

## **ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10 September 2014 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny**

Present: Cllr M J Hickman JP (Mayor)

Cllrs C Woodhouse, R Harris, Mrs M Harris, Mrs M Powell, D Edwards, Mrs S Woodhouse, Ms S Dodd, P Wadsworth and N Tatam.

In attendance: The Town Clerk and S Penn (Press), 1 member of the public and for the first item, Sgt Patey, PCSO R Moyse, Mrs A Perrin and A Mason.

The Mayor welcomed the Police and Council Officers who had come to talk about the problems of anti social behaviour in the Fairfield Car Park. Sgt Patey outlined the issues. There had been problems identified over the last 7 or 8 years, and at present it had become a major issue. A group of young drivers were congregating there and doing laps of the town before returning and carrying out noisy manoeuvres in the car park over a long period in the evenings and later in the night. Some of those attending had come from some distance away from Abergavenny. A problem-solving group had been formed to look at ways of diminishing the nuisance and they had come to the conclusion after extensive discussion with a number of parties that a barrier across the car park which could be locked at say 10pm, would stop the manoeuvring and a non-return barrier at the exit would stop them coming in the wrong way. Both proposals would still allow drivers legitimately parked in the rest of the car park to leave when they wished to.

To constantly police the car park is beyond the resources available to the Police and to engineer out the problem, although it will cost money initially, seems the best way forward.

Mr Mason said the Community Safety Partnership was dissolved and a new Safer Monmouthshire Partnership has been formed which takes on all issues concerning safety. He is the Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator for the County. The car park is owned by the County, they are aware of the constraints imposed by the use of the Car Park by the Fair twice a year, and this seems like a good solution. Mrs Perrin confirmed that they have been looking for a solution which is workable and allows car park users to continue to find space to park in the Fairfield. There is a duty to local residents to abate the nuisance.

The Meeting was opened to Councillors to express their views.

All present supported the proposal and agreed that something needed to be done. There were some additional points made as follows:

This may push the problem to the car park by St Mary's Church.

There is no precedent for the action proposed that the officers are aware of.

What happens before 10pm? The Police will deal with issues if reported.

Concern was expressed about children using the scout and guide premises and St John's

If the trouble-makers are there before 10pm when the barriers will be locked what will happen? They will be moved on, and will then not be able to get back into the car park.

This is a pilot scheme and it will be monitored to see how effective it is.

The Mayor thanked the officers who left at this point.

1595. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Miss M Toombs, P Jordan, J L Prosser and R Harries.

1596. The Mayor announced that Cllr Chiplin had not attended any meetings since February 2014 so he had now missed six consecutive months. This meant that under the law he is no longer a member. The Clerk confirmed this, and noted that although Cllr Chiplin had given apologies on some occasions for his absences, he had at no time asked the Council for a dispensation for his absence, as another member had last year during a spell of illness.

It was agreed that Cllr Chiplin was no longer a member and that the Clerk should notify the Returning Officer who will declare the vacancy.

It was noted that this is only the second such occasion in over 20 years.

It was agreed that in future the Council will scrutinise apologies for absence more carefully to try to avoid this happening.

1597. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1598. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 July 2014 were received and adopted as a correct record.

1599. Matters arising.

Following the investigation of the use of Library Newspapers it was agreed to drop the Daily Mail on all days and all but The Guardian on Saturdays. This would be done after a period of one month's notice to Library Users.

The Clerk would check the flag-seller in the Precinct to establish if he sells Commonwealth Flags. One should be purchased at the lowest price available.

1600. The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 August were received and adopted as a correct record.

1601. The Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 3 September 2014 were received and adopted as a correct record.

It was agreed to give a grant of £1500 to Acorn Centre for kitchen equipment as they had confirmed their insurance cover.

The Wales Fair Trade Fair application had been deferred to ask for Audited Accounts. These had now been received and Cllr Mrs Woodhouse proposed that a grant equivalent to the cost of hiring the Market Hall should be made as last year.

It was agreed to give a grant of £900 to the Winter Food Festival for banners.

The Proposal that any Street Lighting problems should be referred to County Councillors to resolve was agreed.

The Audit Reports and Letter from the External Auditor were adopted, and the letter of appointment to the Internal Auditor was also agreed for sending to him.

The Mayor duly signed the Audit Return to be sent back to the External Auditors.

The changes to the Grants Guidance document were agreed subject to additional words to allow some flexibility to go beyond £2500 if needed.

#### 1602. Finance Report

a) The following payments were authorised:

Carnival – Fusion group	£250
Abergavenny Chronicle advert	£21.50
Thomas Fattorini – Past Mayor`s Badges	£804.42
Action for Market Towns Survey	£3600.00
Merlin Waste	£298.32
NR & CA Bailey – civic functions	£32.68
Carol Powell Carnival float winner	£150.00
Llantilio Pertholey School – float winner	£150.00
J & S Sharland Walking prizewinners	£100.00
DC Public House carnival float winner	£100.00
Monmouthshire County CAB	£8000.00
G M James salary	£321.99
HMRC tax and NI	£649.38
Newport Borough Brass Band	£300.00
Bluesy Susie (Carnival)	£120.00
David C Price (Free Beer concert)	£300.00
MCC CCTV	£3200.00
Cablenews	£103.20
One Voice Wales Conference (N Tatam)	£70.00
Kaysha Wilson (Carnival)	£120.00
Merlin Waste	£298.32
VisionICT (annual website and e-mail fee)	£510.00
RBL Poppy Appeal wreath	£23.00
Llantilio Pertholey CC Refund (overpayment)	£88.12
BBNP (TIC Payment)	£11500.00
A Lewis Skip Hire (Carnival)	£186.00
C & C Binley (High Street woodwork by mural)	£390.00
NR & CA Bailey (Civic functions)	£72.52

