

ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2016 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.

Present: Cllr C Woodhouse (Mayor)

Cllrs M J Hickman, Mrs M Powell, S Horrell, S Woodhouse, D Edwards, Ms S Dodd, J L Prosser, D Simcock, T Thomas, M Harris, R Harris and N Tatam.

Apologies, R: R P Jordan

In attendance: Town Clerk - Jacqueline Humphries and the Press.

The Mayor welcomed all present and announced that Rachel Rogers from the museum had postponed her attendance but would instead attend the Project Committee meeting on the 24th November.

1873. Apologies were received from Cllrs R P Jordan.

1874. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1875. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th November were received and adopted as a correct record subject to a statement from Cllr Edwards about a letter being send to all businesses in Abergavenny to hopefully resurrect the Abergavenny Chamber of Trade – which will connect very well with the development of the Five Year Plan. The Mayor requested physical support on two upcoming events - both the Remembrance Parade and the Christmas light switch on.

1876. Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12th October were received and adopted as a correct record.

1877. Minutes of the Project Committee held on the 12th October were received and adopted as a correct record with the Mayor giving a further explanation of the clash of the Velethon with the Abergavenny Cycling Festival.

1878. Matters Arising.

Cllr Prosser gave details of the current problems of the bollards and cars parking in St Johns Square, PCSO are attempting to deal with the problems by enforcing more parking penalties. Cllr Edwards has received communication and pictures from Jenny Barnes with regard to the dreadful parking problem around the Methodist Chapel particularly on a Tuesday. Cllr Thomas, Powell and Harris have all witnessed the problems first hand particularly the public's disregard for disabled members of the public often parking in front of dropped kerbs. PCSO's are attempting to deal with the problems but there is a lack of resources. Cllr Tatam suggested the possible production of a card that councillors could carry with them that could be put on offender's windscreens. Cllr R Harris suggested discussing ideas with the inspector.

1879. Finance Report.

Cllr S Woodhouse asked Councillors to approve the yearly payment to both the Mace Bearer, the Deputy Mace Bearer and staff employed to help with the Christmas lights. Mayor Woodhouse posed the question of a pay rise and this was discussed, Cllr Hickman proposed

to leave the payments the same for this year, this was seconded by Councillor Edwards.
Agreed by all.

Cllr S Woodhouse asked for a Special Council Meeting to be held 7th Dec at 6pm to look at the budget for the new council, all agreed.

1880. Cllr S Woodhouse asked the council to approve the October and current November payments from the council budget - Cllr Edwards queried one payment of £2,169.17 the Mayor explained this was for purchase of new bunting and MCC charges for erection of bunting.

a) The following payments were authorised

Cllr Tudor Thomas Councillor Expenses £27.00
Planning Aid Wales Introduction to Planning Course Cllr T Thomas £30.00
Merlin Waste - Dog bins £508.50
Abergavenny Chronicle Abergavenny Spotlight Advertisement £240.00
Monmouthshire C Council CCTV Charges 01/10/16 - 31/12/16 £3,200
Monmouthshire C Council MCC Bunting Charge £2,169.17
G M James Salary £144.73
J Humphries Salary £604.18
HMRC HM Revenue & Customs Tax & NI £214.91
G M James Reimbursement stationary £55.48
Mr C Woodhouse Reimbursement for Civic Functions Beverages Mayors Parlour £70.82
Library papers £39.20
Photocopier £19.63
Merlin Waste Dog Bins £406.80
Monmouthshire CC contribution for Street Sweeper £18,750.00
Vision ICT Annual Hosting charge e-mail & Website £240.00
Councillor S Dodd Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor P Jordan Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor D Simcock Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor S Horrell Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor M Hickman Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor M Powell Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor D Edwards Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor M Toombs Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor S Woodhouse Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor M Harris Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor R Harris Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor C Woodhouse Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor T Thomas Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor J Prosser Communication Allowance £100.00
Councillor N Tatam Communication Expenses £100.00
NR & CA Bailey Ltd Civic Functions £33.48

1881. Month 7 Finance reports were agreed.

1882. Reports.

a) The Mayor of Munsingen send details of an invitation received from the Mayor of Beaupreau for the Council to visit the town? It was agreed this would have to be deferred until after next year's election. It was elected to write to the Mayor explaining the visit would have to be delayed owing to the forthcoming election. Cllrs Prosser and Edwards have both visited before and stated the hospitality they received was excellent.

b) CCTV. Cllr Harris stated there is no news to report. Cllr Prosser gave details of a new camera that is capable of night filming; the supplier is currently putting together a proposal for council. Cllr Prosser was asked to liaise with Cllr Harris with regard to this.

1883. Team Abergavenny.

Cllr Tatam attended a meeting on 27th October between the Town Team and the Council Officer who explained that the £30,000 fund for the summer had unfortunately been re absorbed in other areas.. The council are looking to compare MCC vision with Teams Abergavenny vision at a meeting that is being held tomorrow 9th December. There is also talk about another Public Realm meeting – all agreed this was good.

The Mayor, Cllr's Edwards and Prosser stated they are all part of the 5 Year Plan steering group and any new development will be brought to the next projects meeting on 24th November.

