

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 October 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny. at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs M Powell (Mayor)

Cllrs C Woodhouse, R Harris, Mrs M Harris, M J Hickman, S Horrell, D Edwards, Mrs S Woodhouse, MS S Dodd, P Jordan, J L Prosser, D Simcock, M Beecham and N Tatam.

In attendance: The Town Clerk and Mr P James (Press)

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Matthew Beecham to his first meeting.

1742. No apologies were received.

1743. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary during the meeting.

1744. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9 September were received and adopted as a correct record subject to an amendment that in minute 1740 Cllr Tatam had attended the Area One Voice Wales Meeting.

1745. Matters arising.

Cllr C Woodhouse noted that he had not been able to attend the County Planning Committee as he did not know about it before he went on holiday and returned too late to go. It was noted that his deputy was Cllr Woodley who had now left the Council. It was agreed to appoint a new deputy. Cllr Woodhouse observed that although the Gunter Mansion grounds Planning Application had been approved it does not stop the opportunity to restore the Mansion. The Mayor noted that she had read out the letter from objectors on behalf of Cllr Prosser who had other business on that day.

Cllr Simcock asked if anything had happened about asking the AM to meet us and it was confirmed that he is attending the Projects Committee on 22 October.

1746. The following minutes were received and adopted as a correct record:

- a) Planning Committee held on 9 September 2015.
- b) Meeting with Eisteddfod representatives on 7 October 2015
- c) Council workshop notes from 13 October 2015 meeting.

1747. Matters arising.

With regard to the Eisteddfod Meeting, we should keep lobbying about the inadequacies at the

railway station.

With regard to the Workshop Meeting, Cllr Prosser queried if he has a mandate from this Council to discuss closure of White Horse Lane toilets and retention of the others. Cllr Edwards felt that this decision was flawed as the through-put of users at White Horse Lane had been proved to be greater than the other toilets. Cllr Prosser responded that he was looking for a sensible way to retain public toilets. Cllr C Woodhouse noted that the toilets belong to the County Council at present and Cllr Prosser is discussing the issue on our behalf.. Cllr Tatam noted that the standard of cleaning is variable.

1748. Finance Report for October 2015.

a) The following payments were authorised:

Charles Thomas engraving of civic items	92.50
Ricoh Ltd photocopying	75.84
HMRC tax and NI	639.92
G M James salary	232.25
Kings Arms Hotel twinning dinner	717.20
Varteg Motors twinning coach	950.00
St Mary`s Bakery twinning buffet	197.50
Framed by John twinning	55.00
Jeremy Thomas twinning	152.50
The Swan Hotel twinning	238.50
Cablenews library papers	33.60
La Cave a Fromage twinning	120.00
Margaret Dodd twinning	15.00
National Eisteddfod contribution	20,000.00
NR & CA Bailey civic functions	26.97
Merlin Waste dog bins	325.44
P Johns expenses (Includes 300 antlers, journey to Wolfscastle, printer cartridges and minor items	422.95
Signpost solutions Banding tool	114.95
RBL Poppy Appeal wreaths	46.00
MCC removal of bunting	932.94
MCC Road Sweeper quarterly payment	6750.00
Abergavenny Cycling Festival grant residue	365.00

b) The finance printouts for Month 6 were received. The Twinning budgets should be merged and a correction is needed on the Abergavenny in Bloom Heading.

1749. Correspondence

1. External Audit arrangements 2015/16 and beyond. The Clerk was asked to write to Wales Audit Office asking why no Welsh external auditor is offered
2. Larger Local Councils Committee. Noted Thanks were offered to Cllr Tatam for attending and to Cllr Prosser for attending the National Conference.
3. Play for Wales. Noted
4. GAVO Executive Committee and Elections. Noted
5. One Voice Wales Area Meeting. Noted

1750. Team Abergavenny update was received. Cllr Edwards noted that changes to the Aea Committee and the Programme Board are still to be finalised after discussion with local members.

1751. Agenda Items.

a) Dates of Meetings for next year were received and approved.

b) St Johns Course and Defibrillators. Cllr Hickman explained that Rotary are prepared to provide free first aid courses for anyone interested. The contact is Martin Phillips.

They would also pay for defibrillators to be installed in public places in the town. Those in the Market Hall and The Angel are not accessible when the premises are closed. The newer ones are contained in a locked box and the code to open them will be with the Emergency Operator. He asked Councillors to suggest places where they could be located.

c) Cllr Hickman on behalf of the British Legion asked why the Royal Welsh do not have the Freedom of Abergavenny. It was noted that they do have the Freedom of Monmouthshire which entitles them to march through any town in Monmouthshire, but the Legion felt it would be appropriate for Abergavenny to consider awarding it as well.

