

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9 September 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny.

Present: Cllr Mrs M Powell (Mayor)

Cllrs C Woodhouse, R Harris, Mrs M Harris, M Hickman, S Horrell, Miss M Toombs, D Edwards, Mrs S Woodhouse, Ms S Dodd, J L Prosser, D Simcock, N Tatam.

In attendance: The Town Clerk, Mr P James (Press) and Insp H Jones (For the first item)

1730. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Jordan.

1731. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

1732. The Mayor welcomed Inspector Jones and invited him to give his report. He produced comparative statistics to show that total crimes year on year had fallen slightly although detection rates had dropped a little. Priory and Grofield Wards, which include the Town Centre were the focus of most of the crime, being assault and shop-lifting crimes. The Police were seeking to take obviously drunk people away into custody to avoid some of the assault cases which seems to be working. There had also been attention given to apprehending people who preyed on vulnerable people in the area and that seems to be having some success as well. Boy racers were being targeted and notices issued to prevent them returning within a timescale, and a more significant exercise against them will be carried out soon.

Cllr C Woodhouse asked about the future of Tudor Street Police Station, and was told that selling it was still on the cards, but no action had taken place yet. There would continue to be a police presence in the town however.

Cllr Dodd referred to bad parking in Frogmore Street near Baker Street, and an excessive number of taxis. Cllr Toombs thanked the Inspector for a really useful and interesting report. Inspector Jones left at this point.

1733. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 July were received and adopted as a correct record, subject to the names of Councillors attending being reinstated at the top. The Town Clerk would circulate a revised copy of these.

1734. Matters arising. Cllr Mrs Woodhouse asked if the staging had been recovered and the Town Clerk confirmed that it had.

1735. The following minutes were received and adopted as a correct record:

a) Planning Committee held on 8 July 2015

b) Town Clerk Advisory Committee held on 23 July 2015. The propositions set out in those minutes

were agreed, that the Town Clerk Post be advertised at the end of January 2016 and the new Clerk be in post for 1 May 2016. and that the Town Clerk produce a detailed diary of important dates to remember for the new Clerk. It was also agreed that there be a period of overlap to allow the new clerk to have access to the outgoing clerk for a period to smooth the transition. Cllr C Woodhouse reminded members that it was likely that the employment of a new clerk would add to existing costs due to pension contributions and national insurance additional payments.

c) Projects Committee held on 23 July 2015. It was noted that a further meeting with representatives of other organisations and the Eisteddfod would be held on 7 October at 6:30pm.

d) Finance Committee held on 5 August 2015. The recommendations of that Committee here agreed:

1. City Illuminations be offered the contract for Christmas Lights.
2. The Town Clock item be referred back at present.
3. Transfer of £20,000 to the Eisteddfod be arranged with publicity.
4. Month4 Finance Reports be received and Town Shields be funded from Projects Fund.

In the context of this report Cllr C Woodhouse noted that the Twinning Account stood at some £5300 and at present it was expected that about £2700 would be spent on the up-coming visit. He would ensure that Councillors received a final account of the spending in due course.

e) Planning Committee held on 5 August 2015. In the context of this, Cllr Edwards noted that planning training for Councillors is widely available for councillors and he urged members who had not attended to do so.

Cllr Prosser told members that he had asked for a planning application for development adjacent to the Gunter Mansion to be considered by the Planning Committee rather than the delegated panel, because of the recent find of the Roman Road in the vicinity. Cllr C Woodhouse said he would be speaking at that meeting in October to make the point that with this new information, the proposed new development would be too large for the site and would over-power the historic site.

f) Special Meeting held on 2 September. The Clerk noted that the financial information which had been committed by Ms Beirne had been circulated to members before the meeting.

Cllr Prosser volunteered to produce a Business Case for this Council to take over the running of the public toilets. This was agreed.

1736. Finance Report

a) the following payments were authorised:

Abergavenny Borough Band Concert Fee.	£400
Cavalier Supplies (Town Crests)	£502.00
HMRC Tax and NI	£638.12
G M James salary	£225.98
MCC CCTV quarterly payment	£3200
Pomegranate Creative (Town Maps)	£365.04

David C Price (Free Beer Concert)	£400
MCC Instal bunting (50%)	£933.00
National Eisteddfod (Twinning)	£55
Monmouthshire CAB	£8000
HMRC Tax and NI	£633.32
G M James salary	£206.58
Cablenews	£52.80
AAODS Concert	£400
Merlin Waste (Dog bins)	£406.80
EmmaWilliams (First Prize window)	£150.00
Lucy Hywel (Second prize window)	£100.00
Fulgoni`s Opticians (Third prize window)	£50.00
VisionICT website and e-mails	£515.30
Mon CC (part of Black Mountain Jazz grant)	£522.80
Black Mountain Jazz grant	£1477.20
RBL Wreath VJ Day	£23
One Voice Wales Conference (Cllr Prosser)	£75.00
Wolfscastle in Bloom (WalesinBloom Awards)	£20.00
Network Audio (Cycling Grant)	£2130.00
Cablenews	£40.00
The Willows Usk Ltd (Aber in Bloom)	£10989.60
Viking stationery	£88.06
Mazars LLP Audit Fee	£780.00
P Johns (expenses)	£131.23
Merlin Waste dog bins	£325.44
Generation Hire and sales (Cycling Festival)	£3431.99
Abergavenny Food Festival (Twinning)	£311.50

b) The Month 4 and 5 Financial reports were received and noted.

c) The Annual Audit had been completed with no adverse reports.

