

## **ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12 October 2016 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.**

Present: Cllr C Woodhouse (Mayor)

Cllrs M J Hickman, Mrs M Powell, S Horrell, Miss M Toombs, D Edwards, R P Jordan, Ms S Dodd, J L Prosser, D Simcock, T Thomas and N Tatam.

In attendance: The Interim Town Clerk, Mr A Michie and Mrs J Warren (Team Abergavenny) and the Press.

The Mayor welcomed all present and invited them to stand as a mark of respect for ex Councillor and Mayor in 20012 and 2006, Tony O'Donovan who had died recently.

The Mayor Welcomed the Team Abergavenny representatives and invited Mrs Warren to make a short presentation about the 5-year plan progress.

Mrs Warren recalled a previous visit to the Projects Committee in May and noted that about 7 Councillors were already aware of the process or had taken part in it. Basically, the draft document had taken all the recommendations from a variety of previous plans for the area and brought them together. The next part of the process was to group them in similar categories and then to invite a number of people to prioritise them. This process was being completed together with a text document that describes the content.

She expressed thanks to those members who had been asked to take part in the prioritisation process and who had delivered their views. After this first pass, the list of projects will be narrowed down and further consultation and prioritisation will be carried out to get to a realistic plan for the coming year and subsequent years. The aim was to have it ready for February/March next year and then to focus on implementing the prioritised projects by whatever means possible.

Mr Michie, noted that most of the priorities in previous plans had not been implemented and the aim was to ensure that does not happen to this plan, which we will try to implement together.

The Mayor noted that Cllr Phil Murphy, County Finance Cabinet Member had recently attended a meeting and had made it clear that this year Monmouthshire CC would be cutting services, as they could no longer maintain them.

Other Councillors made comments and asked questions as follows:

Concern was expressed about the lack of input from many Community Councils

Would costings be added to the projects? It will be one of the later prioritisation criteria.

We hope some low-cost projects can be done to gain early wins.

We should probably focus on a few larger projects and many of the smaller items may get done as part of a larger one.

Can the remaining councillors have the full list of projects? Suggest that they have the revised version after the first prioritisation exercise is completed, but they can have the associated draft report.

Sustainability is a criterion both environmentally and managerially.

We will be looking at a couple of towns, possibly in England, who have gone through this process to see what we can learn. We do not want to become a one-project town which can narrow the focus too much.

It is a pity that there is no business club in existence at present, and it was agreed that Cllrs Edwards and Prosser would discuss ways of seeking support to get one going again. It was

noted that some young entrepreneurs were working with a Team Abergavenny member to help each other. That was welcomed.

The Mayor thanked Mr Michie and Mrs Warren for attending and setting out progress to date.

1862. Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs M Harris and R Harris.

1863. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1864. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 September were received and adopted as a correct record subject to a question from Cllr Edwards about a proposition to do a count at the Bus Station toilets not being included. The Mayor noted that this would be discussed in November when our strategy on toilets would be discussed. Cllr Tatam also questioned the amount quoted for toilets and queried whether it could be relied upon. It was confirmed that this was the figure we had been asked to fund although it was not the total cost of toilets.

1865. Matters arising

The Mayor had written to Mr Olding complimenting him on the work of his committee leading up to the Eisteddfod and inviting them to attend a reception in the Parlour. He was awaiting a reply.

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse noted that an approach will be made to Morrisons when building starts to allow a mural of cycling to honour Becky James, but that in the meantime a suggestion for cycle racks with Olympic rings and Becky's name be installed. This was in progress. It was also proposed to provide cycle pumps in a couple of locations.

The AAOOS Concert had gone well, although an additional A Board advertising it and inviting people in at the back door would have been helpful.

1866. Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14 September were received and adopted as a correct record.

1867. Minutes of the Finance Committee were received and adopted as a correct record with the following decisions agreed:

The external audit letter had been received and noted and recommended to Council for adoption. The Clerk had written back to say that the Gratuity Fund had been closed as being inappropriate and the money transferred into the Salaries budget to cover temporary arrangements during the changeover of clerks.

The letter to appoint the Internal Auditor for another year had been agreed, together with the fee of £1350 for 2016/17

Month 6 Finance reports were agreed subject to some minor amendments to be completed by the Clerk and Chair of Finance Committee.

