

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 May 2014 at 6pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.

Present: Cllr M Hickman (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 and N Tatam.

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

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Prosser on being elected Chairman of Monmouthshire County Council.

1539. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Harries and P Wadsworth.

1560. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1561. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 April 2014 were received and adopted as a correct record subject to the date of the Planning Committee in minute 1531 being altered to 12 March from 1 March.

1562. Matters arising.

It was understood that a date was being fixed for a visit to Tudor Street Day Centre. Cllrs Edwards and Hickman had attended recently and had not found anything to be concerned about. They would welcome another visit at a time when there are clients using the facility. Concerns were expressed as to why the visit was taking so long to arrange.

Cllr Dodd asked if the Tourist windows in High Street could be painted before the summer season really gets under way. It was agreed to ask the Probation Service if they can do it soon.

It was noted that the five years was about to end during which the Council should hold the Sarno Twinning money. It was agreed to agenda this for the next meeting.

As regards future dates for the Projects Committee, the Clerk had ascertained that the best consistent date to hold it would be on the third Thursday of each month. County Council Meetings were on a six week cycle and therefore only one or two would clash during the year. The fourth Thursday was booked already by another organisation.

The next meeting is therefore scheduled for 22 May. It was pointed out that there are other commitments on that evening, and at present there is only one issue for the agenda. It was therefore

agreed to cancel that meeting. The Clerk would circulate a revised list of dates indicating where there is a clash with County Council.

As regards dates for Finance Committee, when the membership of the Committee is confirmed the Clerk will canvass members for a regular date for that meeting.

1563. The Minutes of the following meetings were received and adopted as a correct record:

- a) Planning Committee held on 28 April 2014.
- b) Projects Committee held on 28 April 2014.
- c) Finance Committee held on 28 April 2014.

1564. Matters arising.

a) Cllr C Woodhouse noted that a site visit to the Wellfield Close site had established that the car park surface would be porous. He asked if the Clerk had found out what condition 5 was of the Cattle Market Planning permission. The Clerk had overlooked this and would chase it up.

b) In relation to the Food Festival Funding it was noted that a newspaper report had said that Welsh Government was funding the Winter Festival.

c) The following recommendations of the Finance Committee were agreed:

1. A grant of £1000 be made to the Abergavenny Eisteddfod. (Cllr Edwards declared an interest and took no part in this discussion)
2. A grant of £3000 be made to Gwent Young People's Theatre. (It was agreed to review the possibility of a further grant at a later date after hearing from the group). It was also noted that there may be other young people's groups in the area which will be looking for support in the near future.
3. A grant of £1000 be made to the Papillon Arts Project. (Cllr Mrs Woodhouse declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.)
4. A grant of £3000 be made to the Carnival with an additional £500 for prizes. Questions were raised as to whether businesses had been approached. It was also suggested that maybe in future years a closure of the Town Centre should be arranged to have a local Festival instead of a carnival, which might attract more people to the Town. This happens in Ostringen as witnessed by the Twinning Party recently. It was further agreed that Cllr Dodd should be put forward as a representative to the Carnival Committee again.
5. A grant of £184 for two portaloos be made to the Monmouthshire Environment Partnership Board
6. A donation of £100 be made to GAVO.
7. The list of previous grants was received.

8. The External Audit letter and other papers were received and noted.

9. A further grant of £1500 be made to the cost of the TIC subject to the conditions set out above.
(Cllr Dodd declared an interest in the TIC and took no part in the vote).

(Cllr Toombs arrived at this point)

1565. Finance Matters

a) The following payments were authorised:

SWALEC (Christmas lights power)	£341.80
I Deal Design (Toy Fair)	£61.00
C & C Binley (odd jobs)	£143.00
Jems Catering (Iolo Williams buffet)	£25.00
MCC (CCTV)	£3200.00
M Hickman (Installation hospitality)	£539.10
Zurich Municipal (Insurance)	£1414.05
Friends of Castle Meadows (grant)	£1792.00
Cablenews	£103.20
C Woodhouse (Gift to Ostringen)	£100.00
G M James (salary)	£202.08
HMRC Tax and NI	£619.38
Merlin Waste	£298.32
Town Clerk`s expenses	£149.25
Black Mountain Jazz (part-payment of grant)	£1250.00
NR & CA Bailey (Civic functions)	£90.15
Competition prizes	£1190
M Hickman (civic functions)	£80.56
RBL Poppy appeal (wreath)	£23.00
St Mary`s Priory (civic functions)	£285.00
Martins Jewellers (engraving)	£100.80
Jems Catering (Toy Fair grant)	£100.00

ADTA Advertising space (Toy Fair grant)

£10.00

b) The final month 12 finance reports were received and noted together with the Audit Report taken from the computer. The papers for Audit had been passed to the Internal Auditor and the Clerk is meeting him on Friday to resolve one outstanding issue about where the Gateway Credit Union deposit should be presented in the accounts. A full report of the Audit should then be available to the Council at its June Meeting.

