

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2020 HELD REMOTELY VIA MS TEAMS

Present:

Chairman - Cllr T Konieczny (Mayor)
Cllr N Tatam
Cllr T Davies
Cllr M Groucutt
Cllr M Harris
Cllr R Harris
Cllr M Hickman
Cllr S Burch
Cllr F Morgan (until 19.30)
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr P Simcock
Cllr T Thomas
Cllr G Jones

Absent with apologies

Cllr L Van de Vyver

In attendance:

J Lee (Town Clerk)

No public session

51/20	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies received from Cllr F Morgan for his absence for the latter part of the meeting
52/20	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 Cllrs R Harris, Groucutt and Thomas declared a personal interest as they are all Trustees of ACE. They took no part in the discussions on this agenda item. Cllr Tatam declared a personal interest in the planning application DM/2020/01627 as he is a client of this solicitor's practice.
53/20	Receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 11th November 2020

	Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 th November 2020 as an accurate record
54/20	<p>To note the Town Clerk's Update</p> <p>Councillors discussed the response received from MCC regarding the process of choosing the colour of the exterior paint at the Town Hall. Generally, it was considered that the explanation offered in the letter was unsatisfactory and that the Town Council should respond. In particular, it was felt that the Town Council had not been treated as an equal partner but as another community group.</p> <p>Resolved to request that the Town Clerk responds to Matthew Gatehouse expressing dissatisfaction with the treatment of the Town Council over this matter.</p>
55/20	<p>Receive and approve the budget reports for Month 8</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the budget reports for Month 8</p>
56/20	<p>Receive the update from Network Rail regarding the Access for All scheme and agree whether a follow up response is required</p> <p>Network Rail has provided an update regarding progress with the Access for All Scheme which is at the Single Option Development stage.</p> <p>Councillor Brocklesby proposed that a response is sent to Network Rail requesting details of how Network Rail intend to consult with the Town Council and community on the design</p> <p>Resolved to request that the Town Clerk contacts Network Rail to request details of the design consultation process.</p>
57/20	<p>Receive and note the Future Audit Arrangements for Community & Town Councils in Wales</p> <p>The Town Clerk outlined the changes that take effect in this financial year 2020/21. Audit Wales is bringing the external audit work back in house and will be undertaking a more detailed transactional audit once every 3 years.</p> <p>Report was noted</p>
58/20	<p>Receive and note the Internal Auditors Interim Report 2020-21</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed Councillors that the interim internal audit has been carried out remotely and that no issues of concern have been raised by the internal auditor</p> <p>Report was noted</p>
59/20	<p>Receive and approve the Community Toilet Scheme arrangement with the Auberge</p>

	<p>Details of the arrangement with the Auberge for use of the toilets by the public was set out in a report. This would entail the Town Council making a small annual payment to the Auberge.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously for the Town Council to enter into a community toilet scheme with the Auberge.</p>
60/20	<p>Receive and approve the revision of the Town Council's Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>Committee Chairs and the Town Clerk met to discuss proposed changes to the Strategy and Action Plan which reflects progress to date and future challenges. It is not currently possible for all Councillors to physically meet to discuss amendments. The Action Plan is a living document and new actions can be discussed by Councillors and included as appropriate.</p> <p>Resolved to accept the changes proposed to the Strategy and the Action Plan.</p>
61/20	<p>Receive and comment on the draft budget proposals for 2021-22</p> <p>The draft budget report set out projected spend for 2020-21 and suggested budget breakdown for 2021-22. The final budget will be considered and approved at the January Council meeting.</p> <p>The draft budget has included current commitments as well proposed new commitments such as the Town Crew. The Town Clerk proposed that a reduction in the salary budget head could be achieved by reducing the hours of the RFO (yet to be appointed) from 12 hours to 8 hours a week. Attention was also drawn to the request from MCC for the Town Council's contribution to the maintenance and cleaning of 3 blocks of toilets to be at the same level that the Town Council had previously paid towards the maintenance and cleaning of 4 blocks of toilets on the basis that there is an increased level of cleaning being undertaken. The funding agreement with Abergavenny Community Trust has a provisional payment against 2021-22 so it is recommended that a discussion takes place between the Clerk and ACT to understand their circumstances and future plans.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously that the RFO advertised hours are reduced from 12 hours a week to 8 hours a week and that a letter is sent to MCC stating that the Town Council does not agree to the request for a contribution of £60k towards the public toilets.</p>
62/20	<p>To receive and approve the small grants application from Friends of Castle Meadows</p> <p>A grant application has been received for grant of £1000 for a new path and pond dipping area.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to award £1000 under the power to provide recreational facilities, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1975 s19.</p>

63/20	<p>To receive and approve the small grants application from Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>A grant application has been received for a grant of £400 for the purchase of goods to make up Christmas parcels for those in need.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to award £400 under the power of wellbeing. A condition of the grant is that ACE provides details of the criteria for targeting particular families or individuals who will receive parcels.</p>
64/20	<p>Receive and comment on the following planning applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM/2020/01620 – recommend approval • DM/2020/01627 – recommend approval. • DM/2020/01580 – recommend refusal. This development will result in a loss of amenity and biodiversity. The development could contribute to flooding and highway issues. • DM/2020/00445 – recommend approval • DM/2020/01612 – recommend approval • DM/2020/01559 – recommend approval • DM/2020/01708 – recommend approval • DM/2020/01512 – recommend refusal. This development sets a precedent to build in front of the building line.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.56pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN DATE