

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY ON WEDNESDAY 14th MARCH 2018 AT 7.00PM

Present:

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

In attendance:

J Lee (Town Clerk)

2137	<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Head, M Harris, L Van de Vyver, M Groucutt and P Simcock.</p>
2138	<p>2. Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest</p>
	<p>A member of the public associated with the Campaign for an Accessible Railway Station addressed the Council.</p> <p>3. To receive a presentation from Samuel Hadley and Dale Crutcher from Network Rail on Accessibility Issues at Abergavenny Railway Station</p> <p>Samuel Hadley, Senior PR officer for All Wales and Borders and Dale Crutcher, responsible for the Access for All Programme, All Wales and Borders addressed the Council and highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network Rail (NR) would want all stations to be fully accessible• NR receives direct funding for the maintenance of the network from Department for Transport (DfT)• Funding for enhancement reliant on additional funding sources• DfT has a funding programme – Access for All – which operates in 5 year segments known as Rail Control Periods. In Control Period 4 Abergavenny was successful in securing funding for accessibility improvements at the station

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned accessibility improvements however compromised signal visibility therefore scheme stalled and funding lost. • Without detailed work it is not possible at this stage to quantify how big a job it will be to move the signal as it could have knock on effects on other signals • CP6 starts 2019. NR is working with WG and Arriva Trains Wales to develop a prioritisation list for projects in CP6. NR will be reliant on match funding from WG. • Network Rail is working on the assumption that DfT will be announcing a further funding programme possibly in August 2018. At this time it is expected that DfT will seek a list of possible projects across UK with an announcement of which ones will be funded expected in October/November • Acknowledged that the Abergavenny campaign was strong campaign and the fact that the project had once attracted funding is a positive • Cllr Konieczny asked about the impact of the Metro, too early to be able quantify as will depend on the new franchise operator and franchise specification but any increase in services as a result of Metro would have to involve improvements in accessibility • Cllr Harris asked about match funding and whether local fundraising as an element of match funding would be beneficial. It was felt that it could only help the campaign and show the support locally • Councillors Konieczny and Cllr Thomas stressed that this is not just an issue for wheelchair uses but for parents with pushchairs, travellers with large and heavy luggage and that the problem is exacerbated as the ATW office has limited opening hours so there is not always assistance available • Cllr Jones stated that the campaign will continue • Cllr Davies asked whether there should be direct contact with DfT. Reply yes <p>The Mayor thanked the representatives from Network Rail who left the meeting</p>
2139	<p>4. Minutes of Council held on Wednesday 14th February 2018</p> <p>The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th February were received and adopted as a correct record with the addition under Members Reports that it is noted that Cllr Hickman attended the funeral of Ray Hill. Proposed Cllr Dodd, Seconded Cllr Davies.</p> <p>5. Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Clerk reported that a response is still awaited from Roger Hoggins, MCC re the toilets and the Public Realm works. • An Events Committee has been arranged to 21st March, 6.30pm in the Mayor’s Parlour
2140	<p>6. Minutes of Planning Committee held on Wednesday 14th February</p> <p>The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 14th February were received and adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Tatam, seconded by Cllr Jones.</p>

