

## **ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.**

Present: The Mayor, Cllr M Hickman

Cllrs R Harris, Mrs M Harris, Mrs M Powell, Miss M Toombs (for part of the meeting), D Edwards, P Jordan, Ms S Dodd, J L Prosser, R Harries and N Tatam.

In attendance: The Town Clerk and Ms G M James (Assistant). Insp R Giles attended for the first item.

The Mayor welcomed Insp Giles who had attended to update members to the forthcoming NATO Conference on 4/5 September based at the Celtic Manor Hotel. Representatives from 28 countries would be present with 150 people who need protection. There are some 5 to 10 thousand support staff and journalists as well linked to the conference. It will be the biggest security operation in the UK. The UK Government is funding it. The objectives will be to maintain a safe and secure environment and to allow businesses to function as normal wherever possible. Peaceful protest will be accommodated. Additional Police are being drafted into the area; traffic information will be posted in due course and there will be some disruption for a two weeks before the event and a week afterwards. Businesses are being urged to carry out advanced planning and it may impact on schools for the two days. Monmouthshire CC has a NATO working group and there is a link on the No 10 Downing Street website to the event. The effect on Monmouthshire is likely to be limited to traffic issues with an increased volume of traffic on the smaller roads if the M4 is congested. Any questions from members can be directed to Inspector Giles by e-mail. Any information on squatters in the community would be helpful to the police as well as graffiti and banners to do with the conference. Cllr Dodd noted that ADTA should be notified as they run camp-sites, and members noted that green field sites like Castle Meadows and Lower Meadow need boulders in gateways to avoid intrusion by travellers etc.

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

1571. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs S Woodhouse, C Woodhouse, P Wadsworth.

1572. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1573. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 May 2014 were received and adopted as a correct record.

1574. Matters arising.

Cllr Edwards noted that a date to visit Tudor Street Day Centre had been set which fell on a County Council meeting day. He was told that other dates had also been added now for that reason. Cllr Harris noted that an Open Day had also been arranged for Mardy Park from 11am to 3pm on 21

June.

It was noted that Cllr Edwards had resigned from the Finance Committee. He was disappointed that the balance of members on it was unacceptable and it was becoming too large in his view. He also wanted the opportunity to speak freely on any issue that had gone to Finance and he felt that as a member of it he did not have that freedom. Members noted that it was Council who make decisions so he should feel free to disagree at both Committee and Council if he wished. A number of members paid tribute to Cllr Edwards' contribution to the Finance Committee and to the management of the Council's Finances over many years.

The proposal for a display cabinet to be purchased had not yet been progressed but would be put on the to do list.

A query about the TIC business case was made; Cllr Edwards had also had a complaint about it being closed on Sundays. Cllr Dodd read out a brief report on progress from the Tithe Barn Manager which indicated that the TIC had settled in well and good visitor numbers were being achieved. The issue of Sunday opening for the summer months would be addressed by the end of the month. It was emphasised that with possibly 35,000 visitors coming to Abergavenny for the Cycling, it was critical that it is open on 29<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed that County members should e-mail Kellie Beirne to try to get Sunday Opening included.

Cllr Tatam asked if a letter had gone to staff thanking them for their work. The Clerk reported that the TIC had closed and the staff had left before he could get the letter done. It did not seem appropriate to then follow up with such a letter as it might be construed as insensitive.

(Cllr Toombs arrived at this point)

1575. The following minutes were received and adopted as a correct record:

a) Finance Committee on 29 May 2014.

1576. Matters arising.

a) Grant to Vintage Vision. Cllrs Mrs M Harris and R Harris declared an interest and left the room while this was discussed.

A grant for some £1084 in total had been requested. Members had referred it back for further information, which had been received and circulated to members. It was noted that the organisation did not now operate in Abergavenny although it still has a number of volunteers from Abergavenny. It was also noted that the organisation's accounts reflected a deficit in the last two years.

On the basis of the information now available it was unanimously agreed not to make a grant to Vintage Vision.

b) The request to MCC for a meeting on next year's services had not so far had a response, despite reminders. It was agreed that the Clerk write again copying in the Chief Executive and Abergavenny County Councillors.

c) It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of three additional dog bins.

