**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD**

**26TH JULY 2023 AT 7PM VIA MS TEAMS &**

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

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

Cllr M Barnes

Cllr J George

Cllr C Holland (Vice Chair)

Cllr G Jones

Cllr D Simcock

Cllr G Wilde

**Absent without apologies:** Cllr P Bowyer

**In attendance**:

S Rosser - Town Clerk

**Public in attendance:** None

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| E81/23 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.**  Apologies were received from Cllrs Eldridge and Wright, and it was resolved to accept their reasons for absence. |
| E82/23 | **Receive Declarations of Interest**  Cllr G Jones declared a personal interest in planning application DM/2023/00947 as it is his neighbour. |
| E83/23 | **To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 21st June 2023**  Cllr Holland proposed the minutes from 21st June 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Jones. All Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| E84/23 | **To respond to the MonLife Community Nature Spaces consultation.**  Cllr Konieczny explained that he and the Town Clerk had met with the team from Monmouthshire County Council and MonLife to look at green and blue corridors, and to find areas of deprivation that would benefit from improvements. Individual responses can be made online but would like us to respond as a group.    NB: Bishops Close should read Bishops Crescent on plans.  Cllr George said the Majors Barn area has no houses around it so may be liable to vandalism by kids through anti-social behaviour. Concerns raised around the area at ACE in North Abergavenny, as this already attracts rats as it is overgrown and not properly tended. Likes the idea of orchards and community growing for generations to enjoy in years to come.  How do we engage hard to reach communities. Would a newsletter through doors be possible?  In response to the survey:  3. additional consideration for area at Maple Close as fly tipping has increased here – proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Simcock, all in favour.  6. Supportive of all areas suggested – rain garden does seem a bit ambitious.  7. With support – more engagement needed directly in areas that may be affected by these proposals, to get buy-in from community.  9. Very concerned about the Climate and Nature Crisis and have developed local policy around this. Concerned over flooding.  11. Recommend all proposed sites as they will benefit from the environmental improvements, and increased community amenity.  All Councillors encouraged to respond individually to the consultation currently running. |
| E85/23 | **To receive and note an update on Abergavenny In Bloom.**  Report received and noted.  Water Sensor live dashboard displayed for Councillors to see. Hope to look at air quality sensors as a second phase to this project.  5 reps to go to London for awards ceremony for Britain in Bloom. Cllr Simcock said if we are asking volunteers to go on the town’s behalf then travel costs should be covered. Cllr Konieczny said its not automatic that the Town Council foots the bill, though some volunteers come from groups with reasonable reserves and funding.  Town Clerk will look to assist with organising and report back. |
| E86/23 | **To receive and note the Town Clerk’s update**  KAT report received and noted. Cllr Konieczny expressed thanks on behalf of Abergavenny Twon Council for all the hard work these volunteers do in tackling the town’s litter issues.  NRW funds – Cllr Konieczny suggested we could look at the reen project and speak to Friends of Castle Meadows, Monmouthshire County Council, and MonLife to look at putting together a proposal for funds. Monmouthshire County Council are the major stakeholder and Friends of Castle Meadows carry out a vast amount of important work with a good volunteer base. Cllr Jones commented that its an excellent plan, do we take ownership or ask the groups to do so? Suggested we facilitate a meeting to see if this would be possible to look at feasibility study to improve the biodiversity of the meadows – engage the Ecology Officer at Monmouthshire County Council on enhancement benefits of improving the reens.  Cllr Simcock proposed investigating this proposal, seconded by Cllr G Wilde, and approved by all Councillors. |
| E87/23 | **To receive and note the Service Delivery update.**  Report received and noted.  2. Town Clerk actioned the replacement of a damaged dog bin for £100 under delegated powers and the installation was carried out by the Town Team.  3. Waiting for the Service Level Agreement for Bailey Park Toilets from Monmouthshire County Council but confirmation these will be one as in previous summers every day until beginning of September.  Sanitary Bins contract renewed for another year. Look at bins for all toilets in future to see if they are used of even if they are needed? Consider provision in male toilets for safe disposal of pads as well as in female toilets. |