The Mayor was arranging an event at the lights switch-on with a cycling theme.

It was agreed that the Celebrate Wales grant e-mail should be circulated to voluntary groups. It was agreed not to proceed with the Market Towns advertising feature.

It was noted that a meeting will take place to discuss Market Hall charges.

It was agreed that Nevill Hall Sound should be told that arrangements had been in place for some time regarding the lights switch-on.

Cllr Prosser confirmed the arrangements in place for Armistice Day. A Press Release will be issued shortly.

#### 1868. Finance Report

a) The following payments were authorised:

MCC Summer Playscheme	£8000
G M James salary	£236.86
HMRC Tax and NI	£59.20
NR and CA Bailey Civic Functions	£175.25
Merlin Waste dog bins	£436.80
P Johns expenses	£323.76
Cablenews	£76.96
G M James stationery	£26.49
C Evans erecting flags	£35.00
CAB Monmouthshire	£10,000
RBL Poppy appeal	£46.00
AAODS Summer Concert	£400.00

b) The Month 6 Finance reports were received and approved.

c) The External Audit letter and attachments were received and adopted for 2015/16

#### 1869. Correspondence.

The Wales in Bloom Report was received and noted. The points for next year would be addressed in due course.

The Clerk had received information that the new planters in St John's Square would be replanted for winter and maintained as part of the contract for the next twelve months but after that there may be a need to consider their future. This was agreed.

#### 1870. Reports

a) Cluster Group

Those who had attended were not impressed with the general atmosphere and suspicion with which the meeting was received by Communities. If the Area Committee is re-arranged as is hoped, than the cluster group would be redundant.

It was noted that many community councils were very isolationist in their approach.

Cllr Mrs Powell noted that a similar impression had been gained at a meeting in County Hall several months ago.

b) CCTV

It was noted that the possibility of linking in the Bailey Park camera was being looked at, but it was unlikely to proceed as the park is in darkness when issues arise.

1871. There were no questions to County Councillors.

#### 1872. Members reports.

Cllr Tatam attended Team Abergavenny, the AAODS Concert, Fair Trade,

Cllr Simcock attended Transition Town, Team Abergavenny and the Llanfoist Bridge exhibition.

Cllr Thomas attended Team Abergavenny, Police Commissioner meeting, a training course and the Georgian Trust at the Gunter Mansion as well as the AAODS Concert.

Cllr Prosser attended the launch of the World Trade Fair, and had been in Belgium on Agri-Urban Business where several useful sites had been visited including a food hub which provided a thought-provoking example.

Cllr Ms S Dodd had attended the Civic Service, John Owen y Fenni Exhibition, Tourist Association Mrs Foulser`s funeral. She noted the ADTA AGM is coming up soon and MCC Officers and Cllr Greenland have been invited. She also asked if letters can be sent to Communities about the cost of running the TIC and inviting contributions. The KHS Former Pupils Dinner is to be held on 11 November and is open to others to attend. Anyone wishing to do so should contact her.

Cllr Jordan had recently met Mr Cuthbert.

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had attended the Food Festival, Dood Aid, Railway Children, and Papillon Art.

Cllr Edwards had attended Abergavenny Community Centre, who were going in the right direction, and he is working on the legacy for the Eisteddfod, liaising with Friends of Castle Meadows and Jane Turner to provide a monument in Castle Meadows. There is also to be another stone added to the ring in Swan Meadows.

Cllr Miss Toombs had attended the Food Festival.

Cllr Mrs Powell had attended the Police Commissioner Meeting in Monmouth.

Cllr Horrell had attended Team Abergavenny.

Cllr Hickman had attended the AAODS Concert, Fair Trade Fair, and noted they may apply for a grant next year to offset increasing costs. He noted that the BBNP Tourism Officer had told him of an up-coming meeting re the TIC.

The Mayor had attended the Food Festival, Railway Children, Papillon Arts, and the launch of Cards for Good Causes.

He asked members to note the Christmas Lights Switch-on, on 26 November, Tenovus and the James Family are expected to attend, and he noted that the Council Christmas Dinner will be on 6 December in the Kings Arms and the menu/cost will be circulated shortly.

He also noted that the Cenotaph Parade will be on 13 November assembling at the Town Hall by 10:15am.

**The meeting ended at 8:20pm**