**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD**

**21ST JUNE 2023 AT 7PM VIA MS TEAMS &**

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

**Present:** Cllr T Konieczny (Chair)

Cllr P Bowyer

Cllr M Barnes

Cllr C Holland (Vice Chair)

Cllr G Jones

Cllr L Wright

Cllr G Wilde

**Absent without apologies:** None.

**In attendance**:

S Rosser - Town Clerk

P Hannay and J Logan – Greener Abergavenny

**Public in attendance:** None

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| E65/23 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.**  Apologies were received from Cllrs Eldridge, George and Simcock, and it was resolved to accept their reasons for absence. |
| E66/23 | **Receive Declarations of Interest**  Cllr Barnes declared an interest in E68/23 and E69/23 as he is involved with both organisations. |
| E67/23 | **To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 24th May 2023.**  Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Holland and seconded by Cllr Jones. Resolved to be accepted as a true record by all Councillors present. |
| E68/23 | **To receive a report/presentation/funding application from Greener Abergavenny**  Cllr Konieczny welcomed Patrick and Joe form Greener Abergavenny. They explained they are both part of the Steering Group, made up of local people concerned about the climate crisis and nature crisis, and what can be done about it. They have formed a not for profit group, and their inaugural Annual General Meeting will be held 28th June, to ratify their constitution and put in place key members to drive the group forward. Joe said they have learned a great deal from Action on Climate Emergency Monmouth (ACE Monmouth - <https://www.acemonmouth.org/> ) and Greener Colwell in Herefordshire (<http://greener.colwall.info/> ). The purpose of Greer Abergavenny will be to help and engage people locally. Looking to become a forum that goes on after the event planned for 1st October, to become a place for all green groups in Abergavenny.  Keen to work with the Town Council. Need to look at funding to enable the event to go ahead. Monmouthshire County Council verbally agreed to £1000, looking to the Town Council to match this. Others are contributing like Friends of the Earth. There is a charge for the market hall use which takes a large chunk of the resources. Schools are getting involved – Our Lady and St Michaels and Gilwern primaries both have Growing/Gardening groups. King Henry School and Tim Bird are attending the event to show how the school will be zero carbon and explain the forest school concept. Linking with eco councils. Schools will come together to do a march and performance at the event. Everyone has been asked how they engage attenders at the event.  Patrick said on the whole there is an enormous amount of good work going on but al in silos. This brings everyone together under one umbrella, and out of acting in isolation. Very positive and exciting.  Councillors commented on the amount of effort and collaboration that is being undertaken by the steering group.  In order to meet the grant criteria, the consideration for funding is deferred until the AGM has taken place, the constitution ratified and an account set up. |
| E69/23 | **To receive a grant application from Keep Abergavenny Tidy.**  Grant application received for £103.68 to have Keep Abergavenny Tidy printed onto donated vests for volunteers to wear when out litter picking. Whole community owes a debt of gratitude to them for what they do.  Proposal to award the grant application from Cllr Wilde, seconded by Cllr Jones.  Resolution agreed by all Councillors to Award Grant Aid to a Climate Change initiative/organisation which is a non-political body - (Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006, s.20). |
| E70/23 | **To receive and note an update on the Park Road Bus Stop.**  Scheme layout and planting information circulated to Councillors. Town Clerk has made enquiries about green infrastructure as Town Council were not consulted on this prior to works commencing. Query what revenue costs have been put aside to manage this going forward.  Discussion held over number of complaints from the public online regarding the layout and who agreed to this, the groups who need to be consulted (is stop sight friendly for instance?) Suggestion to invite Cllr Catrin Maby along to an Environment Meeting to find out more on her portfolio. Suggestion proposed formally by Cllr Barnes, second by Cllr Konieczny, resolution by all Councillors to extend the invitation to Cllr Maby.  Proposal for Town Clerk to write to Monmouthshire County Council to comment on lack of consultation and engagement on green infrastructure for the bus stop, and what revenue funding is being put aside to maintain this area going forward. Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Holland, resolved by all Councillors to accept this proposal. |
