

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019 AFTER PLANNING COMMITTEE

**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  
Cllr S Dodd

**In attendance:**

J Lee (Town Clerk)

103/18	<b>1. Apologies</b> Apologies received from Cllr L Van de Vyver & Cllr M Lewis
104/18	<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>  To be declared during the meeting.
105/18	<b>3. Minutes of Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018</b>  The Minutes of Council held on 12 <sup>th</sup> December were received and adopted as a correct record with the addition of the word 'strategy' in the third bullet point in 94/18 matters arising. Proposed by Cllr Konieczny, seconded Cllr D Simcock  <b>4. Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The action on continuing discussions with MCC re evidence gathering on air pollution along the A40 through the town is to be carried forward</li><li>• Town Clerk is awaiting information from MCC prior to the preparation of a report on the closure of White Horse Lane toilets</li><li>• Dick Cole attended Planning Committee</li><li>• Town Crew working group set up, first meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> January</li><li>• Finance Committee considered additional spend items, minutes on the</li></ul>

	<p>agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write to KHS to thank them for their work with refugee children to be carried forward</li> </ul>
106/18	<p><b>5. Minutes of Planning Committee held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December were received and adopted as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Tatam, seconded Cllr Hickman.</p> <p><b>6. Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the last two Planning Committees, applications had already been determined before the Town Council had commented. It was agreed that the Town Clerk will speak to Mark Hand to discuss how this situation can be avoided in the future and report back to next Planning Committee.</li> </ul>
107/18	<p><b>7. Minutes of the Policy Committee held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Policy Committee held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December were received and adopted as a correct record Proposed Cllr P Simcock, seconded Cllr D Simcock.</p> <p><b>8. Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That another Policy Committee be arranged to draft further policies.</li> </ul>
108/19	<p><b>9. Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January were received and adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr P Simcock, seconded by Cllr Jones.</p> <p><b>10. Matters Arising</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The following additional items of spend in 2018/19 were approved, proposed by Cllr Tatam, seconded Cllr Jones. 11 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention, vote carried : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £700 towards new litter bins for Phase 2 Public Realm works.</li> <li>○ £800 for a new desk top PC for the Admin Assistant.</li> <li>○ £50 for a new desk chair for the Admin Assistant.</li> <li>○ £152 for two stainless steel 3 litre flasks for hot water.</li> <li>○ £139 for a table top display board.</li> <li>○ £70 for two pop up banners to use at events.</li> <li>○ Partnership funding as part of pilot with Abergavenny Community Centre</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>circa £25,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £250 for winter/spring plants for the Phase 1 planters</li> <li>○ £300 for books on Inspirational Women for Abergavenny Library</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Council approved the use of the new budget headings set out in the Month 9 report and draft budget. NB these differ from the budget headings used and approved when the budget 2018/19 was approved. Proposed Cllr P Simcock, seconded Cllr Tatam, vote unanimous.</li> <li>3. Council approved that the Admin Assistant hours increases to 12 hours a week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Council also agreed that the hourly rate of pay increases to £9.341 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Proposed Cllr P Simcock, seconded Cllr Konieczny, 12 in favour, 1 abstention, vote carried.</li> <li>4. Council approved that the Admin Assistant is offered to opportunity to join the contributory pension scheme. Proposed Cllr P Simcock, seconded Cllr Morgan, 12 in favour, 1 against.</li> <li>5. Council approved the recommendation that RBS is engaged to carry out the year end closedown. Proposed by Cllr R Harris, seconded Cllr D Simcock, vote unanimous.</li> <li>6. Council agreed to waive financial regulations and to approve a 2 year extension to the contract with Willows Garden Centre at the same price but with addition of watering the 12 planters in St John's Square and Nevill Street. Proposed by Cllr Konieczny, seconded by Cllr Tatam, vote unanimous.</li> <li>7. Council agreed to increase the precept by 2% to £374,233. Cllr Tatam expressed a view that due to calculations of the Band D figure that the actual increase would be less than 2% so should the Council not consider being more ambitious with the increase. Cllr Jones felt that it was a restrained increase but at the current time it was appropriate. In future years it may have to be a greater increase to accommodate increased service delivery. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr D Simcock. Cllr Tatam requested a recorded vote. For – Cllrs Groucutt, M Harris, R Harris, Hickman, Konieczny, Jones, P Simcock, D Simcock, Thomas, Davies Against – Cllrs Tatam, Morgan, Dodd Vote carried</li> <li>8. Council agreed to the recommendation that £20,000 of reserves is earmarked for the Toilet Modernisation Programme. Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr P Simcock, 9 voted in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention.</li> </ol>												
109/18	<p><b>11. Finance Report</b></p> <p>The following payments were authorised</p> <table data-bbox="316 1792 1388 1993"> <tr> <td>M Herring (Electrical work on Xmas trees above shops)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£448.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merlin Waste (Dog waste bin emptying January)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£510.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abergavenny Chronicle (Christmas Greetings advert)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J. Lee (postage &amp; calendars for Beaupreau &amp; Ostringen)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£21.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A. Jones (PAT testing Xmas trees above shops)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Data Protection Fee (13 @£40 (12 councillors &amp; Clerk)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£520.00</td> </tr> </table>	M Herring (Electrical work on Xmas trees above shops)	£448.90	Merlin Waste (Dog waste bin emptying January)	£510.00	Abergavenny Chronicle (Christmas Greetings advert)	£60.00	J. Lee (postage & calendars for Beaupreau & Ostringen)	£21.80	A. Jones (PAT testing Xmas trees above shops)	£300.00	Data Protection Fee (13 @£40 (12 councillors & Clerk)	£520.00
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	<p>b) Month 9 report was accepted. The Town Clerk informed Councillors that the final precept payment had been received.</p>
110/18	<p><b>12. To approve policies.</b></p> <p>The following policies were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications Policy</li> <li>• Social Media Policy</li> <li>• Investment Policy</li> <li>• Complaints Procedure</li> <li>• Member-Officer Protocol</li> <li>• Anti-bullying &amp; Harassment Policy</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Cllr Dodd, seconded Cllr M Harris, 12 voted in favour, 1 abstention.</p>
111/18	<p><b>13. To approve the draft strategy and action plan.</b></p> <p>The report requested that the draft strategy and action plan be approved and is subject to a period of consultation from 10<sup>th</sup> January to 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr D Simcock, vote unanimous.</p>
112/18	<p><b>14. Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillors on local issues/Information from County Councillors to members</b></p> <p>Cllr P Simcock asked for feedback on MCC's decision re the Asset Transfer of the Melville. Cllr Thomas report that it had received MCC's support.</p>
113/18	<p><b>15. Members Reports</b> (relating to representation on external bodies)</p> <p>Cllr Groucutt – none  Cllr R Harris – none  Cllr M Harris – accompanied the Mayor at a number of functions  Cllr Hickman – Keep Abergavenny Tidy meeting to discuss relaunch. AGM arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> March, litter pick and stall in the town on 9<sup>th</sup> March.  Cllr T Konieczny – Elvis Charity Concert, Gwent Back Choir Christmas Concert.  Cllr G Jones – none  Cllr N Tatam – none  Cllr P Simcock – none  Cllr F Morgan - none  Cllr D Simcock – none  Cllr T Thomas – none  Cllr T Davies - Cross Ash Primary FP Xmas concert, Flower Concert and Hospitality Borough Theatre, Borough Band Concert Borough Theatre, Party 7Corners; Dance Blast concert, Gateway Church Carol concert, KHS Xmas Carol Concert St Marys, One Stop Shop Breakfast, Deri View FP Xmas Concert, Friends of Bailey Park and other Friends Xmas event, ACE Xmas Grotto, Nine lessons and Carol Service St Mary's, KHS Former Pupils Mayor's Parlour.</p>

