**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 12TH JULY 2023 AT 7.00PM VIA MS TEAMS &**

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

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

Cllr M Barnes (Vice Chair)

Cllr MA Brocklesby

Cllr S Burch

Cllr K Eldridge

Cllr J George

Cllr C Holland

Cllr T Konieczny

Cllr B Nicholson

Cllr M Powell

Cllr D Simcock

Cllr A Wilde

Cllr G Wilde

Cllr L Wright

**Absent without apologies:** None

**In attendance**: S Rosser (Town Clerk)

No public session.

No public in attendance.

Meeting chaired by Cllr Barnes at Cllr Bowyer’s request as he was joining the meeting via Teams.

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| PR85/23 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.**  Apologies were received from Cllrs Callard, Groucutt and Jones, and it was resolved to accept the reason for absence. |
| PR86/23 | **Receive Declarations of Interest**  None received. |
| PR87/23 | **To receive and approve the minutes from 7th June 2023.**  A proposal was made to accept the minutes as an accurate record by Cllr Holland and seconded by Cllr A Wilde. All Councillors resolved to approve this proposal. |
| PR88/23 | **To receive a report on the website relaunch.**  The test version of the website was shown to Councillors by the Town Clerk. Overall feedback was positive. Videos are now hosted on a new YouTube channel which has been created for Town Council content to be hosted on. Links to sites such as Visit Wales to be investigated. Request to create a postcode search function so residents will know which ward they live in and who their Councillors are will be investigated. Tests by outside organisations like Sight Cymru and Autism Wales will now be sought to ensure accessibility needs have been addressed. |
| PR89/23 | **To receive a report on the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference from Cllrs Wilde and Bowyer.**  Cllr Bowyer said the conference was well attended. They met a number of officials from other Councils, namely those from Blaenavon and Penarth. It might be interesting to meet them sometime in the near future to discuss how they organise staffing. It is a problem for many authorities. We might pick up some interesting ideas. Place Making was a big topic and many feel the same that it is a top down approach rather than bottom up.  Cllr A Wilde took part in a discussion which looked at effective community engagement, making things visible, open and transparent – make sure we are in listening mode. A discussion on training lead to considering training as a group rather than putting this on to individuals, and how this may bring more success in take up. |
| PR90/23 | **To receive a report from the Chairs Meeting.**  Report noted. A discussion around formally minuting these meetings and making them more open to all Councillors to attend lead to consideration of whether having just the Chairs and the Mayor would make it look like centralisation of decision making. Councillors were reminded this proposal is to enable the Town Clerk and Chairs and Mayor to do the leg work and bring back recommendations and reports in a fair and clear format, for consideration to gather different viewpoints. It will not be a decision-making forum, simply a working group to get things done. Cllr George proposed that Councillors accept the proposals in the report, and this was seconded by Cllr A Wilde. All Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| PR91/23 | **To receive a report and proposals for the Place Making Steering Group.**  The report was noted by Councillors. Views around the amount being requested were raised, and concerns over the process. Concerns that Councillors have not had training on place making plans, and whether it is possible to delay the net steps until this can be achieved. It is understood the money will lead to the unlocking of larger sums, and although Abergavenny isn’t in dire straits, we want to get the process right. Need a combination of bottom up and strategic. Need to develop plans for the future with the right process and product. Unsure if one consultant for the three would be beneficial, is the timeframe too tight, but importantly we need to feed this back as it signals this needs further discussion at higher levels.  Proposal to instruct Cllr Bowyer to seek further discussions to establish the timeline, clarify issues raised with Cllr Paul Griffiths as soon as possible. Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr G Wilde. Resolved to be accepted by all Councillor bar Cllr Brocklesby who abstained. |
| PR92/23 | **To receive and note the Town Clerk’s update.**  Report was noted by Councillors.   1. Training: Proposal by Cllr Nicholson to renew the Planning Aid Wales ‘Introduction to Planning’ for one year at a cost of £150. Seconded by Cllr Holland. All Councillors resolved to accept this proposal.   Proposal to seek dates in October from Planning Aid Wales to deliver group training on Place Plans from Cllr Konieczny, seconded by Cllr Bowyer. All Councillors resolved to accept this proposal.   1. Staffing: a discussion around the time constraints of managing the new website and social media platform enabling the Council to effectively communicate with the wider public looked at the appetite to take this in house, create a Community Engagement Officer post, how much and how long should be spent on this work. Proposal to request quotes for less hours over three month trial to enable investigation of other providers to support outsourcing locally, or creation of a new post in house including all costs. Monitor and evidence traffic to new website and social media platforms over the period to analyse demographics of users/visitors. Proposal to take these in a report to People and Communities Committee for consideration and scrutiny on 19th July 2023 by Cllr Nicholson, seconded by Cllr G Wilde. All Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| PR93/23 | **Finance:**   1. **to receive Month 3 reconciliation report:**   Receipts for the month £944.63  Payments for the month £ 12,262.50   1. **Month 3 cashbook report:**   No queries from Councillors were received.   1. **Month 3 bank statements:**   No queries from Councillors were received.   1. **Quarter 1 VAT return:**   April – June 2023 vat claim: £20,218.55  **(e) to receive ATC’s Audit Solutions Ltd response:**  The report prepared by the Chairs and Mayor was circulated and noted.  Resolved: To accept Month 4 reports, approve the submission of the Q1 vat return, and accept the Audit Solutions Ltd Report response. |
