**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 3RD MAY 2023 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS &**

**IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY**

**Present:** Cllr G Jones (Chair)

Cllr B Nicholson (Vice Chair)

Cllr K Eldridge

Cllr S Burch

Cllr M Barnes

Cllr J George

Cllr M Powell

Cllr D Simcock

Cllr A Wilde

**Absent without apologies**

None

**In attendance**:

S Rosser (Town Clerk)

Kathy Young – Dance Blast

Jo Webb and Aaron Flowers – Abergavenny Pride

No public session

No public in attendance

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| PC25/23 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.**  None received. |
| PC26/23 | **Receive Declarations of Interest**  Cllrs Burch and Nicholson declared interest in the Community Orchard project as one is board member, and one has family connections. Both also declared an interest in the Dance Blast item as one is supporting via MCC and the other is a member. |
| PC27/23 | **To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 1st March 2023.**  Minutes for the meeting were proposed as a true record by Cllr Barnes, and seconded by Cllr Powell. Resolved by all Councillors to accept the minutes as a true record. Signed by Cllr Jones. |
| PC28/23 | **To receive a presentation and funding request from Dance Blast**  Cllr Jones welcomed Kathy from Dance Blast. Kathy explained they are a dance and aerial circus organisation. They work across the community. Very high reputation across Wales. Inclusive dance company. Half the dancers are disabled. New teacher Sophie in 1997 was one of the first young people to get involved. She is now a drama teacher. Trained as a young leader. They propose to do a Leadership Qualification with a real family feel with lots of volunteers who give back. 54 disabled people attend the 9 classes plus the mainstream class attendees volunteer and support these people. Want to support them in getting a qualification in this. There is an area called the IGNITE project aimed at boys to encourage them and many have gone on to professional dancing. Want to grow this area – 14 have enlisted so far since September, aged 8-12yrs. Arts Council funding request has gone in and KHS yrs. 7 and 8 are being encouraged for more boys to take up dance. Achieve a great deal with very little.  Cllr Jones said this was being considered under the £1000 small grant scheme so would Dance Blast be happy for us to ask the Rotary or Round Table to consider supporting the remaining amount required?  Cllr Barnes asked if they are confident of raising the additional funds? What about dance studio hire? Kathy said all these have to include hire as only a small amount comes from MCC as a Community Arts Group. Looking to Rotary and others plus a crowd fundraiser. Very confident and looking to start once funding is in place. Phase 1 before September term starts.  Cllr Simcock asked if classes are weekly? Kathy said 10 volunteers run the scheme, depends on their timetable. 26 sessions are set by them and the leader. Want to fit all 10 together.  Cllr Nicholson said we are very lucky to have Dance Blast and the space. Loads on for all ages and the costs make it very accessible. Kathy said they are interested in working in other wards, she had a background in Community Arts and the CAB. Wants to reach out more.  Cllr Jones said it was very interesting to hear and to have this proposal. He thanked Kathy for her presentation and proposal (Kathy left the meeting at this point).  Proposal to award the£1000 upon confirmation of receipt of additional funds for the remaining £800 by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Powell. Resolved by all Councillors to accept this proposal. |
| PC29/23 | **To receive a funding request from Abergavenny Pride**  Cllr Jones welcomed Jo and Aaron online from Abergavenny Pride. Jo thanked the Council for their £600 last year. Some councillors attended and have a good understanding of the nature and importance of the event for the community. Bridges the gap with wider community for greater understanding and inclusion. Costs have risen, various unexpected costs. Hoping to receive funding form the Town Council again this year. Aaron echoed Jo’s thanks for the funding last year. Expanded the community team – 12 now work on this event. They have done outreach work with KHS to shape the day. Introducing an “out of the closet” area to provide a safe space for gender discussions. Working to focus on LGBTQ arts and crafts, building community outreach. Charity working with GAVO Period Dignity, MHA, Breast Cancer Awareness, and businesses such as The Angel Hotel, Bookish and Shepherd Ice Cream. Hoping to have a parade through town. Stage will have local artists and bands. Talks throughout the day. Evening will have drag artists and events for the whole town to come and support.  Cllr Jones said he attended last year, there was loads there, very impressive, growing at the right rate. Good range of people involved and included.  Cllr Nicholson said its brilliant to hear what’s happening. Have you a sense of who you are reaching – what percentage of who you are reaching are LGBTQ+? Aaron said that all stall holders this year are LGBTQ+. Focussed on this. Charities are minority focussed. Hoping to get Glitter Cymru involved.  