year post rather than a 1 year post. He also informed Councillors of the commitment given from MCA CIC to seek additional funding for year 2 salary to reduce the ‘ask’ of the Town Council. Cllrs R Harris, m Harris, Jones, Van de Vyver, Brocklesby spoke in favour. Cllr Tatam spoke against revenue funding support and considered the salary level high and requested a recorded vote. Cllr Konieczny expressed caution without fully understanding the increase on the precept, Cllr Hickman was against due to the increase on the precept.

Resolved to agree the partnering agreement and funding as set out in paragraph 3.9 of the report

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
£9,000 Centre Manager (7 months match funding) £7,000 LED lighting	£6,600 Centre Manager (5 months match funding)  Provisional Centre Manager employed for a second year (7 months in full £18,200)	£13,000 (provisional 5 months in full)
£16,000	£24,800	£13,000

Recorded vote:

- |                   |                |                   |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <u>For</u>        | <u>Against</u> | <u>Abstention</u> |
| Cllr Brocklesby   | Cllr Tatam     | Cllr Konieczny    |
| Cllr Burch        | Cllr Hickman   |                   |
| Cllr Davies       |                |                   |
| Cllr Groucutt     |                |                   |
| Cllr M Harris     |                |                   |
| Cllr R Harris     |                |                   |
| Cllr Jones        |                |                   |
| Cllr Van De Vyver |                |                   |

59/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the report on the Christmas Lights electrical health check and approve additional funding for the works required</b></p> <p>Cllrs P &amp; D Simcock rejoined the meeting</p> <p>Agreed to defer this item until the September meeting to enable the Clerk to obtain additional quotes.</p>
60/21	<p><b>Receive a verbal update from the Vice Chair of Environment Committee regarding MCC convened meeting regarding dog waste collection held on 6<sup>th</sup> July</b></p> <p>Cllr Tatam provided a feedback from the meeting held in light of the 50% increase in prices by Merlin Waste. At the meeting MCC stated that they would step in to empty the bins should Merlin Waste stop doing so. Reps from MCC and Community &amp; Town Councils to meet with Merlin Waste to discuss the situation.</p>
61/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the Town Council's response to the Active Travel Consultation</b></p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the Town Council's response as set out in the report</p> <p><u>general and detailed comments are submitted regarding the walking proposals:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pen y pound (MCC-A09B) – the pavement here is too narrow for this to be classed as a primary route that meets the standard. It is only sufficient width for one person so cannot accommodate a parent with child(ren) or a wide pushchair.</li> <li>• Monmouth Road (MCC-A03D) – there is a requirement for a pedestrian crossing on the A40 so that residents from Ysbytty Fields and from the meadows can cross safely. A small island in the middle of a busy trunk road is not sufficient and not safe.</li> </ul> <p><u>general and detailed comments are submitted regarding the cycling proposals:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council welcomes the inclusion of more routes to schools, hospital and industrial areas. However, the Town Council disagrees with a number of routes that have been categorised as primary routes that meet standards and ones that require improvement. We presume that the assessment of the route has been done looking at streetview and google maps rather than physically looking at the route which has led to the inclusion of 'safe routes' that are not safe or have dangerous access issues.</li> <li>• Specifically, there is a need for a route into Abergavenny from the south but identifying the A40 Monmouth Road as a primary route is flawed. A primary route by definition is a key corridor where the greatest number of people converting to active travel can be achieved. The Town Council cannot see how this conversion can come about if the A40 is promoted as an active travel route either with a segregated cycle lane or cycling on the carriageway. HGVs as well as a high volume of traffic use this road.</li> <li>• Park Avenue (MCC-A23B) – this has been categorised as a primary route that meets standards. The Town Council would disagree. Park Avenue has a problem with speeding vehicles which has led to SIDs being installed and a 20mph speed</li> </ul>

