

ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th April 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, R P Jordan, N Tatam, M Hickman, M Harris, R Harris, M Powell, D Simcock, T Thomas & S Dodd.

In attendance: Town Clerk - Jacqueline Humphries, & the Press.

1966. Apologies were received from Cllrs P Jordan, J Prosser, M Toombs, M Lindley-Thompson & B Robbins

1967. Declarations of Interest would be made as & when.

1968. Abergavenny Food Festival Presentation – this has been postponed – new date to be arranged.

1969. To receive and if appropriate to adopt the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 2017.

Approved

1970. Matter Arising

Nil

1971. To receive and if appropriate to adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 8th March 2017

Approved

1972. Matters Arising

1973. To receive and if appropriate to adopt the minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 5th April 2017

1974. Matters Arising

RH Declared an interest.

S Woodhouse gave councillors information with regard to ACE & ACT and their financial positions. ACE very short of money, need an urgent cash injection to keep running, ACT is sustainable at present, both excellent services. The finance committee proposes a £2000 grant to ACE to enable them to continue for the next few months, following the official grant application process, on the stipulation that both organisation work more closely together to produce a business plan going forward. This was seconded by C Woodhouse and all agreed. Approved by Council.

Clerk to write to both organisations to inform them of the decision and recommend the need to work closer together in the future.

SH enquired on the Council legal position in regards to granting monies for on-going costs. The Clerk informed Council that according to financial regulations – if the council feels that an organisation is benefiting the people of the town then grants for on-going cost could be awarded under section 137.

Grant applications were then discussed from the Abergavenny & District Tourist association to enable them to produce the Abergavenny Visitors Guide for £3000. Proposed by S Woodhouse, seconded by S Dodd – Approved by Council.

Black Mountain Jazz grant application – grant for £1500 to provide a free concert in the market hall, very well attended last year. Grant proposed by S Woodhouse, seconded by S Dodd. Approved by Council

1975. Finance Report

Finance report was presented to Council for month 12. Council was then asked to authorise the following payments:-

14/03/2017	Abergavenny Eisteddfod Abergavenny Eisteddfod Sculpture	£2,000
14/03/2017	Friends of Castle Meadows - Grant for plants	£707
14/03/2017	Abergavenny Museum Grant	£1,000
20/03/2017	Monmouthshire County Council for Waste Services	£18,750
21/03/2017	Abergavenny Art & Literature Festival & Eisteddfod	£1,185
23/03/2017	Salary Payment - Confidential	£236.86
23/03/2017	Salary Payment – Confidential	£1,193.28
23/03/2017	Greater Gwent Torfaen Pension Fund	£381.01
23/03/2017	HMRC Tax & NI Contributions March 17	£352.35
31/03/2017	Cable News Library Newspapers	£43.60
31/03/2017	Ms A Jones Welsh Adjudicator Abergavenny Eisteddfod	£75.00
31/03/2017	Ms M Toombs English Adjudicator Abergavenny Eisteddfod	£75.00
31/03/2017	SWALEC Electric bill for Christmas lights	£256.80
11/4/17	Merlin Waste – Dog Bins	£406.80
11/4/17	NR & CA Bailey – Replenish Mayors Parlour	£187.23
11/4/17	Rialtas Business Solutions Finance System	£294.00

1976. 2 further grant applications were considered by Council:-

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni for £380 to enable student to attend the Senedd, proposed by S Woodhouse, seconded by C Woodhouse – Approved by all councillors.

The Bridge to Cross Charitable Trust for £1,000 to enable them to run an Integrated Youth Festival. The grant was proposed by S Woodhouse and seconded by S Dodd – Approved by all councillors.

1977. Hill residential street naming – proposed street names from MCC were discussed and deemed of no local significance. Councillor Edwards proposed the following names:-

- a) Wedgewood Gardens – Josiah Wedgewood son of the founder of the pottery company who lived in Abergavenny.
- b) Herbert Close – dedicated to Rachel Herbert who gave a lot of money to the town to establish Trinity Church, the Almshouses and hall and also the Carnegie Library in Victoria Street.

c) Gunter Mews – The Gunter family who lived in the Gunter Mansion in Cross Street and who's presence in Abergavenny was highlighted in Tudor Times.
d) Wheatley Walk – Sir Zachariah was the mayor of Abergavenny throughout the First World War. He was knighted in 1918 for services to the nation.
Councillors fully support the proposed names; all names have a local connection – clerk to inform MCC.