Cllr Barnes noted there has been an increase of 82% in hate crimes in Gwent? Any Abergavenny-specific statistics, and where do these figures come from? Jo said Gwent Police produce the figures and Welsh Government and they have an action plan to make Wales one of the most LGBTQ+ friendly countries in Europe. All we do know is that we are fortunate it isn’t huge here, but there are a minority in town that are anti-transgender. Seen posters in toilets. Very antagonistic. Sense that it isn’t a huge problem but open to suggestions on how to lessen the fear of crime. Aaron said their focus is on education – Queer Space from Caldicot are helping with an “out of the closet” set up for this. History Board will help raise awareness and lessen the gap in communication.  Cllr George said he fully supports the application for the funds. Looking forward to supporting the event.  Cllr Jones thanked Jo and Aaron for their presentation and request. (both left the meeting at this point – 7:23pm).  £723 is being requested. Cllr Eldridge said they are going to other partners and are proactively seeking other funding. Cllr Jones said it’s good to see the event growing – its an excellent application. Cllr George commented the application said about changes for charges? Cllr Nicholson said the charges are for the attendance of St Johns Ambulance at the event.  Proposed to accept and award the funding application in full by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Wilde, and resolved by all Councillors to accept the application and award the funds. (Resolution to Award Grant Aid to local events, i.e., Pride community event, event promoting the local area - (Local Government Act 1972, s.145)). |
| PC30/23 | **To discuss arrangements for the King’s Coronation 6th – 8th May 2023.**  Cllr Jones said as it stands, nothing is being held here in town, unlike last year’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Town Clerk reminded Councillors that the Community Orchard are hosting a Spring Blossom Picnic which we are joining in order to participate in the Big Help Out on Monday 8th May 2023. |
| PC31/23 | **To receive a report on the Events planned for Abergavenny in 2023.**  Report was received and noted.  Cllr Jones said we’ve been unable to hold an online meeting to date but they are very useful so hope to have another soon. Good for knowledge of events and sharing dates.  Pavement decorations for the town centre route of parade for Pride can be done in chalk to show the route.  Town Clerk asked to send invite to Councillors to assist with the notice board refurbishment.  Writing Festival feedback was very good and encouraging.  24th June 2023 is very busy in town with lots of events, ensure all organisers are aware of alternative events taking place. Look to engage all event organisers and councillors with a one hour online meeting. |
| PC32/23 | **To receive and note the Town Clerk’s update.**  Report received and noted.  PSPO orders will be discussed at CCTV and ASB walk about meeting on 22nd May. Anyone unable to attend please email concerns to the Clerk for raising. Strong ASB issues at present, particularly children accessing rooftops.  Big Tea 75 – events on or around 5th July 2023 are being encouraged for the NHS Birthday, suggested to organise a pre-meeting get together for social care and NHS workers to come in and have tea and cake. Volunteers requested. |
| PC33/23 | **Finance Report – to receive and approve the budget report for specific budgets allocated to this committee.**  Month 12 from 22/23 was broken down and all headings explained. Proposal to accept the report as a true and accurate record by Cllr Simcock, seconded by Cllr Nicholson. Resolved by all Councillors to accept the report. Cllr Jones signed the report and advised Councillors to start looking at any tweaks we can make in readiness for new budget proposal for 2024/25. |
| PC34/23 | **Report from Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee:**  **• Abergavenny Community Trust – Cllrs Barnes and Jones:** AGM due to be held shortly.  **• Abergavenny Eisteddfod – Cllrs Jones and Simcock:** 24th June is next event.  **• Abergavenny Relief In Need Charity – Cllrs Simcock and Wilde:** Meeting due to be held next week.  **• Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE) – Cllrs Groucutt and Brocklesby:** Agreement signed, Housing associations withdrawn from funding – want to have an open day for current and future stakeholders. Cllr Burch asked if we have seen recent accounts? Town Clerk to request these. Cllr Jones asked if we can invite Norma Watkins to the next meeting. Cllr Simcock asked how much the housing association used to give? Town Clerk reported this was around £3000pa. Cllr George said core funding is a concern. Requested to meet with Cllr Jones and Cllr Nicholson to discuss this further. In his ward, lots of history with this. Cllr Wilde reported she is considering these as one of her chosen charities for her year as Mayor.  **• Beaupreau Twinning Association – Cllrs Jones and Simcock:** No report.  **• Borough Theatre A4B – Cllrs Eldridge and Simcock:** unable to attend last meeting.  **• Mind Monmouthshire – Cllrs Groucutt and Jones:** report circulated and noted.  **• Monmouthshire CAB – Cllrs Barnes and Simcock:** Meeting 15th May 2023.  **• Ostringen Twinning Association – Cllrs Simcock and Nicholson:** no report. |
| PC35/23 | **Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.**  Cllr Burch said MCC were supporting county-wide coronation celebrations. Community and Corporate Plan now agreed and published. |
| PC36/23 | **Items for consideration at the next meeting 5th July 2023.**   * Invite ACE * Tea and Cake for NHS Birthday * Events as recurring agenda item * Online events meeting prior to 24th June 2023 |

**Meeting ended 8:26pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR…………………………………… DATE ……………………………**