Members thanked the Clerk and his Assistant for their efforts with the Accounts and expressed satisfaction with progress to date.

1566. Correspondence.

The following items were considered:

1. Abergavenny May Funfair. Noted
2. Tree Preservation Order. Noted
3. Governance in Small Public Bodies. Noted
4. Clerks and Councils Direct. Received
5. Play for Wales. Received
6. Grass Roots. Received
7. Area Committee for Monmouthshire. Received In the context of this item, Cllr Edwards queried whether we should have an Usk Valley Area of Outstanding Beauty similar to the Wye AONB. We need to promote the area and that would be an advantage.
8. Larger Local Councils Committee. Received
9. E-mail from Ms Heather Myers re Food Festival. There was some debate about this item. Members expressed a number of views about the different options suggested in the e-mail being considered. It was proposed that our contribution to the Food Festival be restricted to the same as last year (£2000). Another member suggested that the artwork in the Market Hall was a real asset to the town and should be supported fully (ie £8000) This would maximise the value of our input and would be available all year long.

(Cllr Mrs Harris arrived at this point)

It was then suggested that we should contribute the £2000 as for last year but in addition we should pay for the Winter Festival banners at £900.

Cllr C Woodhouse, seconded by Cllr Mrs S Woodhouse, proposed that £2000 be granted.

Cllr Tatam, seconded by Cllr Miss Toombs, proposed an amendment that £8000 be granted for the Arts Alive Project to replace the vegetable artwork in the Market Hall.

Cllr R Harris gave notice of a second amendment to grant £2000 and to grant £900 for the banners subject to a grant form being received to cover that. This was seconded by Cllr Prosser.

Cllr Tatam asked for a recorded vote.

On the first amendment, to grant £8000, Cllrs N Tatam, M Harris, D Edwards, M Toombs and M Hickman voted in favour. Cllrs C Woodhouse, S Dodd, R Harris, S Woodhouse, M Powell, J Prosser and P Jordan voted against, a majority of 7 to 5 against, so the amendment failed.

On the second amendment, that £2000 be granted and a further £900 may be paid subject to a full grant application being received, Cllrs C Woodhouse, R Harris, M Harris, M Powell, S Woodhouse, P Jordan, S Dodd J Prosser and M Hickman voted in favour. Cllrs N Tatam, D Edwards and M Toombs voted against. The amendment was carried by 9 votes to 3 and therefore became the definitive proposition.

1567. Reports

a) Town Team Update

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update of progress. There had been little movement during April but a recent meeting had got things back on track. Work is going ahead on preparing the Community Interest Company application. A Programme Board to oversee the objectives of the Whole Place Plan for Bryn y Cwm is now being convened. A workshop for Town Team members to review their objectives and refocus the group is being arranged. The Business Improvement District bid for funds was successful and the work has started to canvass support from the business community. They will be asked to pay an additional fee on their business rates but in return they should be able to get group benefits on things like energy and business waste costs which should more than offset that outgoing. Further reports will be made as progress is made.

b) North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee.

The notes of this meeting were received and noted.

c) Standing Orders Review

The suggested amendments were adopted and in addition para 19 would be altered to reflect the authorisation arrangements for payments agreed in para 35.2 The Town Clerk would circulate a revised page to cover this point. Subject to these changes, Standing Orders were received and adopted for another year.

d) Representation on other bodies and Council Committees.

The following schedule was agreed for 2014/15:

Patron – Beaupreau Twin Town Association	The Mayor
Patron – Oestringen Twin Town Association	The Mayor
Abergavenny in Bloom Committee	Cllr Mrs S Woodhouse
Abergavenny and District Tourist Association	Cllr Ms S Dodd (reserve Cllr Prosser)
Beaupreau Twinning Association	Cllr Mrs S Woodhouse

Oestrigen Twinning Association	Cllr J L Prosser
Governor of Cantref School	Cllr P Wadsworth
Governor of Deri View School	currently not our turn
Governor of Our Lady and St Michael School	Cllr C Woodhouse
King Henry V111 Charity Trust Wadsworth and C Woodhouse	Cllrs Mrs S Woodhouse, Ms S Dodd and P
Abergavenny Relief in Need Charity	Cllrs M Toombs and D Edwards
National Parks	Cllr N Tatam (dep Cllr R Harris)
Borough Theatre A4B	Cllr Mrs M Powell, Cllr S Dodd
Monmouthshire C C Planning Committee	Cllr C Woodhouse (dep Cllr R Harries)
N Monmouthshire Liaison Committee	Cllrs M Chiplin, R Harries,
Deputies,	Cllrs D Edwards, R Harris
Crime Prevention Committee (ADPAC)	Cllrs J Prosser, Mrs M Harris
CSAT	Cllr P Wadsworth
Market Hall User Group/Development Committee	Cllrs J Prosser, N Tatam
Bryn y Cwm Area Forum	Cllrs N Tatam, R Harries.
Communities First Partnership Board	Cllr Mrs M Harris
One Voice Wales Representative	Cllr N Tatam
Governor to Ysgol Y Fenni	Cllr M Chiplin

Council Committees

All are members of the Planning, Projects, Toilets and Events Committees.