The Mayor informed all there is an informal consultation regarding the new hospital on 28th November 10am – 12pm, the Mayor will be attending and hoping to confirm jobs, childcare and other relevant issues to the town.

1884. Action for Market Towns

The Mayor confirmed that the above organisation has unfortunately gone bankrupt.

1885. Nominations for the Honours Board.

The Mayor asked all to consider the nomination of Charles and Patricia Lester to the Honours Board. Cllr Edwards proposed the motion, Cllr M Harris seconded the motion. Motion was agreed by all. It was agreed that Mrs Jeanette Massocchi should be honoured at the same time, as requested in the June 16 minutes. It was agreed to write to all nominees to ask for their acceptance to go on to the Honours Board.

1886. Town Toilets.

A discussion was held regarding the cost of £58000.00 to keep all the toilets open and the possible full transfer of the toilets to Abergavenny Town Council, agreed this should be decided by the new council. MCC and the developers are poles apart currently on costings. The Town council are not able to negotiate costings at present as we do not own the toilets.

Cllr Edwards stated there are still problems with the Brewery Yard toilets which are still have a permanent bad smell. Regarding the bus station toilets Cllr Edwards asked could a count to be put on the toilets to monitor their use. Cllr Prosser was asked to contact Mr Hoggins in regard to this matter and come back to the council with a decision.

Several councillors stated that when they voted for the £58000.00 for the upkeep of the toilets they presumed it was for one year only not an on-going commitment and posed the question of the sustainability of the commitment. Councillors thought it important to ask the public if they felt that spending that amount of money on the toilets was something they considered the right thing for the town to do.

Cllr Tatam stressed that other town council have adopted their toilets and we need to decide.

1887. Christmas Arrangements

Christmas lights switch on details were confirmed by the Mayor – The James family have kindly agreed to switch on the lights, there will be a performance by the Tenovus Choir and hopefully we will have 100 Santa's on pushbikes. Matthew Lane is dealing with the music, Santa's, Sleigh and the snow machine. The Mayor proposed the council offer prizes for the best dressed Santa and Bike -3 different categories and ages ranges. 3 prizes of £50, motion was agreed and passed by all.

Discussion was help on keeping the 'Best Dressed Window Competition', Cllr Hickman proposed keeping the competition going this year, this was seconded by Cllr Prosser and agreed.

The Mayor confirmed the following upcoming events: - 4th Dec Toy Fair, 11th Dec Food Festival, 15th Dec - evening food fair and asked for a motion to be agreed to advertise these in the Chronicle, all agreed, it was noted that we should probably advertise the 'Christmas Window Dressing Competition' at the same time – all agreed.

1888. Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillors on local issues.
No questions were asked.

1889. Members Reports

Cllr Tatam attended One Voice Wales Larger Council Committee meeting where he was elected the new Vice Chair with a place on the National Executive, also the Llanfoist footbridge stakeholders meeting in Cardiff where an update on the structure was give, planners are now looking at a much lower, deeper structure. Detailed plans could be circulated to all Councillors, all agreed this would be a good idea.

Cllr Simcock attended the Llanfoist Bridge meeting.

Cllr Thomas attended CAIR meeting re car parking in Abergavenny, Access 4 All and Ageing Well at County Hall, Town Team and One Voice Wales - Planning Training, Egyptian Exhibition - official opening.

Cllr Prosser attended the Egyptian exhibition at the museum.

Cllr Dodd had attended the Funeral of former Mayor and Councillor Anthony O'Donovan and Foundation Governors meeting.

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had attended the Welsh Guards Annual Reunion Dinner, Scouts (Cub) 100 Birthday Party, Cycle Cross Leisure Centric, Cycle Cross 11, Cats Protection Shop re-opening, Tony O'Donovan's funeral, ICAS Foundation, Young AAODS Moby Dick, Museum Exhibition – Writing for Eternity, Michael Blackmore Bench unveiling, Veterans Fundraising Bonfire night display by the Round Table in Belgrave Park, Borough band Annual Dinner, Llanfoist school to present the winner of the Summer Reading Challenge a tablet that was donated by the Council.

Cllr Edwards had attended the North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee and the Five-Year Plan meeting.

Cllr Mrs Powell had attended the A4B meeting.

Cllr Horrell had attended Team Abergavenny.

Cllr Hickman had attended the King Henry's Governor Foundation and the Egyptian exhibition in the museum

The Mayor had attended the Welsh Guards Annual Reunion Dinner, Foundation Governors, Scouts (Cub) 100 Birthday Party, Cycle Cross Leisure Centric, Cycle Cross 11, Cats Protection Shop re-opening, Town Plan meetings, Tony O'Donovan's funeral, ICAS Foundation, Young AAODS Moby Dick, Museum Exhibition – Writing for Eternity, Michael Blackmore Bench unveiling, Veterans Fundraising, Bonfire night display by the Round Table in Belgrave Park, Borough band Annual Dinner, Abergavenny & District Tourist Association AGM and Llanfoist school to present the winner of the Summer reading Challenge a tablet that was donated by the Council.

1890. Adoption of the Revised Code of Conduct by the Council & Councillors.

All councillors present signed an official declaration to confirm that they had adopted the Revised Code of Conduct.

The meeting ended at 8:15pm