**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 7TH JUNE 2023 AT 7.54PM VIA MS TEAMS &**

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

**Present:** Cllr P Bowyer (Chair)

Cllr M Barnes (Vice Chair)

Cllr S Burch

Cllr K Eldridge

Cllr M Groucutt

Cllr C Holland

Cllr G Jones

Cllr T Konieczny

Cllr B Nicholson

Cllr M Powell

Cllr D Simcock

Cllr A Wilde

Cllr G Wilde

**Absent without apologies:**

None

**In attendance**:

S Rosser (Town Clerk)

No public session.

No public in attendance.

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| PR72/23 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.**  Apologies were received from Cllrs Brocklesby, Callard, George and Wright and it was resolved to accept the reason for absence. |
| PR73/23 | **Receive Declarations of Interest**  Declaration of interest received from Cllr G Wilde regarding Citizens Advice item as he is a trustee. |
| PR74/23 | **To receive and approve the minutes from 17th May 2023.**  Proposed as a true record by Cllr Holland, seconded by Cllr Konieczny. All Councillors approved. |
| PR75/23 | **To receive a proposed Social Media Content Plan from**  **The Media.Agency.**  Town Clerk went through the proposal requested to illustrate to Councillors the amount of work which potentially can go into making the new website and the social media presence help to achieve better community engagement.  Cllr Nicholson said it looks great on first looking at it but going from £0 to £18000 per year is a big leap. Wants to see if we can do more ourselves first. Maybe we can develop a role for someone to do this?  Cllr Jones said it looks like good value for money but appreciates Cllr Nicholson’s comments. We always receive quality content form The Media Agency, and we need to show people what we are doing.  Cllr Eldridge said the proposal looks very robust. Key factor – social media requires all Councillors to be involved and to get in front of the camera. Success will only come if everyone is willing to contribute to this.  Cllr Konieczny said we need to be realistic. We are racing ahead on so many projects which we can’t sustain. We can’t expect the Clerk to take on anymore. Yes, we could employ a Community Engagement Officer but in the interim, can we outsource it? At the end of the 12 months, we can then review the arrangement. We can’t keep adding more onto the Council without putting things like this in place. Professional and committed without putting pressure on us all as volunteers. 1yr we can afford, it gets us hitting the ground running. We can then review it. Not sure us doing this ourselves is sensible.  Cllr Burch said it is an interesting proposal. It will raise the profile and inform citizens about the Town Council. Would it take a load off, or would it increase tasks? How are we using this to promote – is it for the Council or the town and the Council? How can we frame this?  Cllr Wilde said there is no budget code for this, so can we afford it? Town Clerk explained that although there is no code, it could be vired from reserves.  Cllr Simcock said I this was successful, we’d be committing to this cost every year. Cllr Nicholson said it sets a high bar – why stretch it now why not try it in house first?  Cllr Barnes said if it is too much for the Clerk, can we allow Cllr Nicholson to have a go on this? Cllr Bowyer said that over the last year we have been learning all the time, about the work we do, how it is planned and financed, and then put out. Observed with money and planning of activities, that we are steamrollering – we are getting bigger and bigger. We are close to the point where we can’t do this properly. Enormous amount of work goes into each meeting. Huge amount of background work. We want to do better. Really thinks that in context we could look at staffing, but we are still trying to recruit a deputy clerk. Proposes that we look at this in context of staff needs and requirements and work out alternatives and real money terms, considered judgement to be within our means.  Cllr Holland proposed we receive the proposed plan, accept it as it is, and move forward. No seconder was received for this.  Cllr Nicholson proposed following Cllr Bowyer’s proposal, seconded by Cllr Barnes. All councillors approved except Cllr Holland who abstained from voting. |
| PR76/23 | **To receive an update on the website redesign from Cllr Nicholson**  **and The Media.Agency.**  Cllr Nicholson said it is progressing. She will send out a template for the bios required to accompany the photos for the website. Should be live by the end of the month. |
| PR78/23 | **To receive and note the Town Clerk’s update.**   1. Cllr Nicholson proposed we accept the quote for the 10 hour support package, seconded by Cllr Simcock, and approved by al Councillors. 2. Cllr Burch asked about the walkabout – how would potential private security interaction be used? Did we want to look at MonLife increasing their outreach work? Cllr Jones said 7Corners are the only ones doing outreach work in the park, this is quite a different proposal. Cllr G Wilde said it would be a safer place for women and girls from the town – we don’t want to look at barring anyone form using the space. Encouraging to see all stakeholders wanting to be involved. Cllr Eldridge said there is a unifying comment and that we represent all people in the town – we don’t want to restrict access and we want it to feel like a safe space to enjoy. We need clear communications on this. Cllr Simcock was concerned about using private security for this space. Assuming we are talking about the ASB that has been reported. Doesn’t like the idea of using this, wrong message. Cllr Konieczny said there is already private firms doing this in Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen. Not enough Police to cover the park in the evenings, when the incidents are happening. Firms have body warn cameras and HiVis to patrol the area. They call the Police if an incident occurs. People will see the park being patrolled. CCTV doesn’t deter the incidents. Friends of Bailey Park are constantly having vandalism and theft and damage. Broken glass across the stands and pitches. Choice to do nothing, or work in partnership with others to make the park safer. Communication is key. If having a patrol diminishes bad behaviour than that’s great. Cllr Burch takes the point. The playmaker event from Yr5 children she attended, she chatted with the children, and they are afraid to use it, they feel very uncomfortable due to the issues there. Maybe a short term issue in summer and this could be effective. Don’t want to supplement this for anywhere else in town. Cllr Jones said that the Police did raise the point that summer is very busy for them. Cllr Nicholson said she gets the situation is not perfect, but can we get a gender mix and DBS checked security staff? Town Clerk acknowledged security would get DBS checked and where possible a gender mix can be requested. 3. Noted. 4. Proposal to not become members of Greener Abergavenny at this stage in order to be free to provide support where necessary. Remove reference to Abergavenny Town Council in draft constitution. Proposed by Cllr Nicholson, seconded by Cllr Groucutt. All approved. 5. Cllr Barnes requested the CAB reporting comes to Policy and Resources as the whole Council needs to be aware of what the CAB are doing. They give feedback on issues which may not fit necessarily under one committee to consider. Proposal to move reporting to Policy and Resources by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Jones, and all councillors in favour. |
| PR79/23 | **To receive and note the new Model Standing Orders from One Voice Wales.**  Model standing orders noted. Cllr Burch said with reference to these, can it be considered to invite County Councillors not on the town council to meetings? Cllr Konieczny said they can be invited but only to observe. |
| PR80/23 | **Finance: to receive Months 1 & 2 report.**  All reports discussed in detail. Proposed to accept reports presented to Council by Cllr Konieczny, seconded by Cllr Jones, and approved by all councillors. |
| PR81/23 | **To receive updates from Councillors on the ATC Action Plan.**  No updates received. |
| PR82/23 | **To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:**  **• Borough Theatre MCC / ATC Collaboration – Cllrs Groucutt and Konieczny:** No report  **• Melville CCA CIC Board – Cllrs Barnes and Eldridge:** no report  **• One Voice Wales: Cllr D Simcock and Cllr T Konieczny:** no report |
| PR83/23 | **To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee.**  Cllr Burch said discussions are ongoing around Castle Meadows.  Cllr Powell said there is a consultation ongoing about school transport. |
| PR84/23 | **To consider items for the next meeting on 12th July 2023.**  Items to be emailed to the Clerk. |

**MEETING CONCULDED AT 8:59pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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