

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday May 11, 2016.

Present: Cllr C Woodhouse (Mayor)

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

In attendance: The Town Clerk

Brief Introduction: Cllr D Edwards was welcomed back after a short absence and the election of Cllr Jordan at Monmouthshire County Council was welcomed.

1821: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Harris and Cllr M Toombs.

1822: No declarations of interest were declared

1823: The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on April 13, 2016 were received and adopted as a correct record providing that:

- 1: A clarification is made of the crime figure for Lansdown Ward represented in the minutes as 312
- 2: Councils is made a plural
- 3: In 'Correspondence' an official record is made of the letter regarding toilets.

1824: Matters arising

- Accommodation in the town hall. Cllr Edwards raised the issue of the proposed rearrangement of accommodation in the Town Hall as presented in closed session by Cllr Greenland and Mrs Hill Howells. He recommended that proper provision be ensured for the Town Clerk within the plans. This was agreed unanimously.
- Traffic issues. Cllr Edwards also raised the issue of the current lack of a left turn out of Prince's Street going into Baker Street, a permanent restriction to relieve congestion but which is being contravened by taxi drivers. Cllr Jordan raised the issue of the car park on Castle Meadows and whether it would be possible to have 'double yellow lines' further up. Cllr Powell said that currently cars are parking up to the bridge 'which is a real hazard'. Cllr Edwards responded by saying that 'That part of Merthyr Road is certainly hazardous'.
- Toilets contract. Cllr Horrell proposed that the Finance Committee should review the costings on the toilets with at least three tenders. Cllr S Woodhouse said that the council was looking at working out a contract with Monmouthshire County Council. Cllr Horrell withdrew the proposal. The debate continued with Cllr Edwards suggesting a survey of useage of the bus station toilets which he believed were not heavily used at all and a survey would help demonstrate proper useage figures. Cllr Powell said that whatever the outcome of a survey does not alter the fact that on a Tuesday there are eight to 10 coaches coming in and you have to think about those people. Cllr Prosser said that none of the toilets should be closed and if it came to the point where closure was being considered, then a measure of useage for all the toilets should be carried out. Cllr Edwards said that the White Horse Lane toilets (WHL) and Castle Meadow toilets were very heavily used. Cllr Tatum said the WHL toilets 'gents' remain locked up and the bus station toilets were in poor condition the last time he checked.

1825: To receive and adopt, if appropriate, the minutes of the Planning Committee held on April 13, 2016 and the Projects Committee

- Cllr Horrell suggested that the Finance Committee should review the costings on toilets

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