

## ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 HELD AT ABERGAVENTNY COMMUNITY CENTRE, MERTHYR ROAD, ABERGAVENTNY

#### Present:

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

#### In attendance:

J Lee (Town Clerk)  
J Klein for part of the meeting (Youth Manager, Monlife)  
J Gass, N Hoyal, S Lloyd Jones for part of the meeting (Trustees of  
Abergavenny Community Trust)  
M Pearce (employee of Abergavenny Community Trust)

No public session

66/21	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Apologies received from Cllr Groucutt for personal reasons. Reason for absence was approved.
67/21	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  Cllr P Simcock declared an interest in agenda item 10 as she is Director of Melville for the Arts CIC.  Cllr D Simcock declared an interest in agenda item 10 by association with Cllr P Simcock.  Cllr R Harris is a member of MCC Planning Committee. He took no part in the decision making and voting on planning applications.  Cllr Thomas declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 as his wife is Chair of Abergavenny Arts Festival and took no part in the vote on recommendation a.

	<p>Cllr Jones declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 as he is on the Board of Abergavenny Arts Festival and took no part in the vote on recommendation a.</p>
68/21	<p><b>Receive a presentation from Josh Klein, Youth Services Manager, Monlife</b></p> <p>In light of the paper that Councillors are to consider later in the meeting, Josh Klein gave a presentation setting out the reasons why the current youth centre know as the Cabin should be replaced and providing more information on the proposed replacement building. The new demountable will be significantly larger giving more opportunities to run different activities and accommodate more young people. The cost is £24,336 over 3 years for the demountable with additional costs for the removal of existing and new furniture and equipment for the new building giving a total project cost of £30,000. After 3 years, Monlife will have options including the purchase of the demountable. The request to the Town Council is 50% £15,000 towards the initial cost of £30,000. Future costs from year 4 onwards to be covered by Monmouthshire County Council.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked Josh and his staff for all their hard work in working with young people in Abergavenny particularly in providing activities throughout the summer. The Mayor then invited questions from Councillors.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked Josh for his presentation.</p>
69/21	<p><b>Receive a presentation from the Trustees of the Abergavenny Community Trust</b></p> <p>In light of the paper that Councillors are to consider later in the meeting, Trustees Nick Hoyal, Sarah Lloyd-Jones and Jeremy Gass set out the progress to date at the Community Centre and the challenges presented by Covid and how they have managed to overcome some of the difficulties. They also set out their ambitions to be a green exemplar and to this end are proposing a solar PV and battery storage scheme which would cost £40,000. A grant of £15,000 from the Community Fund associated with the solar farm at Llanvapley has been secured and the Trust is requesting financial assistance from the Town Council for the remaining £25,000. The Trustees explained that they are waiting on advice from planning regarding whether this project would be considered permitted development and also that they consider the time is right to make this investment as they have recently signed a 25 year lease with the landlord Monmouthshire County Council.</p> <p>The Mayor invited questions from Councillors after which he thanked the Trustees for their presentation.</p>
70/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b></p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 as an accurate record.</p>
71/21	<p><b>Receive and note the Town Clerk's Update</b></p>

	<p>Town Clerk provided an update on the works required to the tarmac surfacing at Bailey Park and that it is taking time to resolve. Part of the surface will be removed and relaid but a date for this work has not been agreed. Monmouthshire County Council are involved in the discussions with the contractor.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to note the report</p>
72/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the budget reports for Month 4 &amp; 5</b></p> <p>Cllr Konieczny raised a question on the overspend of the Office Consumables budget. The Town Clerk explained that in previous years some expenditure such as monthly broadband and monthly office 365 subscription had been coded either to office consumables or office IT but in this financial year it was been coded to office consumables only so this budget has overspent. Proposed that £800 is vired from Office IT to Office Consumables to address this change of coding.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the budget reports for Month 4&amp;5 and to vire £800 from Office IT budget to Office Consumables budget.</p>
73/21	<p><b>Receive and note the report on spend and reserves</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk explained that this report on the likely spend in 2021/22 and impact on reserves had been prepared to provide Councillors with additional information when considering requests for financial support from external organisations.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to note the report</p>
74/21	<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>Recommendation was for approval of £11,650 for the work which would include reusing timeclocks. Proposed that for an additional £400 all new timeclocks could be installed.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve £11650 to bring the electrical supplies up to the required standard and install timeclocks on all supplies Resolved unanimously to approve an additional £400 to enable all new timeclocks to be installed on all supplies</p>
75/21	<p><b>Agree Town Council representative to attend the Melville Centre for the Arts CIC board meetings</b></p> <p>Resolved unanimously that Councillor Sara Burch would be the representative at Melville Centre for the Arts CIC board meetings.</p>
76/21	<p><b>Receive a report on the financial support to Town Festivals and approve a rollover of funding</b></p>