| E71/23 | **To receive and note an update on Abergavenny In Bloom.**  Report noted and accepted.  Cllr Konieczny said volunteers will be needed to weed the Bus Station beds in order for the green manure to be dug in and seeded before the judging on 5th July. Plans for new seating on this area shared in portfolio. Planter on Nevill Street damaged and trampled. Cibi walk planter overturned and emptied. Disheartening to have this damage when so much effort has gone into this.  Town Clerk to circulate request for assistance and coordinate volunteers. All Councillors to like and share Abergavenny In Bloom social media page on Facebook. |
| E72/23 | **To receive a report on Greenfinch Nurseries costings and breakdown.**  Reports circulated and noted. Draft contract and figures detailed in full. Breakdown makes in clear what needs to be going where. Greenfinch aware of when draft budget consultation starts so any increases can be made known to the Town Council at this stage. Query on labour charge to be at rate of inflation.  Proposal to accept the draft contract and recommendations form the report by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Bowyer. Resolution by all Councillors to accept the recommendations. |
| E73/23 | **To receive and note the Town Clerk’s update.**  Report received and noted. Cllrs Barnes and Wilde have extended access to complete their training with Planning Aid Wales until end of June. Licence for training has expired for council. Proposal to take recommendation to Policy and Resources to consider committing to further training and funds for this for another year by Cllr G Wilde, seconded by Cllr Barnes. Resolution by all Councillors to accept this proposal. |
| E74/23 | **To receive and note the Service Delivery update.**  Report received and noted. |
| E75/23 | **To receive and approve a Finance update on the Environment Budget headings.**  Report received and noted. Headings gone through – query from Cllr Wilde on CCTV charges and how frequently they are made – Town Clerk confirmed these are billed to us quarterly.  Proposal to accept the finance report as a true and accurate record by Cllr Bowyer, seconded by Cllr Jones. Resolution by all Councillors to accept and approve the Finance report. |
| E76/23 | **To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:**  **DM/2023/00744 Proposed single storey rear extension to create kitchen/living area with outbuilding for storage. 70 Park Crescent, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5TL.** [**https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RV7QS3KYHT700**](https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RV7QS3KYHT700)  No objections- nice development. No material considerations. Recommend approval. |
| E77/23 | **To review and update on relevant items on the Action Plan.**  Cllr Konieczny informed Councillors there are 17 interventions relevant to this committee.  4. Cooperation agreement under development with e Orchard.  5. Citizen science programme undertaken.  7. Bus Station – Griffiths have produced drawings for improvements. Mill Wheel removed and new bed created.  9. Support Keep Abergavenny Tidy grant to continue activities.  12. New planters in place and hanging baskets nearly complete.  23. Our Lady and St Michaels School undertaken tree planting with grant monies.  List all interventions relevant to this committee on agenda going forward. |
| E78/23 | **Report from Town Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee:**  **• Abergavenny and District Tourist Association: Cllrs Konieczny & Simcock**  **• CCTV user group: Cllrs George & Jones:** Report circulated from Cllr George.  **• Friends of Linda Vista Gardens: Cllrs Wright & Simcock**  **• Friends of Bailey Park: Cllrs Eldridge & Bowyer:** Discussions underway for a possible summer concert on the band stand 20th August 2023.  **• Friends of Castle Meadows: Cllrs Simcock & Wright:** Cllr Konieczny informed Councillors the FoCM group along with the cubs and scouts are filming a new project to form part of the presentation for the Britian in Bloom submission.  **• Monmouthshire CC Planning Committee: Cllrs Konieczny & George**  **• Y Fenni Business Community: Cllrs Eldridge & Nicholson** |
| E79/23 | **Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.**  Cllr Wright informed Councillors there was nothing relevant to this committee to report. |
| E80/23 | **Items for consideration at the next meeting Wednesday 26th July 2023.**   * Invite Cllr Catrin Maby to next meeting. |

**Meeting ended at 8:44pm.**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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