

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 19th APRIL 2023 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

Present: Cllr P Bowyer
Cllr M Barnes
Cllr S Burch
Cllr B Callard
Cllr K Eldridge
Cllr J George
Cllr M Groucutt
Cllr C Holland
Cllr G Jones
Cllr T Konieczny
Cllr B Nicholson
Cllr M Powell
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr L Wright

Absent without apologies

None.

In attendance:

S Rosser - Town Clerk

PR44/23	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Brocklesby and Wilde, and it was resolved by all Cllrs present to accept their reasons for absence.
PR45/23	Receive Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were received for items on this agenda.
PR46/23	To approve the minutes from 15th March 2023

	<p>Cllr Konieczny proposed accepting the minutes as a true record, and this was seconded by Cllr Jones. All Councillors resolved to accept these as accurate and they were signed by Cllr Bowyer.</p>
PR47/23	<p>To receive written report from Black Mountain Jazz</p> <p>Black Mountain Jazz report was received by Cllrs and noted. Cllr Bowyer reminded Cllrs that this agreement comes to an end this year. Cllr Konieczny expressed his disappointment with the report. There are no financials to show how the £4000py has contributed to the support of young musicians. He expects a large amount has gone to admin support. It would be nice to see what gets spent where. Cllr Nicholson asked how we ask for reports, and deliverables to be reported back to ATC? Cllr Konieczny said it is in our new cooperation agreements explaining how to lay out reports. Difficult to be overly precious as people may not be used to this. We go for written agreements to get the reports. Maybe we just need to ask. Cllr Jones said he understands this was used as seed money to boost their start up. It says they will be requesting further funding in future? The Town Clerk confirmed a draft Cooperation Agreement has been sent across for them to look through and come back to ATC with future proposals for consideration.</p>
PR48/23	<p>To receive a written report from MonLife on future contributions towards youth service delivery.</p> <p>Working group request to go to People and Communities for members to join this group. Cllr Konieczny said we have increased the funding to look at the whole year, not just summer activities. Youth Service were looking at cuts in funding from MCC. Cllr Jones agreed it should go to P&C. Funding for SHIFT project is great. ATC also put in £15000 towards the Youth Cabin. A new SLA will give us a chance to work with MonLife. Look to P&C to form a working group going forward. Cllr Eldridge asked how often do we receive reports? Cllr Bowyer said it usually comes towards the end of the financial year. Cllr Jones said we did get a summer playscheme report which showed what they get out of the funding. Cllr Jones proposed to take this to People and Communities for consideration, seconded by Cllr Barnes, with all Cllrs present approved this resolution.</p>
PR49/23	<p>To receive a written report from Brecon Beacons National Park on future contributions towards the Abergavenny TIC</p>

	<p>TIC report noted and received. Cllr Konieczny said they had a meeting between Wayne Lewis, from BBNPA, and Nicola Edwards from Visit Monmouthshire at MCC, with them, we make up the three funding streams for the TIC. Since 2017 financial support has been 10,000 pounds per year. Over these periods, gradual slippages and deficits have been covered by BBNP a full stop now these are growing it is unsustainable for them to continue to cover this deficit. We need to think about how we value the TIC and how we reach an agreement on continued financial support. Abergavenny town council recognised the value and support of having a TIC in the town. The plus side is BB NPA now have a placed sell merchandise to help keep the TIC running. We need further consultation on what level of funding is needed to support the TIC going forward. Lack of commitment from MCC officer on the leeway for an increase from them, ATC did say we'd need to know this for our considerations. We hope mcc will look favourably on the continued support and maybe splitting it three ways to 12,500 each. This should be an open partnership. We need to sit down in future to look at the sustainable way forward. Do Abergavenny town council want to continue with this? Councillor Nicholson said With long term commitment it is good to see more wrap around information. Councillor Jones said that the TIC is hugely valued in and around Abergavenny and this needs a proper agreement going forward.</p>
PR50/23	<p>Finance Report Month 12 and year end report</p> <p>Finance. Detailed income and expenditure was gone through page at a time. Cllr Konieczny said around £34,000 went into general reserves at the year end this equates to around 7%. It is noted that the Town Clerk has done an excellent job. Consecutive years of unqualified accounts and reports shows we are an exemplar of good governance. Councillor Burch asked about small grants and why so little were given out? Councillor Nicholson said it was interesting to see why so few returned applications after requesting these. Councillor Eldridge asked if people know about what we have and how to apply? Councillor Burch said community groups may only be eligible but it may be worth a press release? Cllr Konieczny said we can utilise specific statutory powers to enable awarding grants. We can't make donations hence why we have to use grant requests. It's difficult for businesses and enterprises to be supported. Section 137 allows a power of last resort. We cannot pay salaries etc. Short guide explains this from One Voice Wales and is available on request from the Town Clerk. Councillor Groucutt asked if ACE had received their</p>