114/18	<p><b>16. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>An email has been received asking what the Town Council is doing about the increased number of homeless people in the town. It was agreed to write to MCC to seeking clarification on their policy and monitoring arrangements. This letter would be copied to the MP and AM. The Town Clerk will reply to the sender of the email.</p> <p>Councillors were provided with an update on the pedestrian/cycle bridge over the river Usk and that NRW (Natural Resources Wales) has not issued a Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP). It was agreed that the Town Council will write to NRW urging them to issue a FRAP.</p> <p>The Town Clerk requested volunteers to represent the Council at the Plastic Free Abergavenny meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Cllrs Jones, Morgan and D Simcock volunteered.</p> <p>The Mayor requested that another representative is agreed for the A4B Committee as Cllr Konieczny has been unable to attend as A4B dates clash with commitments. In the absence of a volunteer, Cllr Dodd who attends in another capacity agreed to represent the Council as well on a temporary basis until the May meeting when a new representative should be elected.</p>
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**There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.57pm**

**ACTION LIST FROM JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING**

Action	Name
1. To continue discussions with MCC re gathering evidence re air pollution along the A40 through the town	JL
2. To prepare a more detailed report on taking forward the closure of White Horse Lane toilets	JL
3. To write to KHS to thank them for the work with refugee children	JL/TD
4. To discuss with Mark Hand the issue of planning applications being determined before the Town Council has submitted comments	JL
5. Arrange another Policy Committee	JL
6. To write to MCC re issue of homeless in Abergavenny	JL
7. To write to NRW re FRAP for pedestrian/cycle bridge	JL