1737. Correspondence.

1. Unit of Measurement -garden allotments. This was noted.
2. Band Concerts 2016. The enquirer be told that we were concentrating on local bands.
3. One Voice Wales Motions. Received
4. CAB Thanks. Noted
5. Black Mountain Jazz thanks Noted
6. Shelter. Noted. The Clerk would try to find out how many cases were in Abergavenny
7. MCC LDP Consultation. Noted
8. Internal Audit Arrangements. It was agreed to accept the Internal Auditor`s terms of £1300 for this year.
9. Playing Fields Regulations. Noted
10. Papillon thanks. Noted
11. Ombudsman letter. Noted
12. Footbridge at Railway Station. Members were disgusted with this response. It was agreed to respond and to copy in the AM and Welsh Minister to say that Accessibility is essential, and Abergavenny is considered a hub town.
13. Grass Roots magazine. Noted
14. Clerks and Councils Direct. Noted
15. An e-mail concerning refugees was considered. It was considered that at present this is a County function, so should be noted.
16. Edwards Butchers e-mail. The Clerk explained that the company were seeking to purchase the frontage of their premises on High Street from the County Council to instal a door as well as the existing two windows. Members noted that this had been set out in the latest planning application . This Council had made no comments on that. After discussion it was agreed that this should be left to the County Council to determine, although it would be a shame if the seats there were to be lost.

1738. Reports.

- a) The notes of the latest TeamAbergavenny Meeting were received and noted. It was noted that there is a clash of dates with our Projects Committee but it was decided to leave that until the calendar for next year is considered at the next Council Meeting. It was noted that there is no business for Projects Committee next week so it will be cancelled.
- b) CCTV Group Minutes were received and noted. The Clerk would chase up whether Cllr Mrs Harris has been included as the new representative on that Committee.
- c) Notes of the North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee were received and noted.

1739. Questions to County Councillors. There were none.

1740. Members reports.

Cllr Tatam had attended One Voice Wales AGM, TeamAbergavenny, ACE Partnership and Papillon Arts.

Cllt Dodd had attended the Borough Band Concert, the BID announcement, Free Beer Concert, ADTA meeting. She noted that the AGM is on 2 November and members are all invited.

She had also attended the Cycling Festival and she reported that the Castle Street ladies toilets were out of order for a couple of days while the door is repaired.

Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had attended Primary School Sports, Borough Band, AAODS Concert, Cycling, VJ Day commemoration, Mayor`s Hog Roast and Papillon Arts.

Cllr Edwards had attended the school sports

Cllr Horrell had attended the Hog Roast and TeamAbergavenny

Cllr Hickman had attended the Hog Roast VJ Day and the Cycling.

Cllr Mrs Harris had attended Governors meetings and VJ Day

Cllr R Harris had attended VJ Day

Cllr C Woodhouse had attended the Veterans Cycling reception, VJ Day, Borough Band, AAODS. He felt that the concerts this year had received good audiences and been well received.

The Mayor had attended a large number of functions including Monmouth Homestart, Cross Ash School Concert, Borough Band, Prize giving at Deri View School, Garden Party at the Castle, Art Exhibition at Holy Trinity Hall, Ty Hafan event at Raglan Terrace, welsh Warrior Concert at St Mary`s Church, Free Beer Concert, Growing Spaces open day at Clytha Park, AAODS Concert, Flower beds in Fairfield, Cycling Events, Start of WI at Llanfapley, Veterans Cycle reception, ACE Community Centre, Hog Roast , Holywell Service at St Mary`s, Re-opened Edinburgh Woollen Mill Shop, Papillon Arts Festival, Abergavenny Theatre Group.

1741. Any Other Business

a) Cllr Simcock asked if the Town Council had expressed a view about de-trunking of the A40. Had Welsh Government asked us for comments. No one was aware of this. Cllr Prosser would ask our Assembly Member to attend a meeting to discuss this. There was discussion about how Llanfoist Bridge could be made safer to allow through traffic to be directed that way.

b) Cllr Hickman had been approached to join Abergavenny Fair Trade, and he queried whether if he did this the Council would want him to represent them. This was agreed.

c) Cllr Simcock noted that he would be attending Transition Town Meeting and did the Council wish him to represent them there. This was also agreed.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm