

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 7PM IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, ABERGAVENNY

Present: Cllr T Davies (Chair)
Cllr G Jones
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr P Simcock
Cllr M Hickman
Cllr M Groucutt
Cllr M Harris

Absent without apologies

Cllr F Morgan

In attendance:

S Rosser (Town Clerk)

No public session

No public in attendance

PC 01/21	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs L Van de Vyver and T Thomas and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
PC 02/21	Receive Declarations of Interest None received.
PC 03/21	To receive a report on the Christmas Light Switch-On Proposals and other events for January-March 2022. Report received and noted. Discussion around £15k Transforming Towns Business Fund for whole county, submit application towards street entertainment. Cllr Davies will use her next Chronicle article on 29 th October to inform the public about the proposed event. Matt Lane to be approached about organising a visit from Father Christmas. Discussed putting out a request for any local choirs who may wish to perform at the event, and utilising the new Mezzanine Level of the Library as a performance space. It was suggested to look at holding a window display competition for local businesses. Look at advertising events on the electronic boards in town now controlled by Dave Baxter from the Borough Theatre.

	<p>Sub-group to take preparations forward: Cllrs T Davies, D Simcock and G Jones.</p> <p>Jan-March 2022: Suggestion to hold an event to mark St David's Day, particularly as it is the year of the Queen's Jubilee. Free concerts could be put on as in previous years, but these would work better April onwards due to the weather, unless we could utilise the Market Hall.</p>
PC 04/21	<p>To consider the Town Council's involvement in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.</p> <p>Article put out in the Chronicle in July to ask anyone organising an event to come forward but nothing has been received to date.</p> <p>Rotary are holding the Steam Rally on the Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th June 2022 in Bailey Park and have offered to leave facilities such as additional toilets in place should a Sunday event wish to be organised to take place in Bailey Park.</p> <p>Need to liaise with other towns to see what is being held across the County. Contact to be made with MCC Comms Team to see if there are plans to coordinate county efforts and advertise these via the MCC website and social media platforms.</p> <p>Piper – this was organised for the VE Day celebrations to have a Piper play in St Mary's Church in the Tower but was cancelled due to Covid – can we revisit this idea for the Platinum Jubilee?</p> <p>Roll of Honour for all areas taking part in the Beacon lighting across the country at 9:15pm on Thursday 2nd June 2022 is already in circulation.</p> <p>Agreed to revisit these ideas and proposals in January 2022.</p>
PC 05/21	<p>To receive a verbal update from Cllr T Davies on the Town Council hosting a visit from King Henry VIII School Council.</p> <p>Cllr Davies has tried to contact Jake Parkinson (Asst. Head) but has had no response.</p> <p>Cllr Groucutt commented that whilst in attendance at the School Governors meeting on 5th October, it was discussed that the school is experiencing it's worst ever teacher absence due to Covid, with over 20 members of staff off sick.</p> <p>The school are still keen to pursue a visit, and Cllr P Simcock suggested we look to plan this for January or February 2022.</p> <p>Cllr M Harris asked if we could consider in future looking at inviting Yr6 Primary school pupils to visit to start instilling a better understanding of what the Town Council does.</p>
PC 06/21	<p>To receive update on Action Plan Tables and consider future budget commitments.</p>

The updated report was received and discussed:

Cllr P Simcock discussed a new initiative between ~Melville and Borough theatres aimed at Primary Schools called “The Future Is Us” which will be funded by EU grant money which must be spent by March 2022. Aim is to go in to Primary Schools, to talk to children and see what they think the future should look like, then enable them to act this out.

Cllr T Davies had spoken to Ange Sampson from Seven Corners and had found out that over the lockdowns she had been going in to the ark three nights a week with her Hot Spot Caravan to talk to younger people and had seen over 500 young people across this period. It highlights that there is a lot happening locally that we are not aware of.

Skate park: a beginners area is needed as part of the skate park extension. If Section 106 money is available this could be achievable. Costings need to be revised and the project re-started with the new ‘young people’ now using the park. Involvement from the Police, MCC Youth Team, and Mike Moran alongside the Town Council to be organised.

Connect and Flourish – and Arts Council for Wales project to re-establish theatres and encourage young people to get involved.

Cllr D Simcock asked about the snagging of the hard surface area at Bailey Park, remedial works were ongoing and final balance is still to be paid.

Cllr P Simcock asked if the new agreement with the Melville Theatre included the setting up of a playscheme for children – agreement to be checked and reported back at future meeting.

Toilet provision at the Auberge – it was discussed that although this had been agreed in principle that the venue was now stopping people from using their facilities due to Covid. Town Clerk to try and re-establish communications with manager and discuss resurrecting agreement. Stickers have been made and funding was agreed previously. This will then provide a toilet provision at the Frogmore Street end of the town.

Negative feedback from older people noted regarding outdoor seating and the increased presence of a café culture blocking up so much of the pavements. This may naturally resolve itself with the winter months approaching.

Cllr P Simcock stated we need to increase our understanding of the issues facing older people. A ‘Changing Places’ facility to enable adults with severe disabilities to access changing facilities with a support worker or carer and enable them to attend events and festivals all day, instead of limiting their time and interaction as there were no such facilities available. With the town having an increasing number of festivals and events, we should prioritise this to allow disabled people to enjoy a full day out in the town.

	<p>Cllr Groucutt suggested talking to MCC Social Care team as there is money for home adaptations so changing the use of a public building to accommodate this type of facility may be possible with this funding.</p> <p>Cllr P Simcock knows there is specific WG funding for this type of facility. IT would recognise those in our community that have been neglected, and the lamentable lack of provision of facilities for them and their carers.</p> <p>Action to be added to “Public Service Provision accommodates the needs of older people”</p> <p>Presentation to be sought from WG about this type of facility and how it can be achieved.</p> <p>Garden Scheme: Cllr Jones said the group of councillors working on this are still keen to pursue this. Cllr P Simcock talked about the WG scheme where £30k of funding is given to Local Authorities for allotment provisions, but people may not know it is there to be claimed and utilised. Do we know what MCC have done with this funding?</p> <p>There is also the Farms and Gardens social enterprise where farmers give a piece of land over to allotment use. Cllr Jones discussed how they had mapped out land that had been sold over the last few years and its locations, and that the group are hoping to go visit Llantilio Pertholey / Pandy Allotments to see what they had achieved. We could look to budget in future to buy land for this purpose, which then keeps it from being used for development, creating an asset for the town.</p> <p>Cllr Harris asked about land which has been refused planning on the outskirts of town, and if we can look to see what land we have around the town that could be used that isn’t earmarked for the LDP.</p> <p>Writing Festival – now postponed to April 2022.</p> <p>Black Mountains Jazz – Cllr Groucutt told councillors that the festival organisers are looking to promote music making in Abergavenny with younger people. Suggested to contact Borough Band to see if they could assist with interaction and instruments.</p> <p>Cllr Simcock suggested we could investigate creating Town Volunteers which would look at the intergeneration inclusion and interaction aspects of the action plan.</p> <p>To promote Events For Older People – look at this more closely in January 2022.</p> <p>Cllr P Simcock asked if we could look to run free craft workshops – Cllr T Davies informed councillors about the craft workshops Black Mountain Fabric and The Woolcroft are holding to encourage crafters to make items for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. It was suggested we could advertise this to see if groups would like to take part in this.</p>
PC 07/21	Items for consideration at next meeting on 3rd November 2021.

	<p>This meeting will be specifically for discussing and finalising arrangements for the Christmas Light switch-on event.</p> <p>For the meeting then to be held on 1st December 2021, it was suggested we look to have a presentation on the “Changing Places” initiative and funding possibilities to achieve this. Cllr P Simcock to work with Town Clerk on organising this.</p>
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There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.10pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN DATE