	<p>Resolved unanimously to agree an extension of financial support to festival organisers relative to the number of years that the festivals have not taken place due to the pandemic</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to award ADTA £4500 in 2021/22 for other costs incurred acknowledging that ADTA did not prepare a Visit Abergavenny brochure in 2021</p> <p><b>NB: Full annual award is £1800 not £4500 incorrectly stated by the Town Clerk</b></p> <p>Cllr Brocklesby left the meeting</p>
77/21	<p><b>Receive and note the Code of Conduct Guidance 2021 from the Public Services Ombudsman</b></p> <p>Resolved unanimously to note the Code of Conduct Guidance 2021 from the Public Services Ombudsman</p>
78/21	<p><b>Receive and approve the calendar of meetings (inc. Committees) from October 2021 – April 2022.</b></p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the calendar of meetings from October 2021 – April 2022</p>
79/21	<p><b>Receive and consider the report from the Youth Services requesting funding towards new premises</b></p> <p>Councillors discussed the proposals and were in agreement that the current premises are unsuitable, that the young people need somewhere to go and this would be an important commitment to the youth provision in the town</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve £15,000 towards the removal and replacement of the existing Cabin with a more fit-for-purpose demountable structure to use as a youth centre.</p>
80/21	<p><b>Receive and consider the report from Abergavenny Community Trust requesting financial support towards a solar PV scheme.</b></p> <p>Councillors discussed the request and expressed concerns regarding the timing of the request as there are outstanding planning issues to resolve, the quote is a few years old and that the trust had not sought funding from any other funding bodies. Councillors also discussed the impact on reserves if £25,000 was awarded. Cllr Tatam reminded Councillors of their commitment to address climate change and that this extended to helping town based organisations to do this.</p> <p>Councillor Brocklesby returned to the meeting at 8.20pm</p> <p>Councillor Tatam requested a recorded vote</p>

	<p>Proposed that the Trust seek alternative funding and report back to the Town Council in three months at which point the Town Council will reconsider the request.</p> <p>Amendment proposed that in addition the Trust is requested to obtain an up to date quote, resolve the planning issue</p> <p>Resolved that the Trust is requested to obtain an up to date quote, resolve the planning issue and seek alternative funding and report back to the Town Council in three months at which point the Town Council will reconsider the request.</p> <p>For – Cllrs Van de Vyver, Konieczny, Morgan, Hickman, Burch, Jones, Brocklesby, R Harris, M Harris, P Simcock, D Simcock, Thomas</p> <p>Against – Cllr Tatam</p> <p>Abstention – Cllr Davies</p>
81/21	<p><b>Receive reports from Councillors attending meetings of External Bodies</b></p> <p>No reports</p>
82/21	<p><b>Consider 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/2021/01176 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/01234 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/01394– recommend refusal as there the applicant has not provided any detail regarding surface drainage treatment.</li> <li>• DM/2021/01136 &amp; 01135– recommend refusal, the reasons for this is that the application as set out is not mixed use A1/A3 as internally all the space is taken up with table and chairs not retail space so is A3. Also the Town Council has major concerns that an applicant can include encroachment onto the highway for their sole use for outside trading.</li> <li>• DM/2021/01417 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/01385 – no comment</li> <li>• DM/2021/01148 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/01211 – recommend approval</li> </ul>

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

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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