1978. Printing arrangements for 5 Year Plan.

Three quotes have been obtained locally, all are in the region of £400 - £500 for the first print – subsequent prints will be relatively cheaper. The plan will be printed bilingually and in colour and 2000 will initially be printed.

1979. Twinning. A letter was received from Judith Vicary of the Twinning Association regarding the 30th Anniversary of the towns twinning with Beaupreau and the 50th Anniversary with Ostringen in 2018, to enquire if the Council was planning anything. The Mayor attended a recent meeting and proposed that we allow the Twinning Association to organise the events and to keep the council informed. It is proposed that the Council send an official invitation to both towns to invite them to visit in 2018 to celebrate.

1980. Reports

1981. Team Abergavenny – Councillors Horrell & Tatam

Team Abergavenny meetings going ahead as normal though difficult to speak to councillors because of the upcoming election. We need to engage with all new councillors as soon as possibly following the election.

1982. CCTV – There is an on-going debate with police about moving some of the cameras, hot spots seem to have moved and we need to ensure that we keep up with any changes. MCC are still deciding if they are going to continue with the CCTV, they have been informed by police that it is an excellent facility and has allowed them to identify many people over the years and is money well spent.

1983. Toilets – Councillor Prosser left a written update stating there will be meaningful discussions over the next few months and Roger Hoggins is currently preparing a specification order to invite tenders from toilet providers.

1984. Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillors on local issues.

Councillor Edwards would like this question reworded to enable County Councillors to give updates from MCC.

CW – this would need to be decided by the new council.

1985. Members Reports

Cllr Tatam – Team Abergavenny, 5 year Plan meeting, One Voice Wales chaired larger Council Committee meeting.

Cllr Simcock – nothing to report

Cllr Thomas – Food Wales, Brexit Discussions, Gunter mansion steering group and First Ministers visit.

Cllr Dodd – Honours Board Reception

Cllr Jordan – TA meeting, Team Abergavenny, Honours Board reception.

Councillor S Woodhouse – 5 Year Plan meetings x 3, Beaupreau AGM, Melville Theatre Romeo & Juliet, Reception for 3 Syrian Families, Bill Fousler Funeral, Opening of Den Coffee Shop, Fairfield Improvement meeting, Honours Board Presentation.

Cllr Edwards – Honours Board Reception.

Cllr Horrell – Fairtrade Birthday Tea, Team Abergavenny, Alzheimer’s Association.

Cllr Hickman – Site Visit station, B Fousler funeral, Honours Board, Town Plan meeting, Public Realm meeting town Cubs, transporting Art work to KHS Eisteddfod.

Cllr Powell – Honours Board Reception.

Mayor Chris Woodhouse – 5 Year Plan meetings x 3, Beaupreau AGM, Melville Theatre Romeo & Juliet, Reception for 3 Syrian Families, Bill Fousler Funeral, Opening of Den Coffee Shop, Fairfield Improvement meeting, Honours Board Presentation.

1986. Any other business agreed by the Mayor to be urgent and of which he has received notice before the meeting.

The Mayor informed all of the arrangements for the Mons Parade on Saturday 5th May- 2.30 at the Town Hall to put on robes for the service at 3pm in St Mary’s Church, walk to cenotaph then wreath laying ceremony at 4pm.

Councillor Edwards informed all that they are still councillors until the clerk has signed the new council in, so will still be able to wear the robes on that day.

Councillor R Harris thanks Councillor S Woodhouse, Councillor D Edwards and the Mayor C Woodhouse for all the work that they have put in over the years for the town, it is very much appreciated by all and this was reiterated by many of the councillors present.

Councillor Edwards thanked everyone for their support and wished all the best for the future.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm