

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 September 2016 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.

Present: Cllr C Woodhouse (Mayor)

Cllrs R Harris, Mrs M Harris, M Hickman, S Horrell, Mrs M Powell, D Edwards, Mrs S Woodhouse, P Jordan, J L Prosser, D Simcock, T Thomas and N Tatam.

In attendance: The Interim Town Clerk, Press and Mrs J Humphries, Town Clerk Designate.

The Mayor welcomed members back after the summer recess and introduced Mrs Humphries, the new Town Clerk who will take up her duties on 17 October.

He then invited members to stand in memory of ex- Councillor Jane Foulser who had died during the period since the last meeting.

1850. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Dodd and M Toombs.

1851. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary during the meeting.

1852. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 13 July were received and adopted as a correct record. There was some discussion of the difficulties in receiving all the e-mails with Council papers attached. It was agreed that this was attributable to teething troubles and would hopefully be resolved during the next two months.

There were no matters arising, other than Cllr Tatam reported that no further correspondence had been received about waste from Welsh Water site at Llanfoist being transported to Cardiff.

1853. The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 July were received and adopted as a correct record with no matters arising.

1854. Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 22 August were received and adopted. The Confidential Minute would be dealt with at the end of the meeting.

#### 1855. Finance Report

a) The following payments were recommended for adoption:

Merlin Waste	508.05
Monmouthshire CC CCTV	3200.00
Willows Usk Garden Centre	11,533.82
JP Signs Cycling grant	1632.00
Jems Catering 2 buffets	350.00
MCC Election Costs	2017.85
St Michaels Centre Installation	133.50
Cablenews 2 months papers and stamps	155.26
Merlin Waste	406.80
Ricoh	67.39

b) The Finance Reports for Months 3, 4 and 5 were received and accepted.

#### 1856. Correspondence

Reference was made to correspondence from Mr Padfield concerning obstructions in Cibi Walk Shopping Centre. This had been passed to County Officers and to Cibi Walk Manager.

A letter complaining about railway problems at the end of the Green Man Festival from a commuter had been referred to Arriva Trains. Members noted that during the Eisteddfod Arriva had provided good support at the station, so why did this not happen for Green Man? It was noted that some additional arrangements had been put in place.

## 1857. Reports

a) Reference was made to meetings in Llanfoist about the new cycle bridge. Several Councillors had been to the exhibition and presentation. There were some misgivings about the value of the new bridge as it does not resolve the traffic issues at the crossing point of the existing Llanfoist Bridge. It was noted that a Public Realm meeting would take place on Monday at 10am in the Council Chamber.

b) Eisteddfod Review. The Mayor sought Councillors views about the success of the Eisteddfod so as to feed them back to Mr Olding. Generally all members who responded felt that it had been a very successful event and many local people had attended, Welsh speakers or not. One or two issues were noted - some town traders had been misled to think that they would benefit from the event. It might have been better if they had been encouraged to display Welsh signs to attract customers in. Sunshine Radio had wrongly described Abergavenny as gridlocked when in reality there had been plenty of room to move around and park. The contractors on site had reported that the Meadows were heavily contaminated with dog mess (an issue to be resolved).

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Edwards and Mrs Edwards on being recognised for attracting the Eisteddfod to Abergavenny.

Cllr Edwards congratulated the Mayor and Mayoress for attending on 5 days of the event.

It was noted that the Junior Maes had been well attended and well behaved as well.

It was agreed to write to Frank Olding with these observations.

c) Town Toilets. The Mayor presented the service agreement with MCC for the toilets together with an inspection sheet that any Councillor could use to record an inspection if they so wished. These were accepted by 11 votes to 2 with a minor change to strike out the word annual in the sentence about the contribution. The Clerk will send the signed copy to Mr Hoggins.

There was discussion on a number of points -

Next year we should try to get Bailey Park toilets opened during the summer holidays.

Later closure of toilets was desirable as between 5pm and 6pm there was still a demand for them.

There should be a count done on Bus Station toilets to establish levels and busy periods of use.

Could the toilets be left open all night? They were during the Eisteddfod with no evidence of vandalism.

The total cost of the toilets exceeds the £58k that this Council has agreed to pay.

Regarding White Horse Lane toilets, there were discussions going on with Cibi Walk managers but no outcome is available at present.

d) Team Abergavenny update. Cllr Horrell told members that work is proceeding concerning public WiFi. A newsletter is being produced. A 5 year plan is in the process of development. No progress had been made with allocating the £30k seed money (evidently County Members had been told that the projects suggested were revenue projects not capital)

The Team is still waiting for a meeting with MCC which was due to take place after the Eisteddfod.

e) CCTV Cllr Mrs Harris had no major issues to report, but invited members to tell her of any issues. It was noted that the CCTV camera in Bailey Park is not monitored on the town network.