	<p>funds and the Town Clerk was able to update council that year one of £10,000 had been paid after the signing of the agreement. Finance Report was proposed to be received and accepted by Cllr Konieczny, this was seconded by Cllr Jones and all Cllrs present approved and resolved to accept these as a true record and this was signed in front of Councillors by chair Cllr Bowyer.</p>
PR51/23	<p>To receive a report from Extraordinary Meeting on the ATC Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>Councillor Bowyer asked Councillors to please note the final version as lots of work has gone into it. Councillor Nicholson expressed huge thanks to everyone for all the work involved. She noted the allocation to groups and that there were some overlaps. These relate to cross cutting issues. Is there a risk it may fall through the gaps or will it come up in regular reviews? Councillor Jones said the strategy and action plan will be on all agendas going forward. Councillor Barnes ask for clear instruction on how to submit updates? How do we do this and will it be at committees? Councillor Konieczny reiterated the RAG system. Councillor Holland proposed accepting the final version of this strategy and action plan and this was seconded by Councillor Barnes. All Councillors present voted to approve and adopt the action plan going forward and it was resolved for standing agenda item to be added to each committee.</p>
PR52/23	<p>To receive an update from Cllr Nicholson on The Media Agency Website redesign and hosting proposal</p> <p>Councillor Nicholson was appointed as the representative from the Town Council to work on this project. Reasons for website redesign are twofold. Accessibility - reports and documents could not be read with site reader programmes and general access was poor. No clear message to show who we are. The web brief covers all of this. Some changes proposed include a post code search function for public to be able to find out who their town councillor is. Events: this page will be built as a what's on guide and then hidden as currently there is no resource to update this at present. It will be in the background to pull forward when this can be properly staffed. The banners will be very clear on all that we are doing and will have at the top of each page. It will be easier to update. Councillor Bowyer said he is full of hope that we have and you and wonderful site. Thank you for all the work to date. Councillor Nicholson said there will be a big update of all the pages to show current information. Cllr Konieczny asked if we were</p>

	<p>maintaining the bilingual capabilities? Councillor Nicholson said we will launch the site in English and then have it translated and set in Welsh.</p>
PR53/23	<p>Earmarked Reserves: update on Project Proposals</p> <p>Planters: £20k for planters - a quote had been received by the town clerk who talked Councillors through this quote and explained about the reduction. Councillor Jones asked about the wording and crests on the planters and commented that it will be good to have a revamp. The quote received was proposed to be accepted by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Barnes and all councillors present were in favour and approved the expenditure.</p>
PR54/23	<p>To receive the IRPW report on contributions towards costs and expenses (Feb2023)</p> <p>The report was noted and accepted by councillors. The increase from £150 per year per councillor will now go to £156 per year per councillor plus £52 per year per councillor for sundries. Opt out forms will be available at the AGM for anyone who does not wish to accept or take this contribution towards costs and expenditure.</p>
PR55/23	<p>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny Eisteddfod – Cllrs Jones and Simcock: Councillor Simcock said a meeting would be happening shortly and that the adult eisteddfod is due to take place on the 24th of June. • Borough Theatre MCC / ATC Collaboration – Cllrs Groucutt and Konieczny: Councillor Groucutt forwarded on an e-mail from Dave Baxter to Councillor Burch from a customer who had a great experience of accessing the new theatre space as it was nice news story. This has since been shared with all Councillors. Cllr Konieczny said it beheld and us to find a way to get more good news stories out there. Make letters like that known to the public. Councillor Eldridge said that MonLife are collecting feedback on good news to share with people as the volunteers they get great feedback. • Mind Monmouthshire - Cllrs Groucutt and Jones: Councillor Groucutt said the SHIFT project is thriving and a great facility. There is an internal amalgamation of all minds in Gwent and this is a huge operation a new trustee on the board Peter Marsh Jenks we'll be using his expertise to assist with this.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny Rotary – Cllr K Eldridge: Councillor Eldridge reminded councillors that the steam rally will be on the 28th and 29th May in Bailey Park, both himself and Councillor Jones will be volunteering at the event. Rotary are holding a Blood Bike walk on the 14th May on the Brecon and Monmouthshire canal and volunteers are needed for this. The walk is from Llangattock to Pontypool and there is a £5 entry fee.
PR56/23	<p>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.</p> <p>Councillor Burch reported that steps are underway to unify the building management here at the town hall.</p>
PR57/23	<p>To consider items for the next meeting on 17th May 2023</p> <p>Any suggestions are to be emailed to the Town Clerk for inclusion at the next meeting on the 17th May 2023.</p>

Meeting ended 8:53pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR **DATE**