

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 13 April starting with a closed session at 6:15pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.

Present: Cllr Mrs M Powell (Mayor)

Cllrs C Woodhouse, R Harris, Mrs M Harris, M Hickman, S Horrell, Miss M Toombs, Mrs S Woodhouse, P Jordan, Ms S Dodd, J L Prosser, D Simcock, N Tatam.

In attendance: The Town Clerk and Town Clerk designate

County Cllr R Greenland and Mrs D Hill-Howells for the first item. Inspector Arwel Hicks for the second item.

Re-arrangement of the Town Hall.

Cllr Greenland and Mrs Hill Howells attended the meeting to consult members about possible rearrangement of accommodation in the Town Hall to accommodate additional uses. They were seeking views from existing and potential users before going public with a set of proposals. A number of different points were raised by members which became positive suggestions to improve the suggested arrangements. (These are listed in a confidential note at this stage until other users have been consulted) Overall there was support for the rearrangements and after consulting others if the County proposals were formally returned to this Council for agreement including the members suggestions they would be recommended for approval.

The Mayor welcomed Police Inspector Arwel Hicks who is the new Inspector for North Monmouthshire area. Inspector Hicks noted that from January some 173 crimes had been reported in this area, 57 in Grofield, 15 in Castle, 69 in Priory, 312 in Lansdown and 11 in Cantref Wards respectively.

Particular concerns were expressed about the continuing problem of joy-riders and Inspector Hicks acknowledged that an exercise is being done to curb this. Unreasonable car parking is also an issue and police staff will be issuing tickets for offenders to try to resolve this.

The Eisteddfod is being dealt with by the Operational Planning Group

Members reports of drug trading will be investigated.

He will also be advertising surgeries where people can come to talk about their concerns.

Speedwatch will be asked to monitor several identified sections of road.

The Mayor thanked the Inspector who left the meeting at this point.

1809. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Edwards and M Beecham.

1810. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1811. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 March 2016 were received and adopted as a correct record.

1812. Matters arising. Cllr Prosser noted that he had a response from Mr Hoggins about the cost of toilets and it was agreed to consider this under the Finance Committee Minutes.

1813. The following minutes were received and adopted as a correct record.

a) Planning Committee held on 9 March 2016.

b) Projects Committee held on 23 March 2016

c) Finance Committee held on 6 April 2016

1814. Matters arising.

Projects Committee. It appears that production of a Town Guide for the Eisteddfod is now left to the TIC and Town Council. The Mayor expressed concern about the lack of MCC involvement. The Clerk will e-mail Mr Olding to check whether a shop window competition is being organised by the Eisteddfod Committee or whether we should do it.

Finance Committee. The following recommendations of the Committee were agreed.

1. A grant of £2000 be made to Black Mountain Jazz for the Summer Jazz Festival.
2. A grant of £240 be made to Ysgol Cymraeg Y Fenni with the proviso that if they do not seek support from other adjoining communities next year our contribution may be reduced.
3. A grant of £2000 be made to the Food Festival towards the cost of Hall decorations.
4. A grant of £1000 be made towards the general costs of the Winter Food Fair.
5. A further grant of £10,000 be made to the Eisteddfod.
6. The Council confirms that a sum of £45,000 in addition to existing toilet contributions will be paid to MCC for this year but a Service level agreement needs to be drawn up and if White Horse lane is out of commission then a rebate will be required for the period for which it is closed. This will give time to investigate cheaper options for next year. It is considered that it should go to competitive tendering for next year. This was agreed with one vote against.
7. The Clerk notifies MCC that a sum equivalent to 1.5 street sweepers would be paid for town centre sweeping.
8. A sum of £5000 be made available towards the costs of Commercial premises making their toilets available to the public as well as to customers. Such payments would be subject to an agreement between the Council and the Commercial Premises concerned and this a way forward for the future provision of public conveniences. This was agreed by 7 votes to 2.
9. A grant of £7500 be made available to the TIC subject to the other partners continuing their contributions.
- 10 Mrs Konieczny's letter be forwarded to Mr Hoggins with queries as to why this has happened and the cost of putting it right. It was noted that some members felt this was effectively kicking the issue into the long grass.
11. The contract for the new Clerk had now been duly signed by both parties.
12. A press release concerning the toilet provision will be sent to the local papers to identify the Town Council's role in keeping the toilets open.

