

ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8 April 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.

Present: Cllr M J Hickman JP, (Mayor)

Cllrs C Woodhouse, Mrs M Harris, S Horrell, 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 and Mr P James (Press)

The Mayor welcomed the new Press Reporter, Mr Paul James, and asked members to introduce themselves.

1680. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs M Powell, R Harris, P Woodley.

1681. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1682. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 March 2015 were received and adopted as a correct record.

1683. Matters arising.

The Clerk would remind Mr Chris Jones that he was to produce a draft for consideration (minute 1673a))

Cllr Prosser told members that there was some S106 funding available from the Knoll development, there would be some from Morrisons when it started and from Deri Farm in due course. He was asked to check on the Milsteel site to see if anything was available from that.

The Clerk noted members had asked for the Gateway Credit Union Annual Report and it was agreed to consider it at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

The Clerk had not yet arranged for a valuation of the Civic Regalia.

1684. the following Minutes were received and adopted as a correct record:

- a) Planning Committee held on 11 March 2015.
- b) Projects Committee held on 2 April 2015
- c) Finance Committee held on 2 April 2015.

1685. Matters arising.

- a) It was agreed that the Clerk would review the procedure to be used for dealing with Planning Applications as it was noticed that three applications considered at our last meeting had already been decided by County Council.
- b) There was some discussion of the points raised at Projects Committee concerning the White Paper. It was agreed to pursue the possibility of a youth council although there were not many examples of a consistently operational one in existence. Members also recognised that Training for new members was important to bring them up to speed but it was not considered appropriate to make it compulsory. The comments on the White Paper would be sent to the Welsh Government.
- c) Re the possible visit to Flanders with Chepstow TC, Cllr Prosser was interested in going as County Armed Forces Champion, and would find out by tomorrow if he was to go with the Western Front group. (this was subsequently confirmed) He would then take a wreath from the Town Council to commemorate the 3rd Mons Regiment.
- d) It was agreed to wear robes for the ceremony at the War Memorial on Friday 8 May at 3pm. The Councillors able to attend would assemble at the Parlour by 2:30pm and walk to the Memorial.
- e) Finance Committee decisions
1. A grant of £2000 be made to the September Food Festival and £1000 to the Winter Festival, subject to the September support being for the Hall decorations if renewed or the Night Fair, and the Food Festival Company confirming how they would acknowledge the Council's support.
 2. The grant of £900 for the Toy Fair be confirmed following receipt of the grant application form.
 3. A grant of £1000 be made to VIG Theatre to be funded from the Young People's Events budget.
 4. A grant of £7500 be made to the Tourist Information Centre with the conditions that other communities be approached to contribute together with Tourist and Business groups in the town. The situation would be reviewed in three months and continuing discussions would be needed with the other agencies to secure its future. The Council was supportive of the need to retain a TIC but should not be expected to fund it if other adjoining communities were not also involved. It was agreed to raise it at the next North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee Meeting. (Cllr Mrs S Woodhouse declared an interest in this matter and left the room during the discussion).
 5. A further 25 Town Plaques be ordered subject to the provisos shown above.
 6. A grant of £300 be agreed for planters along the Fairfield Car Park boundary with Park Avenue. Clarification was sought as to which Bryn y Cwm agency was supporting this.
 7. The opportunity for Councillors to bid for projects be kept as at present but a possible alternative small grants scheme be considered at the next Budget Meeting in January 2016.
 8. The returned £50 cheque from Keep Abergavenny Tidy be noted.

1686. Finance Report.

- a) The following payments were authorised:

Merlin Waste Dog Bins	406.80
Ricoh UK Ltd Photocopying	74.62

G M James salary	232.45
HMRC Tax and NI	641.51
Monmouthshire CC Street Sweeping	25,000
Additional Eisteddfod prizes	65.00
I Deal Design Toy Fair grant	67.00
Bill's Trophies Toy Fair Grant	37.98
Monmouthshire CAB grant	2000
Cablenews library papers	63.60
P Johns Expenses	161.55
M Hickman (Civic functions)	34.47
SWALEC (Christmas lights)	326.63
Merlin Waste (Dog bins)	325.44
Rialtas Business Systems (Computer software)	282.00
NR and CA Bailey (Civic functions)	97.87
The Coaster Company	147.00

b) The Month 12 Finance Reports were received and noted. The Town Clerk emphasised that this was not the end of year accounts statement as there were still adjustments to be made for that to be in place. He was seeing the Auditor on Monday and he hoped to finalise things by then.

1687. Correspondence.

1. Request to present to Council. After some debate it was agreed to offer Professor Walkerdine a Projects Committee Date to make her presentation.
2. Synergy Thank you letter Noted
3. Home Start Thank you letter. Noted
4. Home Start Audit of Accounts Noted
5. Clerks and Councils Direct. Received.

1688. Agenda Items

- a) CSAT Issues. Members were asked to let Cllr Wadsworth know of any items as they arise.

1689. Questions to County Councillors.

There were no direct questions, but Cllr Prosser updated members on the work to be done in

Fairfield Car Park to divide it and stop Boy Racers. This would be done in May now that a scheme had been drawn up.

Cllr Edwards noted that two extra street lights were being installed in Seven Corners Car Park.

He also noted that three trees on the land below Cae Pen Y Dre were to be felled as they had been mutilated.

Cllr Jordan raised concerns about the state of the Great George building and asked Cllr Prosser if he could do anything about it. Cllr Prosser will ask the Conservation Officer but he urged all businesses in the town to look after their buildings. It was also noted that the bridge across the Gavenny off Ross Rd had been damaged and was currently fenced off pending repairs.

1690. Members Reports

Cllr Tatam had attended Friends of Bailey Park and Town Team. Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had attended the Mayoral reception. Cllr Edwards had attended a Town Team meeting that day, Cllr Horrell had attended the Mayor's reception and Town Team, Cllr C Woodhouse had attended a Town Team Meeting and the Mayor's reception as well as School Governors. The Mayor had attended a number of functions including the Yarn Bomb at the Castle, Penpergwm extension opening, the Charity Ball, and a number of others.

1691. As this was the Mayor's last Council Meeting as Mayor, Cllr Edwards thanked him for his conduct of meetings and his diligence in office together with the Mayoress. This was echoed by Cllr Prosser and Cllr C Woodhouse, followed by members' applause.

The Mayor thanked Councillors and closed the meeting at 8:15pm