

## **ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 November 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.**

Present: Cllr Mrs M Powell, (Mayor)

Cllrs C Woodhouse, R Harris, Mrs M Harris (For part of the meeting), M J Hickman, S Horrell, Mrs S Woodhouse, R P Jordan, Ms S Dodd, J L Prosser, D Simcock and N Tatam.

In attendance: The Town Clerk. Mr M Prys Williams and Ms A Peters

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the very successful Armistice Parade. It had been an excellent turnout.

1. She then welcomed Mr Michael Prys Williams and invited him to address the Council.

He had come to update members on the progress with the War Memorial. It had been decided that the plan to move it forward 12 metres was not viable as it would be dangerous to try to lift it all together. The plan now is to level it on site with a specialist process which injects a polymer into the ground to lift and stabilise it. This process is guaranteed for ten years but will last 100 years. The road will be closed for a day to do the work. Drains in the adjacent ground will need to be checked and protected. Quotes for the total project including cleaning are in the region of £12/15 thousand.

Cllr Prosser confirmed he is meeting the representative from the polymer company tomorrow on site. He emphasised that all interested parties will be consulted before the Project goes ahead, but it is hoped to get a grant and to get the work done before the Eisteddfod next year. There was some disappointment expressed that moving the monument was no longer an option, but members were supportive of the project going ahead. The Mayor thanked Mr Prys Williams who left at this point.

2. The Mayor next welcomed Ms Amanda Peters who had come to speak about the Gunter Mansion.

She told members that she was not happy about the whole planning process that had allowed development on the land adjacent to the building. She expressed the view that if the Town Council wants to show leadership it should pick up on heritage issues like this. The mansion has potential to be of benefit to Abergavenny as part of a religious tourist trail. There is already evidence that tourists are interested in it.

There have been three years of delicate negotiations to acquire the building from its present landlord. It is not in the best condition and after the purchase money has been raised and the transaction completed it will need a substantial Heritage Lottery grant to complete refurbishment. The intention is to maintain parts of it as revenue earning to secure its future, either as apartments or shops. The Chapel is the main religious focus and will be retained. Her purpose in coming to the Council is to raise enthusiasm for the project and to raise awareness of it.

Several Councillors expressed satisfaction that the project is proceeding and were supportive of it. It was suggested that Councillors would like a more detailed insight into the project at some time in

the future to more fully understand what is happening and its significance.

Cllr R Harris said the County Planning Committee welcomed representations from groups and individuals which enabled them to understand things better before they made decisions. Ms Peters expressed dismay that the Planning Officer at the site meeting could not indicate where the Roman Road was located on the site. She felt that Councillors were let down by the officer.

The Mayor thanked Ms Peters who left the meeting at this point.

1755. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Beecham, D Edwards, and Miss M Toombs. It was noted that Cllr Edwards is recuperating and the Clerk was asked to send him a card wishing a speedy recovery from the Council.

1756. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1757. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 October 2015 were received and adopted as a correct record subject to Cllr Edwards' name being added to minute 1751c) as an abstainer.

1758. The following minutes were received and adopted as a correct record.

- a) Planning Committee held on 14 October 2015.
- b) Projects Committee held on 22 October 2015.
- c) Finance Committee held on 4 November 2015.

1759. Matters arising.

Finance Committee. The decisions of the Finance Committee were considered in detail and the following recommendations agreed:

1. Meetings of Finance Committee will be held at 6pm in future.
2. That the bid by Linda Vista Gardens be agreed in principle but two further quotes be sought before agreeing the works to proceed.
3. The information from Shelter be noted.
4. That the Council continues to protect its reserves for the time being.
5. Alterations made so far to the draft budget be agreed subject to further changes as we progress.
6. Street sweeping support be increased by £12500 for the coming year, subject to detailed schedules being agreed before acceptance.
7. We await detailed proposals from the County for toilet provision. The additional information from Mr Hoggins was noted, and will be discussed again at the next Finance Committee. There will

be an opportunity to test public opinion on this at the County's consultation meeting on 23 November

8.No commitment be made to Museums at present.

