

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY ON WEDNESDAY 10th OCTOBER 2018, 7.00PM

Present:

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

In attendance:

J Lee (Town Clerk)

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| 61/18 | <p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Dodd, L Van de Vyver</p> |
| 62/18 | <p>2. Declarations of Interest</p> <p>To be declared during the meeting.</p> |
| 63/18 | <p>3. To receive a short presentation by PC Adam Hollings</p> <p>PC Adam Hollings explained the changes to the Abergavenny Neighbourhood Policing Team. The area is split into two areas – Mardy and Abergavenny Team. The Lansdown ward falls within the Mardy area with the other wards falling within the Town area.</p> <p>Mardy PCSOs – Amanda Yung (problem solving) & Sara Mason (engagement) Town PCSOs – Erin Prosser (problem solving) & Lauren Parker (engagement)</p> <p>The PCSOs have been given particular areas of focus. If Councillors would like a PCSO to attend a particular event they should contact the engagement PCSO.</p> <p>Councillors recorded their thanks to PCSO Amanda Yung for her involvement in the public realm works discussions. Cllr Thomas also thanked PC Adam Hollings for his involvement in the anti-social behaviour issues on the Fairfield Car Park.</p> |

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| | <p>The Mayor thanked PC Adam Hollings for his presentation.</p> |
| 64/18 | <p>4. To receive a presentation from Michael Prys Williams regarding the War Memorial</p> <p>Michael Prys Williams explained that a number of options are currently being explored for the War Memorial given that the Phase 3 public realm works will be starting in January 2019. The options are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Keep the memorial where it is 2 – Repositioning in Frogmore Street away from A40 3 - To move to Baker Street 4 - To move to St John’s Square. <p>Michael Prys Williams explained that MCC does not have any funding for the relocation of the War Memorial. A question was asked about the cost of moving the memorial. An exact figure could not be given. Members were informed that MCC was in discussion with a specialist contractor to obtain a quotation in time for the next public realm meeting on 16th October.</p> <p>Councillors were asked to take part in an informal vote – 7 voted for Option 1, 6 for Option 2.</p> <p>Cllr D Simcock suggested that there could be a further option which was to keep it in the current location but right the lean.</p> |
| 65/18 | <p>5. Minutes of Council held on Wednesday 12th September 2018</p> <p>The Minutes of Council held on 12th Sept were received and adopted as a correct record. Proposed Cllr D Simcock, seconded M Harris.</p> <p>6. Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of Councillors stated that the Annual Report had not been delivered to their house. The Town Clerk to discuss with the distributor. • Code of Conduct training has been arranged for 15th January • A draft investment policy will be discussed at the Policy Committee on 24th October. • Review of single use plastics – outstanding action • Contact MCC re gathering evidence re air quality along A40- a reply has been received from MCC environmental health which needs further discussion • Discussions on Fairfield Car Park issues – on agenda • Feasibility of the relocation of the TIC to the Town Hall – discussions ongoing but nothing significant to report • Arrange a meeting with Chief Chinamhora – complete • Prepare an Honours Board Policy – Cllr D Simcock has volunteered and this will be discussed at the Policy Committee on 24th October. |