1815. Finance Report.

a) the following payments were authorised:

Monmouthshire CC Annual Toilets contribution	£15648.67
Monmouthshire Summer Sports payment	£2500
P Johns Flags and Bunting for street decoration.	£416.00
HMRC Tax and NI	£646.32
G M James salary	£258.12
Ricoh photocopying	£68.59
N Tatam travel expenses	£107.55
Medisol Defibrillator boxes	£4503.60
RBS Rialtos Annual Computer Programme payment	£288.00
Merlin Waste dog bins	£325.44
Monmouthshire CC Linda Vista Grant	£3350.40
Cablenews library papers	£37.60
Monmouthshire CC Fairfield strip and trees (joint with Civic Society)	£630.00
National Eisteddfod final part of the £30,000 grant	£10,000
P Johns expenses	£29.77

b) The Council continues to support the Summer Play Scheme in its new format for the same figure as in previous years. (£8000)

c) An e-mail concerning whether this Council will consider financially supporting the cost of new street furniture in the Town Centre was considered. It was decided that although there was some

support for this we would need to see and understand why we were being asked to do it and what was being purchased before a definite commitment is made.

1816. Correspondence. The following items were considered:

1. Clerks and Councils Direct - received
2. Letter of thanks from CAB - received
3. Letter concerning Llanfoist Bridge – agreed to send copies to CADW, MCC and Welsh Government Highways
4. Larger Local Councils Committee – Cllr Tatam referred to the Future Generations Act which requires larger Councils to produce an Annual Plan and to report on its outcomes.
5. Monmouth/Newport Area Committee – received.
6. Consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy. This is a complicated matter and may have an effect on inhibiting future developments.
7. Grass Roots Magazine. Received
8. An e-mail from Cllr Edwards concerning the year-end was received and noted.

1817. Team Abergavenny update was received and noted.

1818. Members reports.

Cllr C Woodhouse had attended the raising of the Commonwealth flag at County Hall, the Mayor's Ball, Gwent Bach Concert, Coffee morning, Seminar by Cardiff School of Architecture, the Agri-Urban presentation,

Cllr R Harris had attended the Coffee morning.

Cllr Mrs Harris had attended the Coffee morning, a CCTV Meeting and School Governors

Cllr Horrell had attended the Coffee morning and the Mayor's Ball

Cllr Hickman had attended an Abergavenny Eisteddfod judging session

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had attended the Coffee morning, raising of the Commonwealth Flag, the Architecture day, Gwent Bach Concert

Cllr Dodd had attended a Police Meeting about parking at Nevill Hall, the Mayor's Ball, the Town Clerk Interview Panel and the Eisteddfod Judging Session She also noted a litter pick being run jointly with Tesco Staff which members are welcome to join.

Cllr Prosser had attended the Nevill Hall Car Parking meeting, the Mayor's Ball, a meeting about the car park wardens possibly also taking on the issue of on-street parking tickets, the Agri-Urban presentation the outcome of which is awaited but will probably start in June. He was happy to report on this at future Council Meetings

Cllr Simcock had attended the Town Clerk interviews.

Cllr Tatam had attended the Well-Being briefing. It was agreed the Clerk will ask Hazel Clatworthy for copies of the leaflets. He had also attended Team Abergavenny, Shape my Town Seminar and One Voice Wales meetings.

The Mayor had attended the Ball, A 90th Birthday Party, A4B Service Awards, Talk at the Rotary Club, Coffee Morning and Gwent Music Youth Orchestra at Ebbw Vale.

1819 Cllr Prosser formally thanked The Mayor on behalf of the Council for the way in which she had conducted Council Meetings during the year, and this was warmly supported by the Council as a whole.

1820 Other business

a) The Clerk reported that Cllr Beecham had now missed 6 consecutive months of meetings so that he was no longer a member of the Council. He would need to report the vacancy to the Electoral Office. This was noted.

b) The Beacon on the Blorenge to celebrate the Queen's birthday was progressing, and would be lit at 8:30pm subject to few more minor matters being resolved.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8:40pm