9. Further work be done on a Cost Centre for Bailey Park and the County be asked to review its charges.

10. No support be provided for The Hub until it is clear how it will be operating.

11. Emptying of a new dog bin in Park Crescent be agreed when it is provided.

12 The Audit Programme for the 2015/16 year be agreed.

(Cllr Mrs Harris arrived at this point)

#### 1760. Finance Report

a) The following payments were authorised:

Monmouthshire CC Election in Cantref Ward	2144.69
Viking Payments Stationery	133.62
St Mary's Priory house Co Twinning	80.00
C and C Binley (Locate Dg Bins)	175.00
HMRC Tax and NI	639.72
G M James salary	232.45
M Toombs Comms allowance	100.00
D Eldridge Mayoral installation Photographs	30.00
Abergavenny Chronicle Christmas Advertisement	240.00
Merlin Waste Dog Bins	406.80
M Powell Mayoral Christmas Cards	29.50
P Johns Expenses	32.77
CCTV Quarterly payment	3200.00
NR and CA Bailey Civic Functions	31.83
P Johns Christmas Lights replacements	180.00
Earth Anchors bin lid replacement	62.34

b) The Finance Reports for Month 7 were received and noted.

#### 1761. Correspondence.

1. Letter from Shopmobility. Noted . An alternative site for the Shopmobility cabin was being considered.
2. Grass Roots Magazine. Noted
3. Wales and West Utilities. Noted It was considered that greater publicity would be helpful as many people did not know what was going on.
4. Clerks and Councils Direct. Noted
5. Wales Audit Office response concerning the engagement of external auditors was noted.

#### 1762. Reports

- a) TeamAbergavenny notes of 15 October. It was noted that the Company had now been set up.
- b) Events Meeting on 26 October. It was confirmed that ADTA are involved in discussions with the TIC and Eisteddfod Officers about arrangements for next year.
- c) Public Realm Meeting on 26 October. Cllr Woodhouse said that he and Cllr Tatam had joined the visit to Worcester to look at road surfaces as proposed for High Street. It had been a very useful journey and the Public Realm Meeting had been very constructive.

#### 1763. Agenda Items

- a) Planning Committee Deputy

It was agreed that Cllr David Simcock would act as deputy to Cllr C Woodhouse to attend County Planning Committee if needed to represent the Town's views.

- b) A revised date for Projects Committee was discussed. It was agreed not to hold it on the scheduled date of 19 November. The Clerk would consult with The Mayor on an alternative and let members know. The Town Clerk Advisory Committee would also be held on that date.

#### 1764. Questions to County Councillors

Cllr Mrs S Woodhouse asked what was happening about the damaged building in Cross Street. Cllr Jordan was able to tell her that the owner had been trying to get authority to access the building from the rear and after about 4 months he now hoped to have that authority this week. Work would then start as soon as possible, but in any case before Christmas. Members welcomed this information.

Reference was made to internally illuminated signs appearing in various places in the town. It was noted that some are of good quality and unexceptional, but not all. This issue needs to be taken up with County Planning.

#### 1765. Members Reports

Cllr C Woodhouse had attended the funeral of the young man from Tesco. He had also attended the Agincourt Service in St Mary`s, AAODS Juniors show, Governors Meetings, the Armistice Parade and the Cenotaph today.

Cllr R Harris had attended the Parade on Sunday, Melville Theatre King Henry V , and the Service at the Castle today

Cllr Mrs M Harris had attended the same events.

Cllr M Hickman had attended the Parade and the Castle.

Cllr S Horrell had attended Town Team, Governors and the Parade on Sunday.

Cllr Mrs S Woodhouse had attended the Agincourt Service, AAODS Juniors, ADTA AGM, Parade on Sunday and Cenotaph today.

Cllr Jordan had been away.

Cllr Dodd had attended the ADTA AGM, Ostringen AGM, Parade on Sunday, She is now the Chair of the King Henry VIII PTCA.

Cllr Prosser had attended Friends of Bailey Park with police representatives to see the damage in the park, ADTA AGM, Gas Information Session Public Realm Meeting, Parade on Sunday and Castle today

Cllr Simcock had attended Transition Town Meeting, Parade on Sunday Henry V at the Melville (as a performer) . He noted that a sponsored swim in support of The Melville was taking place this weekend.

Cllr Tatam had attended Team Abergavenny, Public Realm, Parade and Castle

The Mayor had attended a Charity Piano Recital in St Mary`s, Launch of Health Minds at Bridges Monmouth, Oric Gallery Crickhowell, Agincourt Service, Junior AAODS, Welsh Guards Dinner, ADTA AGM, Assist with a raffle for Great Ormond Street, Fireworks at Belgrave Park, Remembrance Service at King Henry VII School, KHS Former Pupils Dinner at The Angel, Bach Choir Concert at St Mary`s, Parade on Sunday, Ostringen Twinning AGM, and Service at the Castle.

**There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8:43pm**