| PR94/23 | **To receive updates from Councillors on the ATC Action Plan.**  Cllr Barnes asked all Councillors to please look at actions that are still red and to report back on inaction as well as action. Cllr Konieczny has listed the 17 actions relating to Environment Committee and these will appear on the agenda, the same for Cllr Jones and People and Communities Committee. Councillors were asked to look at actions they agreed to lead on and to report back at the next appropriate Committee. |
| P95/23 | **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 Centre for the Arts CIC Board – Cllrs Barnes and Eldridge:** Cllr Barnes will be attending a meeting this month.  **• One Voice Wales: Cllr D Simcock and Cllr T Konieczny:** Monmouthshire/Newport Area Committee meeting 6th July: presentation by Matt Gatehouse and Ben Davies from MCC, focus on communications. AONB are rebranding to National Landscapes. AGM was held, Cllr Simcock stepped down as Vice Chair.  **• Abergavenny Citizens Advice Bureau – Cllr M Barnes and Cllr D Simcock:** A written report from Cllr Barnes has been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Barnes proposed that Mal Edgson who is currently Director of MCC CAB, or his assistant Darren Williams, be invited to the next Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to present their next report. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Nicholson. All Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| PR96/23 | **To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee.**  Cllr Brocklesby informed Councillors that Peoples Scrutiny Committee are reviewing a report on the My Day My Life provision – both place based activities and respite provisions.  Cllr Powell informed Council that the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLPD) were looking at the mapping, and phosphate management.  Cllr Burch said there is lots on for the school holidays with low or no cost provision of activities. School meals voucher scheme funding for the summer holidays has been withdrawn so will impact some families over the summer. She expressed her thanks to all for their support for the stakeholder meeting being held on Monday 17th July and drop in session on Tuesday 18th July for the Active Travel proposals.  Cllr Brocklesby also spoke about two new policies – a new procurement strategy to procure locally, fairly and with decarbonisation in mind, to include Small Medium Enterprise (SME), small businesses, cooperatives, and wider social enterprises. Previously only 18% procured locally. Also a new Asset Strategy is being drawn up across all buildings, farms and solar farms, to be assessed against a clear framework. |
| PR97/23 | **To consider items for the next meeting on 13th September 2023.**  Cllr Barnes requested to relook at the Greener Abergavenny membership, but this cannot be considered for a 6 month period due to it only being discussed last month. |
| PR98/23 | **To consider the following planning applications:**  **•** DM/2023/00856 Change flat roof to pitched roof, alter windows and internal reconfiguration. 84 Ross Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5LT. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RWHQ9DKYI3Z00> - Resolved to recommend approval.  • DM/2023/00857 Formation of three proposed dwellings with associated parking and landscaping, to include the retention of the historic eastern stone wall of the existing garage (to accompany application ref: DM/2022/01730) R M Jones Farm Centre, Brecon Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 7RB. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RWHT29KYI4300> - Resolved to recommend refusal once again, as none of the concerns raised previously have been addressed, all have been ignored.  • DM/2023/00820 Modification of condition 1 for planning decision DM/2018/01309 - Proposed masonry link building between The Farmers Alms and The Former Bethany Chapel to provide new kitchen facility.  (Renew Permission for a further 5 years to expire 12th October 2028). The Farmers Arms, 34 Lion Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5NT. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RW500NKYI0S00> - Resolved to recommend approval.  • DM/2023/00823 Modification of condition 2 for planning decision DM/2018/01310, (renew Permission for a further 5 years to expire 9th October 2028). The Farmers Arms, 34 Lion Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5NT. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RW52UHKYI0Z00> - Resolved to recommend approval.  • DM/2023/00813 Variation of condition no.2 of planning consent DM/2019/00287. 9 Avenue Road, Abergavenny, NP7 7DA. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RVXLCFKYHZE00> - Resolved to recommend approval.  • DM/2023/00851 To erect a swimming pool enclosure over an existing swimming pool, to the rear of the garden in The Deri, Chain Rd. The design of the enclosure is simple so as not to detract from the house. The existing pool is in a reasonably large garden, which is well screened with high boundary walls, mature trees and planting. To also erect a roofed pergola with open sides to allow for outdoor cooking and eating. The Deri, Chain Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 7BS. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RWC68SKYI3200> - Resolved to recommend approval. |

**MEETING CONCULDED AT 8:57PM**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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