

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr Mrs M Powell (The Mayor)

Clrs C Woodhouse, R Harris, M J Hickman, S Horrell, Miss M Toombs, D Edwards, Mrs S Woodhouse, P Jordan, Ms S Dodd, J Prosser, P Woodley and N Tatam.

In attendance: The Town Clerk, Paul James (Press), and a member of the public.

1718. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs M Harris who was unwell.

1719. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1720. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th June 2015 were received and adopted as a correct record.

1721. Matters arising.

Cllr C Woodhouse referred to the forthcoming twinning visit in September, and circulated a sheet showing the breakdown of costs for the visit, together with the itinerary. He would be talking to the Food Festival office about the cost of tickets to the Food Festival for the German Guests. Councillor Edwards suggested that the hosts should also be offered tickets if they wanted them. Cllrs Mrs Powell, C Woodhouse, Mrs S Woodhouse, P Jordan and S Dodd declared interests as potential hosts or other connections to the visit, and the proposal to offer tickets to the hosts was carried by the 6 remaining councillors eligible to vote.

1722. The following minutes were received and adopted as correct records:

- a) Planning Committee held on 17 June 2015.
- b) Finance Committee held on 17 June 2015.
- c) Finance Committee held on 1 July 2015.

1723. Matters arising:

Finance Committee of 1 July 2015.

1. Cllr Mrs Woodhouse declared an interest and left the room during the first item, a grant to Papillon Arts Group. Cllr Woodley explained the item to members and it was agreed to grant £300 to the group.

With regard to the remaining recommendations, when Cllr Mrs Woodhouse returned it was agreed:

- 2. That sponsorship of dog bins be pursued again, but no additional bins purchased at this time. The Clerk would send members a map and list of existing dog bins so that they could monitor those in their area.
- 3. Month 3 Finance reports were received.
- 4. Subject to comments from the TIC Officer, the revised Town Map be reprinted with a short run to satisfy this year's need.

4. Eisteddfod Committee Representatives be invited to a Projects Committee Meeting.
5. Release of Grant Cheques should be accompanied by a standard letter to require feedback and acknowledgement of the Council's contribution.
6. The position concerning the staging should be endorsed.
7. Payments to the County Council should be quarterly.
8. Projects Committee be rescheduled to 23 July. It was also agreed to hold a Town Clerk's Advisory Committee on the same evening.
9. The revised schedule of grants be acknowledged and continued. The Clerk would circulate it to all members.

1724. Finance Report.

a) The following payments were authorised:

HMRC Tax and NI	633.52
G M James salary	206.38
Food Festival Grant	2000.00
Honeycomb print services	162.00
Cablenews	31.20
Sugarloaf Catering civic Sunday	950.00
P Johns expenses	17.47
S B Bees (Internal Auditor)	1200.00
Monmouthshire CC qtr 1 sweeping	6750.00
One Voice Wales Conference fees	120.00
Abergavenny Eisteddfod grant	1000.00
NR and CA Bailey civic functions	43.27
Merlin Waste dog bins	325.44
Black Mountain Jazz	2000.00
C Woodhouse (travel expenses to conference)	33.30

b) Month 3 Finance reports were received. The Gateway Credit Union payment had been received and the Clerk is now able to add extra codes into the system again. A new code had been introduced for travel expenses.

1725. Correspondence

1. Aneurin Bevan CHC Report. Cllr Prosser welcomed the report and asked that we thank the CHC and say that we would welcome sight of other reports in future.
2. TeamAbergavenny Green Spaces Report. This report was discussed in some detail. The question

was raised whether the Town Council should be taking on some of the lesser tasks, but as the Parks are not Town Council property it was considered premature to do any of this at this stage. It may be that the Town Council may be asked for grant support in the final report prior to the Lottery Bid. Cllr Tatam expressed frustration at the inability of the TeamAbergavenny to attract funds at present as he felt they were hampered at every stage. The Town Clerk said that the discussion illustrated some of the difficulties of dealing with local services at present and he hoped that the Council might have a meeting in the near future to discuss these issues in more depth. It was agreed to support the report in principle as a worthwhile approach to dealing with a lot of issues.

3. One Voice Wales papers were received

4. Clerks and Councils Direct was noted

5. Ombudsman`s Annual Report was received.

1726. Reports – TeamAbergavenny Report

The Town Clerk told members that there are several issues ongoing and he would circulate reports when they become available. The Chair of the TeamAbergavenny was hoping to make a presentation to the Council in the near future and the postponed public launch would be in September.

1727. CSAT Matters. It was agreed that the way of reporting these was well established and that in future this item would not be included on the agenda.

1728. Questions to County Members

Cllr Prosser volunteered the information that the barrier in Fairfield Car Park was still to be installed and that recently there had been further Anti Social Behaviour there. The police are aware of it.

Cllr Dodd told members that the County Roadsweeper was sweeping town roads at about 4am, which is disturbing residents in a hotel in town and damaging their business. County members would take this up.

Cllr Jordan asked why the Costa Coffee Planning Application had been deferred at the County Planning Committee. He was told that the consultation process had been flawed so that it could not be dealt with until that was corrected. He expressed his dissatisfaction with this.

Cllr Toombs said she had been watching a County debate online and could Councillors ask County Officers to switch their microphones on?

Cllr Edwards reported that in response to requests there were now three new lights in Baker Street Car Park. He also noted that the Eisteddfod Proclamation was really good and that changes are afoot at Mardy Park and we should keep an eye on them.

1728. Members Reports.

Cllr C Woodhouse had attended School Governors, the KHS Sports and the Junior School Sports, the Eisteddfod Proclamation, Shire Horse Show, Mayor`s Civic Service. He reminded members that the Borough Band is in Linda Vista Gardens on Sunday afternoon.

Cllr R Harris had attended the Civic Service.

Cllr Hickman had attended the Rotary Handover on behalf of the Mayor.

Cllr Horrell had attended TeamAbergavenny meeting and the Civic Service.

Cllr Edwards had attended the Civic Service

Cllr S Woodhouse had attended the Fly the Flag ceremony at County Hall, Junior Sports, Former Mayor's Funeral, Proclamation, Civic Service, Shire Horse Show and One Voice Wales Conference.. She also noted that Councillors to help with the Band Concerts are needed on the three dates.

Cllr Prosser had attended the Proclamation and Civic Service.

Cllr Woodley noted he had met someone recently who was keen to talk to the Council about disability access issues and the Equalities Act. He would also follow up on the Network Rail issue.

Cllr Tatam had attended the Junior Sports, MCC Gateway, Larger Local Councils Conference (The three Councillors who had attended would raise issues from the conference at the appropriate time)

The Mayor had attended a function for the NAFAS Group in the Parlour, Abergavenny Eisteddfod, Deri Dash, Civic Service, Gwent Music Showcase at St David's Hall, Shire Horse Show, Monmouth Civic Service, Deri View Leavers Concert, Primary School Sports and the Past Mayor's Funeral

1729. Other Business.

a) It was agreed that Councillors who are able to do so will attend the War Memorial For VJ Day Ceremony on 15 August at 2:45pm. Robes will be worn so assembly at the Parlour at 2:15 would be needed.

b) It was agreed that Poll Cards would be needed for the Cantref Election

The Meeting ended at 8:25pm