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| 66/18 | <p>7. Minutes of Planning Committee held on Wednesday 12th September 2018</p> <p>The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 12th September were received and adopted as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Hickman</p> <p>8. Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town Clerk reported that a response had been sent to MCC on the EIA scoping opinion for Pentre Lane development. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 67/18 | <p>9. Minutes of Projects Committee held on Wednesday 26th September 2018</p> <p>The minutes of the Projects Committee held on Wednesday 26th September were received and adopted as a correct record. Proposed Cllr M Harris, seconded Cllr N Tatam.</p> <p>10. Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of the dog waste bin in the Union Road West/Hatherleigh Road area proposed for the grassed area by the Ambulance Station Council agreed the Projects Committee recommendation to contribute £30,000 in 2019/20 to the overall Castle Events Pavilion Project. Projects Committee recommended that Council agree in principle that one toilet block is closed and that is White Horse Lane toilets and that the Town Clerk is tasked with preparing a further report setting out how this action can be taken forward. Clarification was sought as to what the additional report would cover. The Clerk explained that it would look at ownership of the toilets, future investment costs, running costs so Council would be fully informed when making the final decision. A number of councillors expressed their thanks to the Town Clerk for the report which contained the analysis of the public survey. Cllr Jones proposed and Cllr M Harris seconded that Council vote on the recommendation from Projects Committee. Cllr Tatam requested a recorded vote. Cllrs Jones, R Harris, M Harris, Lewis, Hickman, Groucutt, Thomas, Davies voted in favour, Cllrs Tatam, D Simcock, P Simcock and T Konieczny voted against, Cllr F Morgan abstained. Therefore the vote was carried. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 68/18 | <p>11. Finance Report</p> <p>The following payments were authorised</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="309 1854 1305 2024"> <tr> <td>ACE (small grant)</td> <td>£2500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gateway Credit Union (small grant)</td> <td>£1500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Viking (office stationary)</td> <td>£29.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leaflet Ewe (distribution of annual report)</td> <td>£396.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Lee (replacement flags & payment for survey software)</td> <td>£45.86</td> </tr> </table> | ACE (small grant) | £2500.00 | Gateway Credit Union (small grant) | £1500.00 | Viking (office stationary) | £29.81 | Leaflet Ewe (distribution of annual report) | £396.00 | J Lee (replacement flags & payment for survey software) | £45.86 |
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| | <p>Monmouthshire County CAB (large grant) £12000 Jems Catering (Strategy Day) £42.00 K&J Crafts (materials for poppies) £40.75 One Voice Wales (AGM) £85.00 Kings Arms (Twinning) £1260.00 Jems Catering (Twinning) £200.00 Mrs Dodd (Catering Twinning) £400.00 Williams Coaches (Twinning) £340.00 T.Konieczny (Expenses Abergavenny/Wales in Bloom awards) £190.00 Merlin Waste (Dog bin emptying October) £581.25 Cable News (Library Papers) £59.40 Beaupreau Twinning Association (small grant) £1500.00 Office Costs (October) £3791.10</p> <p>b) Month 6 reports were accepted.</p> |
| 69/18 | <p>12. To consider the proposal for a new photocopier lease arrangement</p> <p>A report setting out a breakdown of the four quotations received for replacing the photocopier was considered.</p> <p>Council agreed to five year lease with Company B for an A4/A3 B&W and Colour device.</p> |
| 70/18 | <p>13. To agree arrangements for the Christmas meal</p> <p>The Council considered a report regarding arrangements for paying for the Christmas Meal. The arrangement to date has been for a number of non-paying guests to be invited.</p> <p>The recommendation that the arrangement for non-paying guests is ended and that all guests attending the Town Council Christmas Meal pay was proposed by Cllr Konieczny, seconded by Cllr M Harris, the vote was carried.</p> |
| 71/18 | <p>14. To receive a report on the End of WWI Commemorations</p> <p>Councillors considered a report setting out the arrangements for the Town Council sponsored End of World War Commemorations and budgetary implications as the Armed Forces Covenant grant application was unsuccessful. These are</p> <p>POPPY WALLS – The Town Council is leading on a project to decorate key buildings and railings with poppies from the end of October through to third week of November.</p> <p>THE LAST POST COMMUNITY PLAY – This will be performed on Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th November in the Borough Theatre.</p> <p>BATTLE’S OVER - The Town Council is organising the town’s contribution to the international Battle’s Over tribute. Air & Army Cadets will light the beacon on behalf of the Council but given the possible weather conditions in November an alternative has been organised. The alternative is to light a beacon in the Castle Grounds where the public and Town Councillors will be invited to gather to watch the lighting of the beacon. In addition, a</p> |

