

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY ON WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2017 AT 6.30PM.

Present:

Chairman - Cllr D Simcock (Mayor)
Cllr M Groucutt,
Cllr R Harris,
Cllr Mrs M Harris,
Cllr M Hickman,
Cllr T Konieczny,
Cllr G Jones,
Cllr S Head,
Cllr N Tatam,
Cllr Mrs P Simcock,
Cllr F Morgan,
Cllr Mrs T Davies
Cllr T Thomas,
Cllr Mrs S Dodd.

In attendance:

J Lee (Town Clerk)

	<p>Independent Review of Community & Town Councils</p> <p>Prior to the formal meeting, Kathryn Silk, Member of the Panel undertaking an Independent Review of Community & Town Councils addressed the Council. The Panel was set up in October and expect that the review will take 12 months.</p> <p>Four questions are being posed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What should Community & Town Councils be responsible for?• How should they operate?• What's standing in their way to deliver for the local community?• How do Councils ensure they best represent their community? <p>Views on these four questions to be sent to Welsh Government by end of February 2018.</p> <p>The review was generally welcomed as it provides a good opportunity to look at future arrangements. The review should consider whether there should be more powers at a local level. Ongoing issues around boundaries and levels of precept and ability of Town & Community Councils to raise money through other means than the precept.</p>
2095	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr L Van de Vyver</p>

2096	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest</p>
2097	<p>Presentation – Love Zimbabwe</p> <p>It was agreed to hear a brief presentation from David & Martha Holman regarding Love Zimbabwe. An invitation was extended to the Mayor and Mayoress to attend a reception at the Senedd on 31st January 2018 regarding the expansion of a scheme to forge links between Welsh universities and Zimbabwe.</p>
2098	<p>Minutes of Council Meeting</p> <p>The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th November 2017 were received and adopted as a correct record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr S Dodd queried the decision of the Finance Committee to award A4B only £100. Cllr S Head Chairman of Finance Committee informed Council that a vote had been taken at the meeting and the Acting Town Clerk was requested to write to A4B setting out the reasons for not awarding the full amount.
2099	<p>Minutes of Planning Committee</p> <p>The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8th November 2017 were received and adopted as a correct record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No matters arising
2100	<p>Minutes of Projects Committee</p> <p>The Minutes of the Projects Committee held on 23rd November 2017 were received and adopted as a correct record subject to two minor alterations – Apologies to be included from Cllr Mrs M Harris and first page second from last paragraph typo ‘mall businesses’ should read ‘small businesses’</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henstaff Development pre-application consultation comments to be considered under AOB during the Planning Committee on 13th December • Trolley Park Area, Fairfield Car Park – Cllr T Konieczny reported that Alun Griffiths Contractor will be carrying out the work pro bono and will be in keeping with the street furniture on St Johns Square. • Cllr Mrs P Simcock reported that members of the Toilets Sub Group had met with Roger Hoggins from MCC and from this meeting a number of requests have been made to MCC including consideration of a pilot to keep a toilet block open for 24 hours. A response is awaited from MCC. Town Clerk to follow up.

	ACTION: Town Clerk to contact Roger Hoggins regarding arrangements for toilets in 2018/19																						
2101	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>a) The following payments were authorised :</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Cable News (October)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£61.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Cable News (November)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£77.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">One Voice Wales (Chairing Skills Training)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Ricoh UK (Photocopier)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£89.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Network Audio (Sound system Cycling Festival)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£930.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Martin's Framing (Mayor's Photo & Mace Bearer Certificate)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£90.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Merlin Waste (Dog Waste Collection December)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£406.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Monmouthshire CC (Contribution for Street Cleansing)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£38, 437.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Viking Direct (printer cartridges)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£55.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Society of Local Council Clerks (annual membership)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£225.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Seren Image (Portrait Photograph of Mayor)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£35.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>b) The month 8 budget reports were received and noted.</p> <p>c) The Town Clerk requested that details of any projects/activities that should be considered as part of the 2018/19 budget setting to be forwarded to her asap. It was agreed that a draft budget will be on the agenda of Finance Committee on 3rd January 2018.</p>	Cable News (October)	£61.40	Cable News (November)	£77.60	One Voice Wales (Chairing Skills Training)	£40.00	Ricoh UK (Photocopier)	£89.37	Network Audio (Sound system Cycling Festival)	£930.00	Martin's Framing (Mayor's Photo & Mace Bearer Certificate)	£90.00	Merlin Waste (Dog Waste Collection December)	£406.80	Monmouthshire CC (Contribution for Street Cleansing)	£38, 437.50	Viking Direct (printer cartridges)	£55.78	Society of Local Council Clerks (annual membership)	£225.00	Seren Image (Portrait Photograph of Mayor)	£35.00
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2102	<p>Reports</p> <p>No reports</p>																						
2103	<p>Morrison's Store. Cllr G Jones asked if any councillors have been in contact with Morrisons. Cllr D Simcock informed Council that he and Cllr L Van de Vyver were meeting with the Store Manager on 14 December and would be able to report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllrs D Simcock and L Van de Vyver to report back on their Morrisons visit</p> <p>Period Poverty – Cllr G Jones asked for this to be deferred to the January meeting. This was agreed.</p>																						
2104	<p>Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillors</p> <p>Cllr T Konieczny reported on the condition of the footbridge across the Gavenny river from Ross Road to the Pen-y-fal estate, the bridge is in poor repair and the walking surface very slippery. Cllr M Hickman stated that he had been in contact with Cllr M Powell over the matter. Cllr R Harris reported that MCC have ringfenced Sec 106 monies for the repair of this foot bridge</p>																						

