

## **ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>st</sup> February 2017 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.**

Present: Cllr C Woodhouse (Mayor)

Cllrs S Horrell, S Woodhouse, D Edwards, J L Prosser, T Thomas, R P Jordan, N Tatam, Cllrs M Hickman, M Harris, R Harris, M Powell.

Apologies: Cllrs S Dodd, M Toombs, D Simcock

In attendance: Town Clerk - Jacqueline Humphries, the Press, PC 648 Adam Hollings and PC 576 Maldwyn John

The Mayor welcomed all present.

1925. Apologies were received from Cllrs S Dodd.

1926. No declarations of Interest were made.

1927. PC's John Maldwyn stated the intention of the police to apply for a Public Space Protection Orders for Fairfield carpark and the Skate Park. Police are called 2 -3 times per week to these spots to deal with anti-social behaviour. The protection orders will give police additional powers to deal with the on-going issues of anti-social behaviour and a small amount of drug usage, the extra powers range from a £60 fixed penalty, to a summons or possibly arresting offenders. The Mayor enquired when this would be put in place. Police have already delivered letters to residents in the surrounding areas, who have 21 days to reply, this is then passed to MCC who will erect signs to inform the public of the new orders in place.

All Councillors were very supportive of the plan as they have received complaints from residents in the past – Councillors enquired about the time period of the protection orders – PC's John & Hollings informed all that the order would hopefully be put in place for 5 years. Councillor R Harris congratulated the police and the good job that they already do within the town then asked council if it would be possible to send a letter to the appropriate cabinet member to ask for their support and inform them that the Town Council fully support the orders being put in place. – All councillors agreed this would be a good idea.

1928. Presentation by Angie Sampson & members of 7 Corners Young People Charity. Angie Sampson thanked the council for the £1000 grant that they awarded the charity last year to enable them to run a youth festival. A video presentation of the Youth Festival was then shown and council informed that over 250 youth attended the festival and it was a great success. Angie asked if the Council would again this year be willing to support the festival. Cllr Prosser stated he though the project was a very worthy cause, all councillors agreed. Angie informed Councillors that she also put in other grant application to a number of different bodies and was hoping for more funds this year. She also informed Council that that the 7 Corners Outreach programme launched at the skate park last week and were hoping to

attend there every second Saturday for the near future to engage with the youngsters of the town.

Ange left the meeting

1929. To receive and if appropriate to adopt the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2017.

Slight amendments to be made to minutes to clarify the MCC shortfall and the figures quoted.

1930. Matters arising.

The Mayor informed Council that 67 people attend the last Chamber of Trade meeting. Councillor Prosser stated that he is currently liaising with the subcommittee to obtain a lottery Grant for Bailey Park - will keep councillors informed of any developments.

1931. To receive and if appropriate to adopt the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st February 2017.

Councillors Edwards and Tatam felt that the minutes did not reflect the meeting correctly.

Cllr Edwards felt that we need to make an offer to MCC for the toilets. Cllr R Harris stated if the county council has not made a decision within 6 months then we should pull the plug on the whole matter.

Cllr Edwards informed Council that he and Cllr Prosser were continuing to negotiate with MCC to explore any proposals they may have and had a meeting planned. The Mayor stated he would be attending and also thought it was essential for the Clerk to be at this meeting to ensure continuity into the new council following the May elections. Cllr Tatam stated he thought the vote had been unanimous to investigate taking on the toilets and looking for our own contractors. The Mayor disagreed with this statement.

Some Councillors felt the minutes were not a true record of the Council meeting; therefore a vote was proposed to reflect this. 10 councillors voted yes they were a true record,

Councillors Edwards and Tatam voted though they felt they were not a true record. This has been noted by council.

1932. Matters arising

Councillor Edwards asked about the reserves that the Town Council has at present, would we be able to allocate some of this to Team Abergavenny. Cllr Sheila Woodhouse informed all that there is money in reserve that could be allocated – we could consider an application form them and money could be set aside.

1933 To receive and if appropriate to adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11th January 2017

Councillor Edwards informed all that he has asked for the Newbridge House development to go to full planning committee. All agreed minutes were correct.

1934. Matters arising

1935. Finance Report.

- a) To authorise payments
- b) Month 10 budget reports

Month 10 Finance report was presented to the Council.

Payments were then authorised for the following transactions:-

HMRC	Tax & Ni	£301.58
G M James	Salary Payment	£236.86
J Humphries	Salary Payment	£1,161.85
J Humphries	Reimbursement Office 365 computer program purchase	£69.99
Society of Local Council Clerks - Renewal of Membership of SLCC		£157.00
A4B Grant Payment		£500.00
Information Commissioner Data Protection Registration		£350.00
MCC	CCTV Payment	£3,200.00
City Illuminations - Christmas Lights		£27,000.00
Merlin Waste	Dog Bins	£508.50
Wye Valley & FOD Tourist Ass. Tourism Conference ATC representation		£24.00
Mayors Charity Fund refund - Jane Fowlsler Dinner payment deposited to correct account		£400.00
Wales Audit Office	Audit of accounts 15/16	£184.35
Cable News	31/12/2016 Newspapers for library	£129.44
Cable News	28/01/2017 Newspapers for library	£57.90

#### 1936. Reports

#### 1937. Team Abergavenny – Councillors Horrell & Tatam

Cllr Horrell stated that the Team was looking towards the future, meetings have been held with the new groups and are going very well, with 9-10 people at the last meeting. Councillor Tatam is very pleased with the contribution to the Abergavenny Business club but obviously the 5 year Plan is taking precedence at present.