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| | <p>trumpeter from the Borough Band has volunteered to sound the Last Post at 6.55pm in the Castle Grounds before the beacon lighting at 7.00pm which will be followed by the Ring of Bells at 7.05pm.</p> <p>TEA FOR THE TROOPS – One of the conditions for receiving funding for the silhouettes is that the applicant, namely the Town Council, arranges a self funding event, ie the Armed Forces Covenant grant cannot be used for the event. Therefore, by working with others who can contribute financially and in kind, a Tea for the Troops has been arranged in the Priory Centre after the War Memorial Service on 11th November for invited guests. A sum of £100 is requested to cover costs of refreshments.</p> <p>The Summer events budget is underspent by £100 with all expenditure committed for 2018/19. Therefore, this underspend could be vired to the Tea for the Troops. The 2018/19 budget has a £1000 allocation for a Votes for Women event. An event has not been arranged in 2018 so a request is made for the £1000 to be vired to the WWI events cost centre. This will enable the poppy walls project to be funded and to provide a buffer for the Last Post play if necessary. Cllr P Simcock requested that Council consider funding for books for the library on inspirational women. This request is to be considered by Finance Committee</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny proposed, seconded by Cllr Hickman that £100 is vired from Summer Events to WWI Events cost centre, vote carried.</p> <p>Cllr P Simcock proposed, seconded by Cllr Konieczny that £1000 is vired from Votes for Women Event to WWI Events cost centre, vote carried.</p> |
| 72/18 | <p>15. To receive a verbal report on the Strategy day and next steps</p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that the report from the facilitator has been received and that this will inform the strategy. Although a lot was achieved at the Strategy Day there was a limit to what could be discussed in the time available therefore there are two options for taking forward the preparation of a strategy. One option is to take forward what the Town Council has acknowledging that it is a first step/direction of travel or the other option is to spend months discussing other potential priorities and refining the information, by which time the budget for 2019/20 will be set.</p> <p>Cllr Groucutt proposed, seconded by Cllr D Simcock that the Town Council takes forward the work from the Strategy day and that the Town Clerk is requested to prepare a draft strategy and action plan. Vote carried unanimously.</p> |
| 73/18 | <p>16. To receive an update on the anti-social behaviour in Fairfield Car Park</p> <p>Cllr Thomas updated members on discussions with MCC officers regarding the feasibility of locking the barrier at Fairfield Car Park. MCC may be able to open the barrier in the morning however further consideration is to be given to the costs of closing the barrier in the evening and what time the barrier should be closed. Cllr P Simcock (who is also involved with the Melville Theatre) suggested that there may be a solution through their caretaker. Cllr Jones requested that councillors are mindful that there should be an Abergavenny solution rather than push the problem to other areas as there are already issues in Byefield Lane Car Park.</p> |

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| | In the September meeting it was agreed that Cllr Thomas continues to explore options and it was reiterated that firm costings are required. |
| 74/18 | <p>17. Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillors on local issues/Information from County Councillors to members</p> <p>Cllr Tatam asked for an update on MCC's commitment to move away from the green waste recycler based in Somerset. Cllr Groucutt updated councillors on the new Energy for Waste plant in Cardiff which MCC is using.</p> |
| 75/18 | <p>18. Members Reports (relating to representation on external bodies)</p> <p>Cllr Thomas – OVW AGM (written report was also submitted) disappointment that the Cabinet Secretary Alun Davies cancelled, Road Safety Seminar, Ysgol Gymraeg y Fenni Governors meeting Cllr P Simcock – LDP training Steering group Cllr Tatam – OVW Area Committee Cllr Lewis- RTC Reduction Event Cllr Konieczny – Wales in Bloom event (written report submitted) attention was drawn to an Adopt a Garden scheme being run in Conwy Cllr Hickman – KHS Charitable Trust Cllr M Harris – Twinning activities Cllr R Harris – Twinning activities Cllr Groucutt – KHS Charitable Trust Cllr T Davies – Twinning, Chief Chinamhora reception, Friends of Bailey Park, Cantref School Governors, Abergavenny in Bloom Awards, Market Traders Meeting, ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) PSB meeting, Road Safety Workshop, Dog Fouling Awareness Day.</p> |
| 76/18 | <p>19. Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p> |

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.57pm

ACTION LIST FROM OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

| Action | Name |
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| 1. To review the use of single use plastics and report back to Council on actions that the Town Council can take | JL |
| 2. To continue discussions with MCC re gathering evidence re air pollution along the A40 through the town | JL |
| 3. To prepare a more detailed report on taking forward the closure of White Horse Lane toilets | JL |

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| 4. To prepare a draft Town Council Strategy & Action Plan | JL |
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| 5. To continue exploring a solution to the Fairfield Car Park issue | Cllr Thomas |
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