Finance Committee

Cllrs M Hickman, P Wadsworth, Mrs M Powell, Mrs S Woodhouse, R Harris, Ms S Dodd and C Woodhouse

Artefacts Committee

Cllrs Ms S Dodd, D Edwards, Mrs M Harris, Miss M Toombs and P Jordan

Town Clerk Advisory Committee

Cllrs D Edwards, C Woodhouse, N Tatam, R Harris, P Jordan, M Hickman, Cllr J L Prosser and Mrs S Woodhouse

Friends of Bailey Park

Cllrs J L Prosser, R Harries and N Tatam

Friends of Linda Vista Cllr M Chiplin

Having agreed the above list of representatives, it was noted that it is urgent that we have a Markets Committee meeting as soon as possible. The Clerk would follow this up with help from County members.

As regards Artefacts, Cllr Prosser suggested that we investigate the possibility of having glass cabinets around the Council Chamber to display some of our artefacts for public display. This would be considered at a meeting of the Artefacts Committee to be convened as soon as possible.

e) The Members' Attendance Report for 2013/14 was received and noted.

1568. Agenda Items.

a) Update on TIC.

The Town Clerk reported that after this Council had agreed to contribute another £1500 towards the desk requirements he had heard that it would now be possible to proceed with moving the TIC to the Tithe Barn before the end of May deadline.

Members were concerned at a lack of information on this. There was a rumour that the grant bid at the BBNP had failed, but the money had been found from other sources. Members agreed that accurate information should be made available as soon as possible and a Monitoring Group should meet to set out how this is to be monitored. Cllrs C Woodhouse and S Dodd were nominated to sit on that group. It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to the TIC Staff thanking them for their efforts. Cllr Dodd noted that the touch screen at the TIC did not cover this area at all.

1569. Questions to County Councillors.

Cllr C Woodhouse asked County members to facilitate Mr T James to come to talk about the retail market.

The future library arrangements were discussed. It was stated that the current library is too small, and whatever solution is found will need to provide more space.

Cllr Toombs asked Cllr Prosser as Chair of the Economic Development Select Committee whether he was aware of the TIC situation? Cllr Prosser agreed to ask for a revised business case to reflect the new position.

Cllr Jordan noted that a new Head had been appointed for King Henry VIII School.

Cllr Toombs asked about cuts to SEN funding to schools. Cllr Prosser undertook to pass any views on this to the Cabinet Member for Education.

Cllr Jordan noted that the County is doing things differently and this will have an impact on some funding streams.

The Clerk asked if any other members in addition to Cllrs Mrs S Woodhouse, C Woodhouse and N Tatam wished to be involved in meeting MCC about next year's budget issues. No other members expressed an interest as the meetings would probably be during the daytime.

1570. Members reports.

Cllr Tatam had attended One Voice Wales Meetings, Twinning visit to Ostringen, Wellbeing Event in Market, Programme Board Stakeholders Meeting.

Cllr Prosser had attended the Ostringen visit.

Cllr Dodd had also been to Ostringen and agreed that the Twinning links are still strong. She thanked Cllr S Woodhouse for arranging the trip. She had also attended the launch of the ADTA Website and the Mayor's Installation.

Cllr Jordan had visited Ostringen.

Cllr S Woodhouse, as out-going Mayor, had attended the AAODS Show, a Breast Cancer Awareness Coffee Morning, Gwent Bach Society Concert, Choir at St Mary's, Easter Bonnet Parade, Youg AAODS, Cat Protection Concert, St George's Scouts Parade, Launch of ADTA Website, Ostringen trip, Hereford May Fair, New Museum Display and the Junior Eisteddfod, Tea at St Mary's and the Mayoral Installation.

Cllr Edwards had attended the Mons Parade, Installation, Programme Board Stakeholders, Museum, PCSO Meeting. He thanked the Maor for attending the Junior Eisteddfod .

Cllr Toombs had attended the Mons Parade, and the mayoral Installation.

Cllr Mrs Powell had attended A4B, ADTA Website launch, Breast Cancer Coffee Morning, Mons Parade and the installation.

Cllr Mrs Harris attended the Mons Parade, Governors Duties and the Installation.

Cllr R Harris attended the Mons Day Parade, and the Installation.

Cllr C Woodhouse had attended School Governors and supported the Mayor.

Cllr Hickman had attended the AAODS Show, been an Eisteddfod Judge and the ADTA Website. He had also attended the Mons Day Parade, King Henry School Award Evening, the Toy Fair, Good Morning Britain, Opening a pond at Llantilio Pertholey School and the County Chairman's Installation as well as the 50+ group.

The meeting ended at 7:55pm