	<p>7. Matters Arising</p> <p>No matters arising</p>
2141	<p>8. Minutes of Projects Committee held on Thursday 22nd February</p> <p>The minutes of the Projects Committee held on Thursday 22nd February were received and adopted as a correct record. Proposed by G Jones, seconded by S Dodd</p> <p>9. Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL reported that an email had been sent to Alan Michie, Team Abergavenny setting out the actions from the North Monmouthshire Plan which the Town Council consider they have a key role. A reply has been received.
2142	<p>10. Minutes of the Town Clerk Advisory Group held on Tuesday 6th March</p> <p>The minutes of the Town Clerk Advisory Group held on Tuesday 6th March were received and adopted as a correct record with the addition of the inclusion that the hours of work are 8 hours a week. Proposed Cllr Dodd, Cllr Davies.</p> <p>11. Matters Arising</p> <p>No matters arising</p>
2143	<p>12. Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 7th March</p> <p>The minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 7th March were received and adopted as a correct record. Cllr Dodd requested the inclusion of action tables in future minutes.</p> <p>13. Matters arising</p> <p>The following recommendations of the Committee were considered and voted upon.</p> <p><u>Community Grant Scheme Applications</u></p>
2144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mary's Priory application for a £200 grant towards the flower festival – vote unanimous
2145	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough Theatre for a grant of £1000 for two Introduction to Technical Theatre courses – vote unanimous
2146	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny Writing Festival £600 support towards the cost of the festival – vote unanimous
2147	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little LifeSavers Monmouthshire for a £400 grant towards equipment for volunteers to train children in lifesaving techniques – vote unanimous
2148	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Mountain Jazz for a grant to stage the free Jazz Alley concert as part of the Wall2Wall Jazz Festival – vote 1 abstention

<p>2149</p> <p>2150</p> <p>2151</p> <p>2152</p> <p>2153</p> <p>2154</p> <p>2155</p> <p>2156</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two applications have been deferred until May Finance Committee, one being ADTA. Cllr Dodd requested that the Clerk reviews the dates of previous payment as some confusion over number of payments in each financial year. <p>ACTION: JL to review previous ADTA payments in advance of the Finance Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All voted in favour of making available £50 towards a leaflet on the Accessibility at the Railway Station Campaign • Vote carried on providing a free concert staged by Hummadruz for school children in April from the summer concert budget. 2 abstentions. • RBS Year End Preparation. All agreed to the recommendation to engage RBS to close down the years accounts • Office IT proposal – All agreed to the recommendation to fund improvements to the hardware and connectivity • LGPS Discretions – All agreed to approve the recommendation to adopt LGPS discretions • OVW Membership renewal – All agreed to approve the recommendation to renew the OVW membership <p>Cllr R Harris declared an interest as he is Treasurer of ACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACE letter requesting funding all agreed (with the exception of R Harris for reasons above) with the recommendation that ACE to apply by application form. 												
<p>2157</p>	<p>14. Finance Report</p> <p>a) The following payments were authorised:</p> <table data-bbox="395 1608 1406 2002"> <tr> <td>Ricoh UK (photocopier)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£72.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MCC (summer playscheme contribution)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£8,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MCC (Q4 contribution to public toilets)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£17,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cable News (library papers)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£46.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Viking (Office Stationery)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£33.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3704.05</td> </tr> </table>	Ricoh UK (photocopier)	£72.57	MCC (summer playscheme contribution)	£8,000	MCC (Q4 contribution to public toilets)	£17,400	Cable News (library papers)	£46.00	Viking (Office Stationery)	£33.58	Office Costs	£3704.05
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	<p>Councillor Travel Expenses £187.60</p> <p>Monmouthshire Youth Service (Grant) £360.00</p> <p>Merlin Waste (Dog Waste March) £435.72</p> <p>NR & CA Bailey Ltd (restock of Mayor's Parlour) £17.46</p> <p>One Voice Wales Membership 2018/19 £1555.00</p> <p>Abergavenny Rhinos (Beaupreau Twinning travel x3) £477</p> <p>Homestart Monmouthshire (Grant) £720</p> <p>Aber Writing Festival (Grant) £600</p> <p>Little LifeSavers (Grant) £400</p> <p>Black Mountain Jazz (Grant) £2000</p> <p>St Mary's Priory (Grant) £200</p> <p>Borough Theatre (Grant) £1000</p> <p>b) The month 11 budget reports were received and noted.</p> <p>The Clerk drew attention to the small discrepancy in the reconciliation. This will be rectified.</p>
2158	<p>15. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales</p> <p>The recommendations of this Panel regarding payments to Councillors were considered and Cllr Thomas proposed to accept the recommendations set out in the report, seconded by Cllr Harris. At the vote there was one abstention.</p>
2159	<p>16. Asset Register</p> <p>An updated asset register was presented to councillors. Recommendation to approve the new register was voted upon with one abstention.</p>
2160	<p>17. Financial Regulations</p> <p>A revised set of financial regulations was considered, and it was unanimously agreed to adopt them. There was some discussion on the Town Council adopting a</p>