Mayglothling Waste (Carnival)	£220.80
Viking Payments (stationery)	£70.74
AMT Report presentation	£400.00
Cablenews	£129.00
Martin`s Jewellers (repair Mayor`s Chain)	£63.60
The Willows Garden Centre (Aber in Bloom)	£10989.60
G M James salary	£201.88
HMRC tax and NI	£619.58
Black Mountain Jazz 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment of grant	£1250.00
P Johns expenses	£56.12
M Hickman – Mayor`s Cadet badge	£16.94
Merlin Waste – dog bins	£372.90
NR and CA Bailey      Civic functions	£46.18
Usk in Bloom Awards	£20.00
M Hickman Civic functions	£61.74

b) Month 4 and 5 Finance Reports were received. The Clerk noted that in future the figures would be sent to Finance Committee first for scrutiny. There were still some minor changes to make for next month`s return to accommodate some issues raised by members.

#### 1603. Correspondence

The following items were received:

1. One Voice Wales Training Courses. Members will notify the Clerk if they wish to attend any courses.
2. Action for Tourism news sheet Noted
3. One Voice Wales Conference Motions. Noted. Members will contact Cllr Tatam if they have any comments on these.
4. CAB thanks. Noted
5. M Knight thanks. Noted
6. Grass Roots. Noted
7. Home Start news. Noted
8. Play for Wales briefing. Noted
9. Voluntary Voice. Noted
10. Clerks and Councils Direct. Noted

11. Notices of Footpath diversions on FP 38 at Park Farm were received.

12. The attendance of the Fair on 22 September for a week was noted.

#### 1604. Reports

a) Town Team notes of 16 July, 30 July and 3 September were received. Cllr Edwards recorded his thanks to the Clerk and Cllr Tatam. He also expressed some disappointment with the conduct of the first Programme Board meeting and hoped that the next one would be more constructive.

b) Notes of a Tourism Meeting on 6 August and subsequent report.

Members received the reports with satisfaction. There are still concerns about whether this Council should continue to support the TIC at the present Financial level, but it is clearly doing well and the Tithe Barn is benefiting from its presence. We need to sound out the public at the up-coming road-shows to see if they are content with supporting it.

A further meeting is needed next month to talk about budget details.

Cllr Edwards said that we need the TIC to function come what may as we are a Tourist Destination.

It was noted that although sales are up on the predicted level, they are still down on last year. An upcoming meeting of ADTA may add some additional views to the mix. Thanks were given to Cllrs Woodhouse and Dodd and the Clerk for the work they were doing.

c) Notes of North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee were received.

d) Report of the One Voice Wales Larger Local Councils Conference were received and Cllr Tatam was thanked for his efforts.

#### 1605. Agenda Items.

a) Cllr D Edwards asked if the Council was prepared to continue its funding for the Arts and Literature Competition for schools, and this was agreed.

b) Cllr C Woodhouse drew members' attention to additional papers before them concerning nominees for the Honours Board. As it needed 12 members to be present to make a decision on these, he asked if it could be an item on each Council Agenda until there were sufficient members present to make a decision. This was agreed.

#### 1606. Questions for County Councillors

A question was raised as to why the revised double yellow lines indicating no parking at any time had not been put in place outside Boots. County Councillors were asked to progress this.

Also, they were asked to seek urgent progress on the burnt-out building in Cross Street.

Cllr Mrs Powell also noted that action is needed to tidy up the back of buildings above Tiverton Place Car Park.

#### 1607. Members Reports.

Cllr Tatam had attended One Voice Wales Area Meeting, Town Team Meetings, Friends of Bailey Park, Devolution Meeting and the Towns Alive Report Presentation.

Cllr Wadsworth had attended governors meetings, CCTV budget meetings.

Cllr Dodd had attended Concerts and a gathering to recognise TIC Staff.

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had attended the Wales in Bloom judging, Band Concerts, Eisteddfod Public Meeting, St Mary's 100 years since WW1 Service, Devolution of Services meeting, Towns Alive Presentation.

Cllr Edwards had attended the Towns Alive Presentation, Newport .

Cllr Powell had attended A4B, KHS Governors, Castle Fun Day, YFC Fete, Towns Alive Presentation.

Cllr Mrs Harris had attended Governors Meeting, ACE Meetings, Towns Alive, Arts at the Castle, which was really good.

Cllr Harris had attended the Towns Alive Presentation

Cllr C Woodhouse had attended the Arts Exhibition to introduce the Minister, he had attended the Devolution Meeting at Usk and referred to the possibility of the Town Council taking part in the County Consultation on 24 September.

The Mayor had attended 28 events since the last Council, including concerts, Time Capsule at King Henry School, Civic Function at Chepstow Castle, Alan Breeze Concert, Jazz Weekend, Blues Brothers, Tourist Association Reception,

He referred to the reception for the Friends Groups to take place tomorrow evening.

**The meeting ended at 8:45pm**