	<p>limit. Park Avenue is used as a shortcut for motorists. There are also parked vehicles on the highway. This does not make for a safe active travel route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower Castle Street (MCC-A20E) although this street may be a primary route that meets standards the access for cyclists onto this street from the east is extremely dangerous. It requires the cyclist to cross the A40 trunk road at a right hand bend. For the cyclist approaching from the south then it is less dangerous but still hazardous as motorists dart across the A40 into Lower Castle Street. In their haste to get across to Lower Castle Street they could potentially not see a cyclist. This route should not be considered to meet standards when access is so dangerous.</li> <li>• Pen y pound (MCC-A08C) although this street may be a primary route that meets standards the access for cyclists onto this street from the east is extremely dangerous with poor visibility. This route should not be considered to meet standards when access is so dangerous</li> <li>• Stanhope St (MCC- A30A) is narrow with a continuous line of parked cars. It is gets very busy at school drop off and collect times and is not wide enough for a bike and car so if a cyclist was cycling up Stanhope Street, motorists would have to wait behind with a temptation to try to push past.</li> <li>• Western Avenue (MCC-A45C) this route does not link to another route at its western end. This cannot be part of a network if it doesn't join to another active travel route</li> </ul>
62/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the Town Council's response to the RLDP Preferred Strategy consultation</b></p> <p>Resolved unanimously that a working group chaired by Cllr Konieczny, Chair of the Environment Committee is set up to prepare the Town Council's response</p> <p>Cllrs Burch, Brocklesby and Tatam agreed to be part of the working group</p>
63/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the Town Council's response to the Qualifications of Clerks in Wales Regulations consultation</b></p> <p>Resolved to approve the Town Council's response as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report</p> <p>Question 1 - Does the type of qualifications specified give confidence that the clerk has the core knowledge, skills and understanding to support a community council in the exercise of the new general power?  <i>Yes, Abergavenny Town Council would support the qualifications specified. We would add that it is vital that Clerks knowledge and skills are kept up-to-date so that mandatory CPD or refresher course is considered after a specified time period from achieving the CiLCA qualification.</i></p> <p>Question 2 - Does each title description make it clear which qualifications are being specified?  <i>Yes it is clear as it specifies the awarding body</i></p> <p>Question 3 - Are there other appropriate sectoral qualifications that should be considered for inclusion in the draft regulations?  <i>None that we are aware of</i></p> <p>Question 4 - We would like to know your views on the effects that the draft regulations would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for</p>

	<p>people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?</p> <p><i>We note that candidates can submit their evidence in Welsh, however has consideration been given to providing the training element of the CiLCA course in Welsh should there be sufficient interest?</i></p> <p>Question 5 - Please also explain how you believe the draft regulations could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p><i>As above</i></p>
64/21	<p><b>Receive reports from Councillors attending meetings of External Bodies</b></p> <p>Cllr Groucutt informed members that he has attended a Mind Monmouthshire meeting and discussions were ongoing regarding the amalgamation with other former Gwent area groups. Cllr Groucutt also attended a Foundation Governors meeting where awards were made to assist learners.</p>
65/21	<p><b>Consider and approve the following planning applications.</b></p> <p>The following applications are considered and recommendations made accordingly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DM/2021/00705 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/00388 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/00830 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/01074 – recommend refusal. The Town Council considered that this application requires further consideration by the applicant. The applicant has stated that there will be no waste generated and there is no space indicated on the plans for waste bins, however it is considered impossible to run a businesses as proposed without generating waste (recyclable and non-recyclable). Also the plans seem to indicate that the toilet is accessed through the kitchen and again the desirability/permissibility of this is questioned. For these reasons the application as submitted is recommended for refusal</li> <li>• DM/2021/01093 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/01081 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/01052 – recommend refusal. This development is in front of the building line and detracts from the streetscape. Recently a similar development in the same ward was refused and the building subsequently removed. The Town Council is of the view that planning policies should be applied equitably and this application should be refused and the structure removed.</li> </ul>
	<p>The Clerk informed members that the Mayor has received a donation to the Mayors Charity, however the cheque has been made payable to Abergavenny</p>

	<p>Town Council. The cheque will be paid into the Town Council account and the amount then transferred to the Mayors Charity Account</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny informed members that he would be showing the Wales in Bloom judge around tomorrow 15<sup>th</sup> July.</p>
--	---

**There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.50pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIRMAN ..... DATE .....**