

## **ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Town Council held on Wednesday 9 March 2016 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny**

Present: Cllr Mrs M Powell (Mayor)

Cllrs C Woodhouse, R Harris, Mrs M Harris (for part of the meeting), S Horrell, Miss M Toombs, D Edwards, Mrs S Woodhouse, P Jordan, J L Prosser, D Simcock and N Tatam.

In attendance: The Town Clerk and the Press. Ms D Mansfield was also present for the Agri-Urban item.

1799. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ms S Dodd and M Hickman.

1800. Declarations of interest were received from Cllr D Edwards and R P Jordan.

1801. Agri-Urban Project.

Cllr Prosser explained the background to this new initiative. At quite short notice Team Abergavenny had been asked to participate in a European Initiative involving ten other cities and their agricultural surroundings, with a view to developing good practice regarding sustainability, improving employment and other ways of improving the prosperity of their areas. He and Ms Mansfield had attended the last meeting of Phase 1 of the project as Abergavenny had been invited to attend mainly because of its Food Festival. The other participants had applied to join. He had been asked by Team Abergavenny to take part as an elected representative was needed to chair the local group and he has appropriate credentials.

A letter of commitment had been sent by Monmouthshire CC on behalf of the Abergavenny area, and they were providing 30% of the project costs, about 15,000 euros. The rest comes from the EU. After the last meeting of phase 1 in Cesena, Italy, there will be a three months gap before Phase 2 starts. Our task will be to get grass- roots involvement from people in this area, and to share good practice with participants from the other areas. Cllr Prosser has a coordinating role with Ms Mansfield. He felt that these are exciting times for Abergavenny, and he would be making a presentation in more detail at our next Projects Meeting on 23 March, hopefully jointly to the Town Council and Team Abergavenny. Ms Mansfield said she is looking forward to working with the team and the Council on this project.

Cllr Edwards noted that there had been talk of a Catering College – could it be linked to the new secondary school when it is built? Also, links to FUW and NFU would be made. Cllr C Woodhouse suggested that a local slaughterhouse would be an advantage and this was noted for future reference.

1802. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 February 2016 were received and adopted as a correct record.

1803. Matters arising.

Re minute 1797, Cllr R Harris had a copy of the recruitment particulars for the Penarth Town Clerk which he felt were very impressive. He felt we had missed an opportunity in our recruitment process. Cllr Tatam supported his view and said Penarth was seen as a progressive council.

1804. The following minutes were received and adopted as correct records:

a) Planning Committee held on 10 February 2016. Cllr Prosser asked Cllr Jordan if he had established whether there was planning permission for the gates at the new development on Brecon Rd. Cllr Jordan believed it was agreed but he would check.

b) Finance Committee held on 2 March 2016.

The grant to Abergavenny Eisteddfod of £1000 was approved.

The purchase of defibrillator boxes was approved subject to the donation from Rotary.

The new arrangements for receiving grant applications and dates for Finance Committees from 1 April were noted.

The purchase of medallions for primary and nursery children in Abergavenny Schools was agreed.

In addition a few extra would be purchased for others to buy.

The Clerk would e-mail all Bryn y Cwm County members to make them aware of our decision.

c) Projects Committee held on 8 March.

It was noted that Cllr Toombs had given her apologies which were not recorded.

The arrangements for the Eisteddfod were noted and in particular the opportunity for local people to be trained as stewards was noted.. Cllr Prosser hoped that the toilets would be open beyond the Food Festival.

(Cllr Mrs Harris appeared here)

Cllr C Woodhouse noted that David Davies MP had arranged for local schools choirs to be recorded on CD and this would be on sale very soon in aid of the Eisteddfod.

1805. Finance Report

a) The following payments were authorised:

Abergavenny Food Festival - winter contribution.	£1000.00
Homestart Monmouthshire grant	£960.00
ADTA Grant	£1500.00
Viking Direct stationery	£51.32
M R Dodd Buffet for ADTA Reception	£45.00
G M James salary	£206.58
HMRC Tax and NI	£633.32
Abergavenny Chronicle advert	£115.20
HMRC VAT Payment	£1455.17
P Johns expenses (includes job advert in Argus, ink cartridges, mileage, postage and Civic Functions	£233.59
Monmouthshire CAB second instalment for the year	£2000.00
Earth Anchors 2 dog bins	£448.14
SWALEC Christmas lights power	£358.19
Cablenews papers	£37.60
NR & CA Bailey Civic Functions	£82.28
Merlin Waste dog bins	£325.44
Vision Computers computer repair	£150.00
Wales in Bloom entry	£140.00

b) The Finance Reports for Month 11 were received and noted

Cllr Edwards noted that in line with the wish to be more efficient, the Council should be moving towards electronic payments.

1806. Correspondence.

A letter of thanks from Home Start Monmouthshire for the grant was received and noted.

1807. Reports

a) Team Abergavenny update.

Cllr Edwards noted item 7 concerning the Programme Board. There would be two County Council representatives, not one as stated.

b) Report from One Voice Wales

Cllr Tatam`s report was received. The hours of the Clerk were acknowledged as an issue but it would be reviewed when the new Clerk has been in office for a few months.. Cllr Tatam was thanked for attending and reporting back.

1808. Questions for County Councillors

The Town Clerk asked if he could raise one issue, what is happening about the refurbishment of the Town Hall/Library. County members agreed to pursue this independently.

1809. Members reports

Cllr C Woodhouse had attended the Team Abergavenny launch, Public Realm Meetings, the Rotary Charity distribution event, Twin Town AGM (he has asked them to find out if the invitation to Beaupreau is official or not.) and the Fair Trade Breakfast.

Cllr Mrs Harris had attended School Governors Meetings

Cllr Horrell had attended the Mayor`s Concert and the Fair Trade Breakfast.

Cllr Edwards had attended the Team Abergavenny Launch and Public Realm Meetings

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had attended Team Abergavenny launch, ADTA Brochure launch, Public Realm Meetings, Fair Trade Breakfast and the Twin Town AGM.

Cllr Prosser had attended Public Realm Meetings, Fair Trade Breakfast and the visit to Cesena in Italy.

Cllr Simcock had attended Public Realm Meetings, Team Abergavenny launch

Cllr Tatam had attended the Agri-Urban visit to Abergavenny Team Abergavenny Launch, Public Realm Meetings and One Voice Wales Meetings.

The Mayor had attended unveiling of Graffiti at the Skateboard Park, Womens Aid Awards, Quiz night Fish and Chip Supper for Charities, Mayor`s Charity Concert, Welsh Guards AGM, Reception for Agri-Urban visitors, Rotary Charity cheque presentations, ADTA brochure launch, A4B Meeting, Sinbad production, YFC Drama Competition, Rorke`s Drift Concert, A4B , KHS Public Speaking Competition, Concert at St Mary`s, St David`s Day Concert, Concert at the Blake Theatre, Fairtrade Breakfast, Poetry Reading at the Melville Theatre.

1808. Other business.

a). Cllr Edwards asked if we could arrange to recover and relocate the White Notice Board at the Mardy. We had asked several years ago to no avail. It was agreed to pursue it again.

b). If the Mayor is to go to Beaupreau officially it should be funded by the Council.

c) He thanked the Mayor and Mr Powell for their efforts litter-picking over the years and wished them both well

d) Cllr C Woodhouse wished Cllr Edwards well when he has his operation in the next weeks.

The meeting ended at 8:05pm