

## **ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.**

Present: Cllr D Simcock (Mayor)

Cllrs T Davies, S Dodd, M Groucutt, M Harris, R Harris, S Head, M Hickman, G Jones, T Konieczny, F Morgan, P Simcock, N Tatam, T Thomas, L Van de Vyver.

In attendance: Town Clerk - Jacqueline Humphries, Michael Prys-Williams, Matrika Lindley-Thompson, Anya Morris.

2005. Apologies

2006. Declarations of Interest.

2007. Presentations by David Bryon Williams – Abergavenny Eisteddfod.  
Mr Williams did not attend

2008. Presentation by Michael Prys-Williams – War Memorial Monument

Mr Williams explain the background to the monument, bronze statue was cleaned in 2005 but no other work has been completed to date. The statue needs straightening, (though a structural survey completed by MCC disputes this and states the monument is stable) the plinth needs cleaning and the lettering updated, total cost £16,000. Mr Williams will be sending a formal letter to MCC (Peter Fox and Paul Matthews) regarding the monument, could the Town Council please support the letter.

Councillors felt that the Town Council should write to MCC endorsing Mr Williams' letter and to put some pressure on them to at least remove the weeds and give it a clean before the Freedom on Monmouthshire Parade on the 15<sup>th</sup> July (copy in Councillor Laura Jones )  
Proposed that the clerk write to MCC with this effect, seconded and passed by all councillors.

2009. Presentation by Matrika Lindley-Thompson – Abergavenny Food festival.

An update on the Abergavenny Food Festival – Marks and Spencer's are the principal sponsor for this year, many national celebrities will be attending again, the focus is reaching out to local groups to get them involved. Linda Vista gardens will be used this year. National Assembly has cut the funding this year so they are looking at alternative funding routes.

Financial sustainability sometimes makes it impossible to bring in some newer sites within the town, dill hall area etc., Cibi walk did not work well last year and will be cut from this year's programme. It was suggested that the organisers contact the new business club in Abergavenny to ask for their support, it could be very beneficial for all involved.

Permission was asked to remove some of the benches at St John square to enable more stalls to be sited.

Councillors agreed to the moving of benches providing that there are extra seats put for disabled people and the benches are replaced following the event.

Is Abergavenny Town Council still willing to give the grant for Arts Alive figures that are created each year? Councillors felt that as the market benefits so much from the figures that maybe we should pay for them to be made then keep them and auction them off at the end of the year. Clerk to send a grant application form and guidance to Matrika to enable them to apply for a grant to cover the full expense of the figures.

2010. To receive and if appropriate to adopt the minutes of the Town Council held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Minutes were received as a true record, proposed, seconded and passed by council.

2011. Matters Arising.

Clerk to e-mail all organisations and inform them of their new council representatives.

With the development of the Hub it is felt that a small sub group should be formed to enable us to communicate effectively with MCC on the said development. This was proposed, seconded and passed by council. Volunteers – Cllrs Van der Vyver, Dodd, David Simcock and Tatam .

Cllr Thomas stated that ex councillor Prosser seems to be still co-ordinating Agri-Urban at present could the clerk write to MCC stating the council's current position on the matter and that Cllr Thomas is now the town councils representative.

A few councillors have met with Jacqui Warren regarding the 5 year plan, an A5 booklet has been produced though there are sections that are incomplete at present. The document will need editing, group propose to edit the said document. Councillors requested a copy of the latest document in order to allow all to read what is available at present.

Clerk to contact Jacqui Warren for up to date copy and forward to councillors.

2012. To receive and if appropriate to adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Minutes were received as a true record, proposed, seconded and passed by council.

2013. Matter Arising

None

2014. Finance Report – Receive internal audit report and approve annual accounts for external auditor for financial year 16/17

Council has reviewed the financial information for the year along with the internal auditors report and clerks report. All agreed that the finance report looks good and all accounts balance for the year.

The council proposed to receive the internal audit report and approve the annual accounts for the external auditor for the financial year 16/17; this was seconded and passed by council.

