

ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12 November 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, Miss M Toombs, D Edwards, Mrs S Woodhouse, P Jordan, Ms S Dodd, J L Prosser, P Wadsworth and N Tatam.

In attendance: The Town Clerk, Mr S Penn (Press) and Mr S Horrell

1620. There were no apologies for absence.

1621. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1622. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 October 2014 were received and adopted as a correct record.

1623. Matters arising

The Clerk had not yet addressed the issue of an investment policy for the Council. It would be progressed as soon as possible.

Concerning the Monmouthshire Clerks' Meeting, Cllr Prosser had followed this up and had received assurances that the issues about contact difficulties, unreadable attachments and Charter minutes were being followed up by County Officers.

A response was awaited from the Monitoring Officer concerning members' interests.

The duties of the Litter Picker/Road Sweeper were to be clarified shortly.

Cllr Mrs Powell had some leaflets from Clytha Park concerning their Mental Health involvement which she offered to members.

1624. The Minutes of the following Committees were received and adopted as a correct record:

- a) Planning Committee held on 8 October 2014.
- b) Projects Committee held on 16 October 2014.
- c) Finance Committee held on 4 November 2014.
- d) Events Committee held on 11 November 2014.

1625 Matters arising:

Finance Committee

- a) A grant of £1000 was proposed for Rareseed Theatre, not to cover staff costs but other items. Cllr Edwards considered that the full grant request of £2000 should be paid to support activities for young people in the town. Other members considered that support was important but so was financial prudence at this time. Cllr Edwards' amendment seconded by Cllr Tatam was defeated by 2 votes to 10.
The proposition was then passed unanimously that £1000 should be granted.
- b) A grant request from Synergy Choir for support to train new Singers was proposed at £750. Again Cllr Edwards suggested an amendment that the full request for £1200 should be paid, seconded by Cllr Tatam. After discussion the amendment was put to the vote and lost 2 votes to 7. The proposition was then voted upon and all agreed that £750 should be granted.
- c) A bid by Action 50+ was considered. At the Finance meeting there had been some confusion about exactly what was being requested, but Cllr Mrs Woodhouse now had the necessary information. They were asking for £550 and she proposed that 75% of that be paid in accordance with our grants guidance, making £428. Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Tatam, proposed an amendment that £550 be paid. This was defeated 4 votes to 5 and the proposed amount of £428 was unanimously agreed.

- d) In relation to the use of Council Reserves, Cllr Tatam expressed his personal opposition to using £30,000 of it for the Eisteddfod in 2016.
- e) It was agreed that at the next meeting of the Finance Committee the whole Council be invited to discuss budget issues and to develop a strategy for dealing with the possible devolution of local service costs from the County Council. The Clerk would seek further detailed information on this from Monmouthshire before that meeting. Cllr C Woodhouse noted that at a meeting in Usk he had heard that Monmouthshire were seeking a further £100,000 from Community Councils in the coming year. This could mean that we will have to raise at least £20,000 more next year.

1626. Finance Report

a)	The following accounts were authorised for payment:		
	Love Zimbabwe Fair (Market Hall charges)		180.00
	Ysgol Cymraeg Y Fenni Bus Charter		
300.00			
	Abergavenny Food Festival Grant		
2000.00			
	City Illuminations	additional trees/lights	561.60
	RBL Poppy Appeal	wreaths	
46.00			
	Monmouthshire CC	CCTV	
3200.00			
	HMRC Tax and NI		
613.18			
	G M James salary		
176.72			
	P Johns	Antlers	
162.00			
	Cablenews		
109.80			
	M Hickman	Civic functions	
154.00			
	Abergavenny Chronicle	Christmas Advert	300.00
	P Johns	Expenses	
70.73			
	NR and CA Bailey	civic functions	
108.06			
	Andrew Jones	Pat testing Christmas Lights	390.00
	Merlin Waste		
298.32			
	Vision ICT	Half yearly maintenance charge	66.0

- b) The Month 7 Finance Reports were received for information.

