

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny on Wednesday 8 November 2017 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr D Simcock (Mayor)

Cllrs M Groucutt, R Harris, Mrs M Harris, M Hickman, T Konieczny, G Jones, S Head, N Tatam, Mrs P Simcock, F Morgan, L Van de Vyver, Mrs T Davies and T Thomas.

In attendance The Acting Town Clerk and Mr Gage, Press.

The Town Clerk's Assistant was present at the beginning of the meeting.

2084. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ms S Dodd. The Mayor welcomed Ms M James Town Clerk's assistant, to the meeting. The Council had asked her to come so that they could express their thanks for her excellent service over the past 6 years and to present her with a token of their gratitude for that service. The Mayor presented Ms James with a bouquet of flowers and a gift, which she gracefully received, with thanks. Councillors rose to applaud her and wished her well for the future as she left the meeting.

2085. There were no Declarations of Interest.

2086. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 October 2017 were received and adopted as a correct record.

2087. Matters arising.

The Acting Clerk noted that a response from MCC as to how many dog fouling prosecutions had been made in the last three years in this area was that none had been made in the Abergavenny area. The Police had asked that this be pursued by a Freedom of Information Request. There was a discussion about how to curb dog fouling, particularly in Bailey Park. It was noted that the Abergavenny in Bloom Judge had marked the Town down because of dog mess in the streets. A press release was suggested, but it was decided to refer the matter to Projects Committee for more focused discussion.

2088. The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 October 2017 were received and adopted as a correct record subject to a spelling error on page 2 where it should have been there not their. There were no matters arising.

2089. The Minutes of the Projects Committee held on 26 October 2017 were received and adopted as a correct record. The Acting Clerk noted that he had asked for the map of defibrillators to be placed on the electronic noticeboard by Boots. He had not checked to see if it was there yet.

2090. The Minutes of the Town Clerk Advisory Committee held on 26 October 2017 were received and adopted as a correct record. The Mayor noted that the new Clerk had been on holiday but he hoped to speak to her tomorrow.

2091. The Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 1 November 2017 were received and adopted as a correct record and the following recommendations were agreed:

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1. To grant £500 to Ace Partnership on the conditions set out by the Finance Committee
2. To grant £100 sponsorship to an A4B award on the conditions set out by the Finance Committee.
3. To agree the budget adjustments outlined by the Acting Clerk
4. To receive the preliminary Budget Report.
5. To note the position re planters in St John`s Square.
6. The Acting Clerk to copy members a list of files held in the office.

Cllr R Harris declared an interest in the Ace Partnership and took no part in the discussion.

2092. Finance Report

- a) The following payments were authorised :

Brecon Beacons National Park TIC grant	£7500
Jems Catering Burgess reception	£250
Clerk salary	£1150.12
Assistant Clerk salary	£226.30
HMRC Tax and NI	£444.96
MCC Toilets quarterly charge	£17,400
One Voice Wales recruitment service	£1313.40
CCTV quarterly payment	£3200
Abergavenny Chronicle advert	£240
P Simcock items for Annie and Agri-urban	£59.40
TRBL Poppy Appeal	£46.00
Abergavenny Trading Company (Christmas Dinner Deposit)	£400
Merlin Waste dog bins	£508.50
Forest of Dean Stone Firms Ltd (Legacy Stone)	£1153.20
Wales Audit Office (Annual Audit Fee)	£184.50
Assistant Clerk final salary	£368.50

- b) The month 7 budget reports were received and noted.

2093. Reports.

- a) It was agreed that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations would be scrutinised at the next Projects Committee to ensure that the Council believes they are fit for purpose.
- b) Cllr Groucutt updated members on actions since the last meeting. This Council`s letter had been circulated to the relevant authorities and had been submitted to the MCC Transport Committee which had endorsed the content. He would be proposing a similar motion at County Council tomorrow which he believed would get strong support. He also noted that Arriva Trains would not be competing for the franchise in Wales when it is up for renewal.
- c) Independent Remuneration Panel Report 2017
The Acting Clerk explained that these annual reports should be received and adopted by the Council. The report published earlier in the year had been received but not adopted by this Council. He asked for members to agree to adopt it to comply with procedure. This was agreed.

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- d) CCTV. Cllr Mrs Harris made members aware that the minutes of the most recent meeting were available for their information. This was noted.

2094. Questions to County Councillors.

It was noted that the Capita Report on the next stage of highway improvements in the Town Centre had been received and discussions would be proceeding shortly.

Cllr Mrs Simcock asked how the County were dealing with the most disadvantaged people in the County. Cllr Groucutt responded that the Children and Young People's Committee were focusing on ways to give young people the best start in life. This led on to a discussion about the changes in education provision when King Henry VIII School is reprovided. The discussion included how Welsh Medium Education would be provided at primary and secondary level and the challenges facing the new school including the sixth form retention problems. It was noted that KHS raises extra funds by advising other schools as to how it had successfully turned around some of its challenges, but it still faces financial concerns which could cut back on some provision over the next few years.

2095. Members Reports.

Cllr Thomas had no reports.

Cllr Davies had attended the Give Dog Fouling The Red Card Meeting, Friends of Bailey Park, and she thanked the clerk for painting out the graffiti on the old mural in Bailey Park.

Cllr Van de Vyver had attended Friends of Bailey Park, and the Agri-Urban reception.

Cllr Morgan had attended the Agr-Urban reception and the visit to Latvia (he is doing a report on this), as well as Foundation Governors and the Festival of Light parade.

Cllr Mrs Simcock had attended an Abergavenny Community Centre Board Meeting, the AGM of ADTA, The ACC WiFi event, Festival of Light, St Mary's Church for the installation of the St John's Chancellor, Crosstober and AAODS Juniors, Ostringen Twinning AGM, KHS Remembrance Service and Interviews for the Town Clerk Position.

Cllr Tatam had attended the Interviews, One Voice Wales AGM to which he had been appointed Chair, and Park St WiFi.

Cllr Jones had no reports

Cllr Head had attended the Fireworks display as a member of the public

Cllr Konieczny had attended an Arts Festival meeting, FOALS, School Governor Training

Cllr Hickman had attended the Festival of Light parade and the WiFi launch

Cllrs Mrs M Harris and R Harris had no reports

Cllr Groucutt had attended the Ace Partnership and the MCC Transport Group, KHS Foundation Governors and the Remembrance Service at KHS. The Mayor had attended the events attended by Cllr Mrs Simcock and a TIC Stakeholders meeting, Promise Auction at the Priory Centre, Welsh Guards Dinner and the Fireworks Display.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8:30pm

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ACTION LIST FROM NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

1. Refer Dog Fouling to Projects Committee – done.
2. Ensure Defibrillators are publicised on electronic notice board – done.
3. Refer Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to Projects Committee – done.