2015. Review month 2 budget reports and approve payments

DATE	CHEQUE No	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
16/05/2017	106473	Viking Ltd	Stationary Supplies	£98.33
16/05/2017	106474	Cable News	Library Papers	£54.50
16/05/2017	106475	NR & CA Bailey	Replenish Mayors Parlour	£50.04
16/05/2017	106476	Merlin Waste	Dog Bins	£508.50
16/05/2017	106477	JEMS CATERING	Syrian Refugee event	£175.00
16/05/2017	106478	SLCC	Clerk Training Course	£114.00
16/05/2017	106479	Charles Thomas	Honours Board engraving	£141.75
16/05/2017	106480	Staff	Travel Expenses/Hard drive	£105.89
23/05/2017	106481	Staff	Salary Payment	£1,222.08
23/05/2017	106482	Staff	Salary Payment	£236.86
23/05/2017	106483	HMRC	Tax & NI	£387.47
23/05/2017	106484	Greater Gwent Torfaen Pension Fund		£396.55
23/05/1017	106485	Morganna Davies	Abergavenny Eisteddfod	£25.00

23/05/2017	106486	Julia Hawkins	Abergavenny Eisteddfod	£30.00
23/05/2017	106487	Filipino Association	Grant	£250.00
23/05/2017	106488	Mr D Simcock	Mayors Allowance	£2,200.00
08/06/2017	106489	Mrs M Harris	Deputy mayors Allowance	£220.00
10/06/2017	106490	Merlin Waste	Dog Bins	£406.80
10/06/2017	106491	Vision ICT	Website e-mails	£172.80
10/06/2017	106492	Cable News	Library Papers / stamps	£43.60
10/06/2017	106493	Ricoh Ltd	Photocopier	£86.18
10/06/2017	106494	NR & CA Bailey	Replenish Mayors Parlour	£29.94
10/06/2017	106495	Charles Thomas	Town Awards Plaques	£25.50

All payments were passed by council.

## 2016. Reports

No New reports

## 2017. Town Clerk Arrangements

Majority of councillors now recognise that the post should be full time, the clerk has send out information to the Town Clerks Advisory committee received for One Voice Wales on job specification for both the clerk and the assistant. It is important that emergency arrangements are put in place to ensure the smooth running of the council. Peter John will step in in the interim on a part time basis to cover the post. TCAC will report back in July on any further developments form their meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cllr Tatam has spoken to Paul Egan for One Voice Wales who may be able to help with recruitment, Paul will send through a list of various levels of help they provide and the costs.

## 2018. Fair Trade Representative

Cllr Hickman has been the Town Council representative for many years and is willing to stay the representative, Cllr Davies also volunteered to be a second representative. All agreed that they will make good representatives. July 26<sup>th</sup> next meeting.

## 2019. Team Abergavenny – Councillor Tatam.

Wall to Wall Jazz have been offered money from the committee this year, an athletic academy is being formed in Bailey Park where extra facilities will be provided for fitness purposes. Another volunteer is required on Team Abergavenny, Cllr van de Vyver volunteered.

## 2020. CCTV – Councillor Margaret Harris.

Reports are received from the police frequently on the CCTV, it has many uses within the town and with the new link in for shops to use the system (STORENET) it makes the system even more useful to the town. It really is money well spent. Cllr Harris could arrange a visit to the headquarters in Blaenavon for all councillors to see the set-up of the system if required, could be very informative. All councillors agreed.

## 2021. Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillors on local issues / Information from County Councillors to members.

No questions

## 2022. Members reports.

Cllr Thomas – Linda Vista disabled group, Mayors Installation.

Cllr S Dodd – Mayors Installation, Keep Abergavenny Tidy – AGM 26<sup>th</sup> July, A4B meeting.

Cllr Tatam – Mayors Installation, 5 Year Plan – Enhance the Environment

Cllr Hickman – Mayors Installation, Keep Abergavenny Tidy.

Cllr M Harris – Mayors Installation, Scouts AGM, 30 year anniversary Penpergwm House, Syrian Refugee Reception.