2105	<p>Members Reports</p> <p>Members gave reports on meetings/events attended:</p> <p>Cllr D Simcock – Dinner – Former KHS Pupils Assn, Armistice Day Ceremony at Castle, Remembrance day service, Attended A4B/ Aber for Borough Monthly Meeting, Attended Gwent Bach Choir – Messiah, Met with Mayor from Kyrgyzstan - Aber Comm Centre, Attended Play - Christmas Crisis - Borough Theatre Attended Friends of Linda Vista AGM, Christmas Lights Switch on Attended McCarthy and Stone presentation on Court/Police Stn. Site Site Inspection in Pen y Pound (with MCC Planning), Attended ACE Christmas Grotto, Council Christmas Dinner</p> <p>Cllr T Davies – Town Council Xmas Dinner</p> <p>Cllr T Thomas – Remembrance Service Castle & Town, Jesse Altar Dedication, Disability Group meeting, Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni Governors meeting, Rural Transport Symposium, Christmas Light Switch On, McCarthy Stone Consultation, ACE Christmas Grotto, Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni Christmas Fair</p> <p>Cllr F Morgan – Christmas Light Switch On</p> <p>Cllr Mrs P Simcock – NHS Sound, Phoenix Singers, One Voice Wales meeting on T & CC Review, Jesse Altar Dedication</p> <p>Cllr N Tatum – Team Abergavenny Meeting, Talent at the Borough Show, One Voice Wales meeting on T & CC Review, Town Council Christmas Dinner</p> <p>Cllr G Jones – Town Council Christmas Dinner, Walk Around Grofield Ward with Gwent Police</p> <p>Cllr S Head – Jesse Altar Dedication, Town Council Christmas Dinner, Remembrance Service Castle and Town</p> <p>Cllr T Konieczny – Castle Maroons, Remembrance Service, Governor Induction training, One Voice Wales Charing Skills Training, two Governor meetings at St Michaels School, Rural Transport Symposium, Christmas Light Switch On</p> <p>Cllr M Hickman – Remembrance Service, Christmas Lights Switch On</p> <p>Cllr Mrs M Harris – Castle Maroons, St Johns Christmas Concert, Jesse Altar Dedication, Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra concert, Christmas Lights Switch On, Town Council Christmas Dinner</p> <p>Cllr R Harris requested clarification on whether members reports should relate only to reports where councillors have attended meetings of outside bodies.</p> <p>ACTION: Town Clerk to clarify scope of Members Reports against standing orders</p>
2106	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Following the earlier discussion with Kathryn Silk it was agreed that the Town Clerk will collate responses and bring back a proposed Town Council response to the February Council meeting.</p>

	ACTION: All to send views to Town Clerk by end of January 2018
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. There being no other business the meeting ended at 8:10pm

ACTION LIST FROM DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Action	Name
1. Contact Roger Hoggins regarding arrangements for toilets in 2018/19	JL
2. Cllrs D Simcock and L Van de Vyver to report back on their Morrisons visit	Cllr D Simcock and Cllr L Van de Vyver
3. Clarify scope of Members Reports against standing orders	JL
4. Send views on Independent Review of Community & Town Council to Town Clerk by end of January	All Councillors