| E88/23 | **Finance: (a) Receive an update on the Environment Budget headings.**  Proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Simcock, seconded by Cllr Holland, and resolved to be accepted by all Councillor present.  **(b) Consider allocation of £12500 for Place Making consultant recruitment.**  Cllr Jones proposed to accept earmarking funds from general reserves for place making consultant, seconded by Cllr Barnes, and resolved to be approved and accepted by all Councillors present. |
| E89/23 | **To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:**  DM/2023/00923 The removal of one external ATM to be replaced with a new  ATM. The aperture to be adjusted to accommodate the new ATM. Barclays Bank Plc, 57 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5AT. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RX2C0YKYIA600>  DM/2023/00924 Listed Building Consent Heritage - The removal of one external ATM to be replaced with a new ATM. The aperture to be adjusted to accommodate the new ATM. Barclays Bank Plc, 57 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5AT. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RX2C16KYIA700>  DM/2023/00896 Second storey extension over existing and internal alterations. 83 North Street, Abergavenny, NP7 7EB. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RWWS0IKYI8B00>  DM/2023/00947 Removal of existing garage and shed. New single storey garage with workspace. 75 Brecon Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 7RA. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RXD7M3KYICE00>  DM/2023/00973 Listed Building Consent Heritage: first floor was previously made up of 2 bedrooms each with ensuite. Permission had previously been granted and  expired to separate the back facing bedroom and ensuite to create a bedroom and family bathroom. On the same floor immediately at the top of the stairs was a plaster board partition wall which had been previously used for another ugly peach melba shower suite connected to the front facing bedroom. The configuration of this first floor is not original, there were never 2 ensuites (or even 1) in the original build. They were ugly, blocked the light, took away what would have been a more in-keeping landing area and finished with the cheapest skirting board available and farmhouse doors (also not in keeping) Walls were also exposed stone. The first floor is now made up of 2 bedrooms and 1 family bathroom in the existing footprint of the back facing ensuite. The ugly ensuite to the front has been completely removed to accommodate a roomy landing area. York House, 2 Merthyr Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5BT. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RXMRDAKY02900>  DM/2023/00969 Single storey rear extension. 61 Park Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5YD. <https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RXL08TKYIEF00>  No material considerations on any of these applications, recommend approval of all applications. Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Holland, all resolved to accept this proposal. |
| E90/23 | **To review and update on relevant items on the Strategy and Action Plan (priorities 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,14,15,21,23,26,31).**  SAP1 Meeting with MCC, BBNP to discuss TIC funding and priorities.  SAP2 Placemaking engagement has started.  SAP3 Business sector engagement with provision of hanging baskets.  SAP4 Creation of the Mill Wheel Herb bed at the Community Orchard. Community Orchard Cooperation agreement in place.  SAP5 Engagement for funding throughout Abergavenny for Places for Nature funding.  SAP7 Bus Station seeded with green manure in preparation for planting.  SAP9 Funding support for KAT projects, support for Greener Abergavenny environmental fair 1.10.23  SAP10 Park Road Bus Stop GI planting, Civic Society pollinator friendly planting  SAP12 Business sector engagement with provision of hanging baskets  SAP15 Grant aid to KAT, regular provision of data on litter collections.  SAP23 OLSM Tree planting, Seed to Fork project and peace garden. Cantref engaged in tree planting in other areas around town.  SAP26 Facilitated stakeholder meeting and drop in session for the public  SAP31 Raised beds at Station being adopted by Abergavenny Women’s Institute - bringing on board to Abergavenny in Bloom initiative.  Cllr Konieczny asked all Councillors to look at and examine the areas you are leading and report back. There will be cost implications for some, so this can be discussed when report are received. |
| E91/23 | **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**  **• Friends of Linda Vista Gardens: Cllrs Wright & Simcock**  **• Friends of Bailey Park: Cllrs Eldridge & Bowyer**  **• Friends of Castle Meadows: Cllrs Simcock & Wright**  **• Monmouthshire CC Planning Committee: Cllrs Konieczny & George**  **• Y Fenni Business Community: Cllrs Eldridge & Nicholson**  No reports received. |
| E92/23 | **Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.**  No reports received. |
| E93/23 | **Items for consideration at the next meeting Wednesday 20th September 2023 (moved from original date of 27th Sept due to no clerk being available).**   * Cllr Catrin Maby attending November committee due to lack of availability before then. * Update on NRW funding submission. |

**Meeting ended at 8:40pm.**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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