Cllr R Harris – Mayors Installation, Syrian Refugee Reception, Jackie Warren meeting.

Cllr S Head – nil

Cllr L Van de Vyver - Mayors Installation.

Cllr F Morgan - Mayors Installation.

Cllr P Simcock - Mayors Installation, Water Aid, AAOD's Ball, , Relief in Need, KHS Sports Day, Women's Institute, Borough Theatre Crucible, Melville Theatre- Hard Times, Community Learning Art Exhibition, Filipino Freedom Day, Arts subgroup, Spread the Word – the 5 Year Plan.

Cllr D Simcock - Mayors Installation, Mayors Installation, Water Aid, AAOD's Ball, , Relief in Need, KHS Sports Day, Women's Institute, Borough Theatre Crucible, Melville Theatre- Hard Times, Community Learning Art Exhibition. Filipino Freedom day, Steam Fair, Syrian Refugee reception & Safe Places Scheme launch.

Cllr T Konieczny – Mayors Installation, 5 Year Plan meeting.

Cllr G Jones - Mayors Installation.

Cllr M Groucutt - Mayors Installation.

Cllr T Davies - Mayors Installation, Meeting with Chronicle Editor.

2004 . Any other business agreed by the Mayor to be urgent and of which he has received notice before the meeting.

**Borough Theatre** Trust have resigned the theatre will now revert back to MCC control. Marion from the Box Office is leaving after 16 years could the council present her with a print of the town hall as a leaving gift. All councillors agreed. Clerk to liaise with box office staff to hand over print for Marion.

### **Honouree Burgesses**

Cllr Hickman proposed that a former councillor be made an Honouree Burgess, it was asked to put this on the Project Committee agenda for July where guidelines on this can be discussed and formally agreed.

The proposal must be added to the next agenda of the full council meeting in order to follow protocol. The decision cannot be made under AOB.

### **Agri-Urban**

Could Agri-Urban also be added to the next agenda so council can discuss the reception that is being held in September for visiting delegates, there will be approximately 35.

### **Toilets**

Could we please ask Roger Hoggins to attend the next projects meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, to look at the recent report from Douglas Edwards, a sub group will be formed in the meantime to look at the toilet situation in the town.

### **Summer Concerts**

Concerts to be held mid-June to end of July, clerk to write to Abergavenny Borough Band to see if they are available., we must be mindful that the events need to be advertised beforehand. Cllr Konieczny informed councillors that the band Jive- o-Holics may be available and that band has previously played for the council.

### **ACE/ACT**

Cllr Thomas and P Simcock to liaise with both associations as soon as possible to arrange a meeting to move the situation forward with regard to them working together.

Cllr R Harris has held a meeting with Claire Marchant from MCC and ACE requires £15,000 a year to keep running, the council needs to know form MCC where both association stand, particularly Park Street. Cllr Thomas informed all that Sarah Jones Cabinet Minister with be visiting Abergavenny on June 26<sup>th</sup> and he will be taking her to ACE to show her the good work that they do.

### **Henstaff Site Brecon Road.**

There has been a lack of activity on the building site on the Brecon road and it is starting to look a mess, could the clerk please right to the Head of Planning for MCC to set a section 215 of the planning act to ask them to clean up the site.

### **The meeting ended at 9.10pm**

### **Actions**

1. Clerk to write to MCC with regard to the War Memorial Cleaning and to endorse Mr Prys-Williams letter. Area service manager MCC.
2. Clerk to send a grant application form and guideline to Matrika Lindley-Thompson for the Food Festival Arts Alive figures.
3. Clerk to e-mail all organisations and inform them of their new council representatives.
4. Ex councillor Prosser seems to be still co-ordinating Agri-Urban at present could the clerk write to MCC stating the council's current position on the matter and that Cllr Thomas is now the town councils representative.
5. Clerk to contact Jacqui Warren for up to date copy and forward to councillors.
6. Cllr Harris to arrange a visit to the CCTV headquarters in Blaenavon for all councillors to see the set-up of the system.

7. Clerk to liaise with box office staff to hand over print for Marion. (located in the robe cupboard).