#### 1938. CCTV – Councillor Harris

No New meeting have taken place since the last Council meeting.

#### 1939. Toilets – Councillor Prosser.

Currently investigating a range of possibilities with regards to this matter and has a meeting with Roger Hoggins booked to discuss possible ways forward. White Horse Lane toilets have been closed again due to flooding and a recurring problem with the roof.

#### 1940. Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillors on local issues.

No questions were asked.

#### 1941. Risk Assessment

Members had been provided with the new risk assessment for 17/18, after consideration all agreed to accept as correct the revised Risk assessment for next year.

#### 1942. Public Correspondence - Clerk

Correspondence was received regarding a banner erected by a local design company which a visitor found distasteful and has caused her upset. The clerk spoke to the local company who were more than happy to remove the banner and expressed their apologies if it had caused offence. The Clerk relayed this information to the complainant who was very happy with the speed and excellent way the Town Council had dealt with the matter.

#### 1943. Members Reports

The Mayor informed all members that the Council had to put a notice in the local paper that they had accepted the Revised Code of Conduct, asked the press who were present to carry out this task for the council.

Cllr Tatam – Convened the 5 Year Plan meeting – Enhance the Environment , Team Abergavenny meeting, and Abergavenny Cluster group, site visit to the Britannia Inn and the Bryn Y Cwn Area Committee.

Cllr Thomas – Attended Shared Space meeting, Gwent Police meeting, Town Team, Cluster meeting and 1 Stop Shop PCSO meeting.

Cllr Simcock - Nothing to report.

Cllr Prosser – Presented a bird box to Cantref School for the Agri-Urban Project, informed the council that members of the project from 10 countries would be visiting the Food Festival in September and asked members to help accommodate the visitors. Would it be possible for the new mayor to have a reception and welcome event for the visitors. Lots of complaints have been received regarding dog faeces in Avenue Road which he will pass on to the Councillors – councillors informed Cllr Prosser that there were dog bins located at Chapel Road which people could be encouraged to use.

Cllr Jordan – Attended the 5Year Plan, KHS Governors meeting and the Bryn y Cwm meeting.

Councillor S Woodhouse - Attended a number of 5 Year Plan meetings, Spreading the Word, Enabling business, Enhancing the Environment, Spreading the Word, Move Around More Easily, Cantref School Agri-Urban presentation, A4B Awards evening, Cluster Meeting, Coal the Salt Exhibition at the museum, planning meeting at County Hall.

Cllr Edwards – Bryn Y Cwm meeting last meeting is set for 25<sup>th</sup> April – it is anticipated that members will not be attending as there are March for area committee members.

Cllr Horrell – 5 Year Plan, Team Abergavenny.

Cllr Powell – Nothing to report

Cllr M Hickman – Fairtrade meeting and 5 Year plan Moving Around Easily.

Cllr R Harris – 5 Year Plan.

Mayor Chris Woodhouse - Attended a number of 5 Year Plan meetings, Spreading the Word, Enabling business, Enhancing the Environment, Spreading the Word, Move Around More Easily, Cantref School Agri-Urban presentation, A4B Awards evening, Nevill Hall Sound for Interview, Cluster Meeting, Coal the Salt Exhibition at the museum, planning meeting at County Hall.

The Mayor congratulated all on the 5 Year Plan meeting that had been held also informed councillors that Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm we would be holding a reception for the local Hockey and Bowls Clubs and on 7<sup>th</sup> April there would be the Honours Board presentations.

The press, the Clerk and police were asked to leave the meeting for the council to discuss confidential matters with regard to the Town Clerk.

1944. To receive and if appropriate to adopt the minutes of the Town Clerk Advisory Committee held on 26th January 2017 and matters arising.

The recent review of the new Town Clerks performance was discussed and the objectives set by the committee agreed.

It was also agreed that the clerk should also be allowed to join the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Torfaen County Council. Voting for this was by a 12 for, to 1 abstention. Therefore a formal resolution was passed in order to designate its employees eligible to join the LGPS. The contribution of Abergavenny Town Council will be 20% of salary with a personal contribution of between 5 -12%.

The Town Clerk returned to the meeting and was informed of the agreements above. A letter from the Mayor will need to be sent to Torfaen to confirm the pension agreement and a copy of the minutes from the meeting as evidence of the Council's decision.

A letter should also be sent to confirm that an offer was made to the Clerks assistant to join the pension scheme some time ago, though her earning are under the threshold, but this was declined, though she may apply to join the LGPS in the future.

Clerk returned to the meeting and informed that she would now be able to sign her new Contract of Employment and also that the Council has confirmed that she was allowed to join the Local Government pension Scheme.

The Mayor also informed all that the Clerks assistant Maria may also ask to join the Local Government Pension Scheme in the future.

The Mayor also informed all present that the new digital information boards would be officially opened on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February by Becky James the Olympic Silver Medallist.

1945. Any other business agreed by the Mayor to be urgent and of which he has received notice before the meeting.

**The meeting ended at 8.45pm**