When it was installed it had been too expensive to do so. Recent vandalism in the Park meant that this should be looked at again, and the Friends should be invited to make a bid for this.

## 1858. Agenda Items

a) The Mayor referred to the upcoming Cluster Meetings being convened by MCC. Two representatives from each Council were invited. Cllr Thomas had asked to go, so he would attend with The Mayor. Cllr Edwards would also go as Chair of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee.. It is difficult to be clear what will come from the meetings at this stage.

b) Car Parking.

Cllr Edwards was concerned about the enforcement of parking regulations on the streets of the town. Pavement parking is a particular problem in residential streets such as North Street. There is a need for control of pavement parking and additional traffic calming measures to limit speed.. It was agreed to write to Inspector Hicks asking for a separate meeting on these issues.

c) Abergavenny Agri-Urban Project.

Cllr Prosser updated members on this scheme. He had recently visited Rotterdam with nearly 500 delegates from other countries to discuss euro schemes and how to engage with communities etc. His next visit is to Belgium in October where the subject will be Food Hubs. He is arranging another meeting of the Local Group on 27 September.

d) Glass recycling scheme.

The Mayor noted that MCC were introducing glass recycling schemes in Lansdown and Cantref Wards as an experiment to see how it goes before rolling it out across the County.

e) Honours Board

There was a discussion about honouring Becky James following the Olympics. Her achievements at the World Championships are already noted.

The Mayor has arranged for the James Family to switch on the Christmas Lights this year.

Several possible options were discussed, and it was agreed to ask the cycling club for their views and also to ask Morrisons if murals could be placed on their walls to celebrate such achievements.

f) Schools Olympics

Cllr Edwards noted that about 1000 children had taken part in this annual event at the Leisure Centre, which had been a great success. One local school failed to take part.

g) Street furniture

The Mayor noted that after the furore created by the removal of Town Centre seats they were now back in place. Councillors were very concerned that they should not be moved out when events take place. They are an amenity which is highly valued by local people and events should work around them. It was agreed that the Clerk would send an e-mail to Mr Hoggins and relevant Cabinet Members to strongly protest about the removal and to stop it happening again. Also, to ask that Town Council be consulted on changes proposed in the Town before they happen.

#### 1859. Questions for County Councillors

Cllr Simcock asked when the revised Morrisons plans would be available for inspection. It is understood that they may be available on Friday.

It was noted there had been a problem with the County Planning Website recently.

Cllr Edwards told members that the Parliamentary Boundary Review makes very little change to the local constituency, losing Croesyceilog and gaining Langstone and Llanwern.

#### 1860. Members Reports

Cllr Tatam had attended Team Abergavenny Meetings

Cllr Thomas had attended Friends of Bailey Park and a meeting with PCSOs

Cllr Simcock had attended Transition Town and Eisteddfod.

Cllr Prosser had attended sheltered accommodation at Holywell. He also brought to members' attention new signs to be displayed in Bailey Park to try to control dog fouling in the park. There was some discussion on means of getting evidence of abuse.

Cllr Jordan had attended the Eisteddfod.

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had attended the Eisteddfod.

Cllr D Edwards had attended 5 year plan meetings and toilets meeting.

Cllr Mrs Powell had attended the Civic Service, A4B meetings and John Owen y Fenni event at the Museum.

Cllr Horrell had attended the Civic Service and Team Abergavenny

Cllr Hickman had attended the street opening and a Fairtrade Event

Cllr Mrs Harris had attended the street opening as had Cllr R Harris.

The Mayor had attended Young Firefighters, Cycling Festival, David Lewis Plaque. VIG Theatre, Zimele, Monmouth Civic Service, Bryn Yemm Concert, Jiveoholics Concert, Town Plan, High Street, Eisteddfod photography, St Mary's Rowan Williams event, School Games, St Mary's Holywell Group, Golf Club, Jane Foulser's Funeral, White Horse Lane Toilets Meeting, Christmas

Lights Meeting, Jazz Festival, Pandy Ploughing Match, Cricket at Cwrt y Gollen, Mayzmusic Dance Studio, Deri Dash, Elvis Charity Concert.

#### 1860. Diary Dates

The Mayor gave members the following diary dates:

25 September AAODS Concert in the Market Hall

Christmas Lights Switch-on 26 November

Council Dinner 6 December

Projects Meeting at 6pm on 27 October to meet Bill Owen and another lady.

Finance Committee will be held on 6 October at 6pm

1861. Resolved that the Press and Public be asked to leave for the discussion of the following confidential staff matter.

The Mayor explained the previous Clerk had given his notice and all relevant outstanding matters had been dealt with.

**The meeting ended at 8:58pm**