1627. Correspondence.

1. RBL letter re Armistice Arrangements Noted
2. National Eisteddfod. Noted
3. Newport/Mon OVW Committee 16 October Noted (the meeting was cancelled)
4. Larger Local Councils Forum 15 October Cllr Tatam reported on the Community Infrastructure Levy being introduced in addition to the S 106 levy
5. Clerks and Councils Direct. Noted

6. Grass Roots. Noted

7. Letter from Nick Ramsay AM, Agreed to ask him to attend a Projects Committee.

8. Letter concerning Action for Market Towns. Noted

9. Public Consultation into non motorised user access on the A4042 at Llanellen. It was agreed to write to support non-motorised vehicle access at this point It was also noted that this would become a critical route when the new Critical Care Centre is built at Croesyceiliog.

10. Gwent Police Commissioner questionnaire. Members would do their own.

11. A40 Dual Use Footpath. Respond to say that this is outside our remit and should be taken up by Welsh Government as it is a trunk road.

12. Llangollen Eisteddfod 2015. Received. We only contribute if a local organisation is taking part.

13. Urdd Eisteddfod – same comment as above.

14. Stroke Association – Received.

15. Brecon Beacons National Park Noted

16. Action 50+ Newsletter. Received.

1628. Reports

a) The Town Team notes were to be sent out to members following another meeting on the following day.

b) North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee Minutes were received.

c) The TIC report was deferred to the next Finance Committee when a decision would be needed as to its future. A question was raised as to the detail in the facilities costs, and a comment was made that the One Stop Shop now dealt with many more Tourism inquiries. On 18 November the County Strong Communities Committee was considering a report about creating community hubs and the TIC should be considered in this context.

The Clerk was asked to get information on the breakdown of inquiries received by the One Stop Shop.

1629 Agenda Items.

a) The Council Vacancy situation had been dealt with. The Clerk would send a notice to members the following day.

b) The table of meeting dates was received and approved. The date of next year's Christmas Dinner would be left o next year's Mayor.

c) CSAT. Cllr Wadsworth asked members to let him have details of any issues that they want raised by either letting him know directly or by telling the Clerk. This would be facilitated if an Agenda Item is added to each Council meeting to remind members. This was agreed.

1630. Questions to County Councillors.

Cllr Mrs Harris asked about the sale of the Job Centre. It was confirmed that it was due to be sold shortly with a sitting tenant (the Job Centre) who may have an option to extend their lease.

1631. Members Reports

Cllr Tatam had attended One Voice Wales Meetings, Abergavenny and District Tourism AGM, Vintage Vision, Town Team and Remembrance Parade.

Cllr Wadsworth had attended Cantref School Inspection and Remembrance at the Castle.

Cllr Prosser had attended the Remembrance Parade which he felt had done Abergavenny proud. He also asked the Council to agree that Bailey Park should be designated as our Centenary Field. Soldiers going off to the war had assembled there and it would be a

fitting designation. This was agreed and Cllr Prosser would progress it.

Cllr Dodd had attended KHS Foundation Governors, TIC Meeting, ADTA AGM, Remembrance Parade and the Events Committee.

Cllr Jordan had attended the Remembrance Parade.

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had attended KHS Foundation Governors, an MCC Budget issues meeting in Usk and Remembrance Parade.

Cllr D Edwards had attended the Remembrance Parade and the Castle Remembrance event.

Cllr Mrs Powell had attended the Welsh Guards Dinner, Bach Society Concert, Gwent Wind Concert, Remembrance Parade and the Castle Remembrance Event.

Cllr R Harris and Cllr Mrs M Harris had attended the Remembrance Parade and Castle Remembrance Event and Deri View School Governors.

Cllr C Woodhouse had attended the same meetings as Cllr Mrs S Woodhouse.

The Mayor had attended a number of events including St Davids AGM, Fun Kitchen, Civic Society presentation, AAODS show, Fireworks Display, Celtic Guitars, WW1 Tea Dance, KHS Foundation Governors, Remembrance Parade and Castle Event and opening of Vodaphone Shop.

1632. Any Other Business.

a) Cllr C Woodhouse asked members to support the nomination of three new names to go on the Honours Board, Mr Owen Sheers, Mr Bill Owen and Mr Franco Taruschio. Members had received details of the reasons for the nominations some time ago and it was unanimously agreed to approach the three persons to invite them to agree to accept this honour. Subject to their agreement, a reception would be arranged in due course. The Clerk would progress this as soon as possible. No publicity would be given to it until they had agreed.

b) Cllr Edwards noted that the parking restrictions had at last been put in place outside Boots and warned members not to park there.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8:20pm