Cllr Tatam expressed admiration for the troops and sympathy for those wounded or damaged by war, but did not support the idea. He asked for a recorded vote. The Mayor was sorry that Cllr Tatam felt that way - she felt strongly that it was a good way to honour our troops.

On a recorded vote to award the Freedom of Abergavenny to the regiment, the following councillors voted in favour - Cllrs Mrs M Powell, M Beecham, J Prosser, Ms S Dodd, P Jordan, Mrs S Woodhouse, S Horrell, M J Hickman, R Harris and C Woodhouse.

Against the motion were Cllrs N Tatam and D Simcock, with Cllr Mrs Harris abstaining.

d) Youth Council.

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse and two other councillors had been looking into the setting up of a Youth Council. MCC have an officer developing Youth Activities, and she is interested in this. A meeting is being arranged for 26 November at 5:30pm to see if there is enough interest in the young people to

set one up. Cllr Edwards endorsed Cllr Woodhouse's approach. It was noted that continuity can be a real problem with these things. Cllr Edwards suggested that as the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee had been cancelled this week, it might be a good idea if the MCC Officer came to that meeting.

e) Twinning

Cllr C Woodhouse reported on the recent German Twinning visit. The activities and receptions provided had been very well received and letters of thanks had gone to the Hotels and other facilities on behalf of the Twinning organisations and the Council. Budget-wise, the costs had been contained within budget.

The Town Clerk of Ostringen had suggested that in 2018 which is the 50th anniversary of Twinning between the two towns, they could bring their Band over to play with Abergavenny Borough Band. This was met with enthusiasm. The gift from Ostringen was displayed to members.

Cllr Woodhouse thanked the Clerk's Assistant for her support work in producing menus etc for the events during the weekend. There are already e-mails circulating about improving links with the schools. Cllr Mrs Harris complimented Cllrs Sheila and Chris Woodhouse for their work in arranging a really good programme for the visitors. Cllr R Harris endorsed this.

1752. Questions to County Councillors.

Cllr C Woodhouse expressed concern about the future funding of the TIC. He felt that it is really important to the town and makes a major contribution to the businesses in the town. Cllrs Edwards and Prosser who sit on the MCC Economic Development Committee were urged to do their best to retain County funding. Cllr R Harris also suggested that the Clerk should write to the Committee Chair to express our concerns. This was agreed.

!753. Members' reports.

Cllr Tatam had attended Team Abergavenny, One Voice Wales Area and Larger Councils Meetings and the Twinning visit to Cardiff.

Cllr Simcock had attended Transition Town Meetings and Planning Training

Cllr Prosser had attended the Twinning Dinner, the AGM of One Voice Wales which had discussed the merger and reform proposals from Minister Leighton Andrews. He noted that in future boundary reviews will be done by the Boundary Commission not the County Councils. It was also suggested that the next electoral session could be for three years not four or five. Town and Community Councils would also have to demonstrate competence to accept devolution of services.

Cllr Dodd had attended Twinning and Food Festival

Cllr Jordan had attended Twinning and Food Festival.

Cllr S Woodhouse had attended a Youth Council meeting, Planning Training, and the Twinning weekend.

Cllr Edwards queried whether the merger arrangements were still in the melting pot. He thanked the Mayor for attending a 100th birthday party.

Cllr Horrell had attended Team Abergavenny and OLSM Governors.

Cllr Hickman had represented the Mayor at Fair Trade Fair and Terri Monaghan's retirement. He presented the Council with a Fair Trade Certificate. He also asked the Mayor to host a Fair Trade breakfast during Fair Trade fortnight. Councillors were also welcome to attend.

Cllr M Harris had attended the Twinning weekend and governors meetings.

Cllr R Harris had attended the Twinning Weekend.

Cllr C Woodhouse had attended a TIC Meeting, Planning Training, and the Twinning Weekend.

The Mayor had attended the MCC Sports Awards evening, GAVO Awards evening, Twinning Weekend, Love Zimbabwe Children's march, King Henry V Anniversary event in Monmouth, Team with the High Sheriff, 100th Birthday Party, Visit to Air Cadets Training, Rotary 70th Anniversary Dinner, Opening of the Show House at Persimmon Llanfoist, and the MCC Chairman's Harvest Supper.

1754. Any Other Business

a) Cllr Edwards announced that the subject for next year's Arts and Literature Competition would be St David.

b) He also sought approval for next year's School Olympic Sports to go ahead. This was agreed.

The Meeting ended at 8:22pm