	modernised approach to some payments eg salaries and paying by bank transfer rather than cheque. This change would need to satisfy audit.
2161	<p>18.WG Consultation of the Provision of Toilets in Wales: Local Toilets Strategy</p> <p>A report setting out the comments to be incorporated into a Town Council response was discussed. All agreed the comments and for the Clerk to submit a response to WG</p> <p>ACTION: JL to submit a Town Council response by 4th April</p>
2162	<p>19. Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillors</p> <p>Clarification requested from Cllr Jones re MCC Labour proposal to place a surcharge on the Council Tax of second homes to pay for free school meals. Cllrs Thomas and Harris explained that this was a proposal by Labour as part of the MCC budget setting process but had not been agreed and as a result school meals will be increasing from £2.00 to £2.45 and a breakfast club meal will be £1.00</p>
2163	<p>20. Members Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr T Thomas – Opening of Morrisons • Cllr S Dodd – Opening of Morrisons, ADTA, Visit Abergavenny Brochure Launch • Cllr T Davies - Opening of Morrisons, ADTA, Visit Abergavenny Brochure Launch, Friends of Bailey Park and Beaupreau AGM • Cllr F Morgan – Opening of Morrisons • Cllr T Tatam – Team Abergavenny, Bryn y Cwm Committee and reported back that Llanfoist Fawr CC not happy that boundary review will not be reopened. • Cllr G Jones – Opening of Morrisons, Town Sanctuary meeting • Cllr T Konieczny – Abergavenny in Bloom meeting & reported back that the colours this year will be red, white and blue. An Abergavenny in Bloom town trail is to be promoted to encourage residents to visit the different sites in the town and the Town Council to host an event to recognise the dedication and hardwork of volunteers • Cllr M Hickman – Opening of Morrisons • Cllr R Harris – Opening of Morrisons • Cllr D Simcock – Beaupreau AGM, opening of Morrisons, Welsh Guards Association AGM. Fairtrade Breakfast, Visit Abergavenny Brochure launch
	<p>21. Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email has been received requesting Town Council commitment to the TIC in 2018/19. Suggested that a positive reply is sent to BBNPA which also seeks further information on the contributions of the other partners.

2164	<p>Action: to write to Wayne Lewis seeking further information on other funders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request was made for volunteers to take part in a stakeholder meeting with a company preparing a business plan/marketing plan for the Tithe Barn and Priory Centre. Cllrs Jones, D Simcock, Konieczny and Dodd volunteered
2165	<p>ACTION: JL to liaise with the consultant to arrange a stakeholder workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Clerk reported that WG is offering Town & Community Councils the opportunity to bid for a grant of up to £5k for joint arrangements that address community engagement, increased citizen participation and engagement in local democracy. The Clerk presented a proposal for funding to increase community engagement in the LDP process. All agree for the Clerk to discuss further with neighbouring community councils.
2166	<p>ACTION: JL to progress a joint WG bid with neighbouring community councils</p>

. There being no other business the meeting ended at 8:55pm

ACTION LIST FROM MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

Action	Name
1. Contact Roger Hoggins regarding arrangements for toilets in 2018/19 and clarification on Bailey Park toilets	JL
2. To chase a reply to the letter to Roger Hoggins MCC re Public Realm specification and inclusion of private shop fronts	JL
3. To review previous ADTA payments in advance of the next Finance Committee	JL
4. To submit a Town Council response to Toilet Strategy Consultation by 4 th April	JL
5. To write to Wayne Lewis seeking further information on other funders	JL
6. To liaise with the consultant to arrange a stakeholder workshop re St Mary's Priory Centre and Tithe Barn	JL
7. To progress a joint WG bid with neighbouring community councils	JL