

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2021 HELD REMOTELY USING MS TEAMS

#### Present:

Chairman - Cllr T Thomas  
Cllr N Tatam  
Cllr R Harris  
Cllr M Harris  
Cllr S Burch  
Cllr MA Brocklesby  
Cllr M Groucutt  
Cllr L Van de Vyver  
Cllr T Konieczny

#### Absent without apologies

Cllr T Davies

#### In attendance:

J Lee (Town Clerk)  
Will McClean (Chief Officer Children & Young People, MCC)

No public session

Meeting commenced at 7.10pm due to late arrival of Will McClean

45/21	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Apologies received from Cllr Morgan who has work commitments, Cllrs Hickman and Jones who had previous engagements and Cllrs D & P Simcock for personal reasons.
46/21	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  Cllr R Harris is a member the MCC 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Board and a governor at Deri View Primary School Cllr T Thomas is a governor at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni Cllr M Groucutt is a governor at King Henry VIII High School Cllr M A Brocklesby is a governor at Deri View School Cllr M Harris is a governor at Deri View School
47/21	<b>Receive a presentation from Will McClean, MCC Chief Officer Children &amp; Young People on the all through school for Abergavenny consultation</b>  The Mayor thanked Will McClean for attending and explained that the Town Council's Standing Orders do not permit the Town Council to reverse the decision

taken on 19<sup>th</sup> May to object to the proposals. At the time that this decision was made the Town Council was not aware of the extension to the consultation deadline.

Will McClean gave a powerpoint presentation setting out the background to the proposal highlighting the decisions already made and the detail in the current consultation document. Points to note include:

- Significant amount of work was completed in 2017 with the preparation of the Strategic Outline Programme that was submitted to Welsh Government. At this time the decision was taken for an all through school.
- The commitment to construct a new school in Abergavenny was taken at this time on the basis of the poor condition of KHS, commitment to support those communities with areas of deprivations, increased demand for Welsh Medium education and identified trend of regression in pupils achievement.
- The new school will be occupied from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2024, however from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2023 both Deri View and KHS will cease and the new school will come into being but will be taught across the two existing sites for the 1<sup>st</sup> year. From 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2024, Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will occupy the former Deri View School
- New school is funded 65% from WG, 35% MCC
- Proposal is that nursery provision in a non-maintained setting starts from the age of 3, non-maintained provision is inspected by Estyn and Care Standards Inspectorate Wales
- Next steps will be a MCC Cabinet report in September and depending on the outcome of deliberations statutory notices will be published and there will follow a 4 week period for objections. A further report will be considered be MCC Cabinet in December.

Following the presentation, Councillors asked a number of questions which elicited the following additional information:

- MCC will fund places in a non maintained nursery via a voucher system for 2.5 hours a day, additional hours is means tested and paid for through the WG 30 hour childcare commitment
- Architects are working on a solution that will enable the new build without impacting on the existing school and leisure centre. Plan is to finish the build June 2024 prior to occupation in Sept 2024
- School provision is determined by WG guidance specifying different types of space required for the number of pupils.
- Expected that residents will have access to increase leisure and sports offer following this investment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCC is keen to engaged with the community eg Team Abergavenny but recognising that there are financial constraints that will impact on design</li> <li>• Site is large enough to accommodate new build without requiring land occupier by the Football Club. This area is also constrained due to flood risk.</li> <li>• MCC mindful of possible displacement of activities from other locations in the town to the new school which would offer better facilities.</li> <li>• Building will not be distinct blocks representing primary, middle and upper school</li> <li>• MCC recognises the strong feeling around the proposed nursery provision proposals which move aware from the current maintained provision at Deri View, a school which has 47% of pupils eligible for Free School Meals, an indicator of deprivation.</li> </ul>

**There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.37pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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