1577. Finance Report.

a) The following payments were approved:

C Woodhouse travel expenses	27.20
Martins Jewellers engraving	100.80
Jems catering (Toy Fair)	100.00
ADTA (Toy Fair)	10.00
ADTA Grant	3000.00
Viking Payments (stationery)	47.88
SLCC Enterprises	41.40
Sugarloaf Catering (Installation)	750.00
G M James (salary)	227.24
HMRC tax and NI	625.78
Papillon Arts grant	1000.00
GYPT grant	3000.00
M Hickman (Mayor`s Allowance)	2100.00
M Powell (Deputy Mayor`s Allowance)	210.00
M Hickman (civic functions)	142.59
J Fletcher (Toy Fair)	200.00
Abergavenny Eisteddfod grant	1000.00
P Johns expenses	68.13
N Tatam (councillor travel expenses)	379.35
NR and CA Bailey – civic functions	121.10
CC Abergavenny Promotions (Cycling Grant)	5000.00
Award Picture Framing (mayor`s picture)	29.57
Merlin Waste	372.90
Mayglothing Waste (portaloos at castle)	220.80
D Eldridge (Mayor`s Portrait)	50.00

b) Month 1 and 2 Finance Reports were received and approved

c) The bundle of papers for Audit were received and noted. The Internal Auditor`s Report was received and Cllr Edwards thanked Mr S Bee the Internal Auditor for a detailed and comprehensive report which could give the Council confidence in its financial procedures. He also thanked the Town Clerk and Assistant for their work during the year keeping the Council`s accounts in good order.

It was agreed to approve the accounts for the Mayor to sign and send to the External Auditors, and to refer the Internal Audit Report to the Finance Committee for detailed examination.

1578. Correspondence. The following items were received.

1. Access to Information on Community and Town Councils. It was agreed that a further report identifying improvements to be made should be done.
2. Toilets for public use consultation. It was agreed to write to Welsh Government supporting the obligation to provide sufficient toilets for public use.
3. Voluntary Voice. Received
4. Acorn Fun Kitchen. This e-mail was considered. As the original grant had been conditional on receiving the Lottery Grant, it was agreed to withdraw it. A new request based on the changed situation could be submitted for consideration.
5. One Voice Wales spring newsletter. Received.
6. Cycling Festival details. It was suggested that a link should be put on our website to set out the information on road closures during the Cycling Festival and a letter sent to the Chronicle asking them to publicise the link. This was agreed.

1579. Reports.

- a) Town Team Minutes of 4 June were received and noted.
- b) The revised schedule of Meeting Dates was received and noted. It was agreed that the next Projects Committee should be cancelled due to lack of business and the Town Clerk Advisory Committee should be postponed until July, date to be arranged, following the Town Clerk's appraisal by Cllrs Hickman and Edwards.

1580. Agenda Item.

- a) Sarno Twinning Fund.

It was agreed that as the fund had lain unused in the Council's accounts for five years it should now be formally closed down and the Twinning Link abandoned. The £3371.60 in the fund should be added to the Twinning Budget.

1581. There were no questions of County Councillors.

1582. Members Reports.

Cllr Tatam had attended Bryn y Cwm Forum and Town Team Meetings.

Cllr Dodd had attended Tourism Ambassador Training, King Henry Foundation, French Choir Visit, Civic Services, TIC, and had distributed Window Competition Flyers.

Cllr Edwards referred to the School Olympics which were taking place on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July at King Henry School.

Cllr Mrs Powell attended A4B, Past Mayor`s Reception, French Choir, Civic Service, KHS Sports, D Day Concert

Cllr Mrs Harris attended the Tourism Ambassadors Course

The Mayor had already attended 20 events in his first month, including Good Morning Britain TV Show, Medieval Fair at St Marys, Steam Rally, Brownies 100 year Party and a number of other events.

1581. Other Business.

The Clerk reminded members of the Armed Forces Day Parade on 28<sup>th</sup> June assembling at 5:15pm in Baker Street for a parade and service in St Mary`s at 6pm. The Parlour would be open at 5pm for members to collect robes. It was hoped that there would be a good turnout for this parade.

**The meeting ended at 8:33pm**