

**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY 2021 HELD REMOTELY VIA MS TEAMS**

**Present:**

Chairman - Cllr T Konieczny (Mayor)  
Cllr N Tatam  
Cllr T Davies  
Cllr M Groucutt  
Cllr R Harris  
Cllr M Hickman (for part of the meeting)  
Cllr S Burch  
Cllr D Simcock  
Cllr P Simcock  
Cllr T Thomas  
Cllr MA Brocklesby

**Absent without apologies**

Cllrs L Van de Vyver, F Morgan, G Jones

**In attendance:**

J Lee (Town Clerk)

No public session

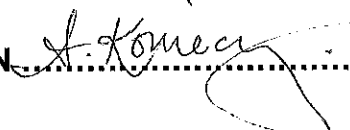
65/20	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence</b>  Apologies received and accepted from Cllr M Harris
66/20	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest</b>  Cllr R Harris is a member of MCC Planning Committee. He took no part in the decision making and voting on planning applications and acted, where required, in a factual advisory capacity.
67/20	<b>Receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>  Cllr Brocklesby was incorrectly recorded as not being present at the meeting  Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 as an accurate record with the amendment to add Cllr Brocklesby to the list of attendees
68/20	<b>To note the Town Clerk's Update</b>

	<p>The Town Clerk informed Councillors that during this lockdown that the Castle St and Brewery Yard toilets are closed except for the disabled toilets however the Bus Station toilets remain fully open</p> <p>Cllr Thomas informed Councillors that he is pursuing a resolution to the insurance claim for damage to one of the pillars at Bailey Park as it would be disappointing if the newly refurbished gates could not be hung when finished. Cllr Thomas also expressed disappointment that progress was slow regarding the resurfacing of the hard courts area, the Town Clerk responded that this is being actively progressed but it was proving difficult to get companies to quote.</p> <p>Resolved to note the report</p> <p>Councillor Hickman left the meeting at 19.10</p>
69/20	<p><b>Receive and approve the External Auditors assessment of the 2019-20 Accounts</b></p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Clerk for her work on achieving approval of the accounts.</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to approve the External Auditors assessment of the 2019-20 accounts.</p>
70/20	<p><b>Receive and approve the budget and precept for 2021-22</b></p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Clerk and Committee Chairs for their work in bringing forward a budget for 2021-22</p> <p>Cllr Groucutt, Chair of Policy &amp; Resources Committee proposed an amendment to the recommendation in the report which proposed a 2.2% budget increase. Cllr Groucutt referred to the economic impact that the coronavirus pandemic is having so proposed that a number of budgets are reduced to achieve a budget and precept that would be marginally less than in 2020-21.</p> <p>The changes to the budget headings that were set out in the advance report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in multi year funding to environmental groups from £7000 to £5000 saving £2000</li> <li>• Reduction in larger grants from £10,000 to £8,000 saving £2000</li> <li>• Removal of twinning budget and setting up an earmarked reserve for £2000 saving £2000</li> <li>• Reduction in training budget from £1500 to £500 saving £1000</li> <li>• Reduction in Abergavenny in Bloom budget from £23,000 to £20,000 saving £3000</li> </ul> <p>With these reductions £10,000 would be saved resulting in a budget of £403,900 and an annual precept of £403,050</p> <p>Clarification was requested regarding the level of reserves to ensure that the Town Council could respond to requests for action/funding. The Town Clerk</p>

	<p>confirmed that report proposed setting up an earmarked reserve (EMR) for £20,000 for implementation of the action plan and that approx. £44,000 underspend is expected to transfer into general reserves at the end of 2020-21</p> <p>Resolved to accept the amendment</p> <p>Resolved to agree a budget of £403,900 and precept of £403,050</p> <p>Resolved unanimously to accept the general and earmarked reserves (EMR) with the additional inclusion of a Twinning EMR of £2000</p>
71/20	<p><b>Receive and approve the RLDP Growth &amp; Spatial Options consultation response</b></p> <p>Cllrs R Harris, Groucutt and Thomas who are also County Councillors abstained from the vote</p> <p>A number of Councillors expressed concern that the consultation report did not adequately address the significant economic, social and environmental challenges facing the county.</p> <p>Resolved to agree the content of the letter to be sent to MCC in response to the Growth &amp; Spatial Options report subject to any final changes agreed following the consultation event on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January.</p>
72/20	<p><b>Receive and comment on the following planning applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DM/2020/01616 – recommend approval as long as proposals comply with listed building regulations</li> <li>• DM/2020/01762 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2020/01761 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/00002 – recommend approval</li> <li>• DM/2021/00015 – recommend approval</li> </ul>

**There being no other business the meeting ended at 7.50pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

CHAIRMAN  DATE 16/02/21