**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY**

**Present:** Cllr A Wilde (Chair)

Cllr P Bowyer

Cllr M Barnes

Cllr S Burch

Cllr K Eldridge

Cllr J George

Cllr C Holland

Cllr G Jones

Cllr T Konieczny

Cllr B Nicholson

Cllr M Powell

Cllr D Simcock

Cllr G Wilde

Cllr L Wright

**Absent without apologies:** None.

**Officer in attendance**: S Rosser - Town Clerk

Cllr P Griffiths – Monmouthshire County Council

D Fordham – Monmouthshire County Council

**Public in attendance:** D Cole, A Michie, C Bransom

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| FC28/23 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.**  Apologies were received from Cllrs Brocklesby, Groucutt, and Callard, and it was resolved by all Councillors present to accept their reasons for absence. |
| FC29/23 | **Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.**  No declarations of interest were received. |
| FC30/23 | **To receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 7th June 2023.**  Cllr Konieczny proposed the minutes from 7th June 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Holland. All councillors resolved to accept the proposal. |
| FC31/23 | **To receive a presentation and Place Making update from Cllr Paul Griffiths, Dan Fordham and Claire Sullivan from Monmouthshire County Council.**  Cllr A Wilde welcomed Cllr Griffiths and Dan Fordham to the meeting. Cllr Griffiths recapped they had attended previously to speak about Place Making, and that partnership working is critical. He has seen the presentation produced by Cllr Konieczny which Town Councillors received recently. Place making has no defined definition. Focus is on the one produced by Welsh Government, and it will be key to have this in place for each town to access funding streams in future. Recognised the significance of townships of Wales. What makes life meaningful is the relationships people have with their towns. Welsh Government recognises the mistakes it has made in the past. Plan will enable towns to apply for the funding that may become available. Recognises towns aren’t just defined by retail offer, looking also at social spaces. Abergavenny has a 7% vacancy rate, the hinterland and relatability is key. Plan is a town centre plan. Lacks definition, needs clarification – it is not a land use plan. This would be a place plan, which gives material considerations in the Unitary Authority for planning applications. Place making will inform investments.  Dan explained that place making elsewhere has three key areas. Analise challenges and opportunities of a place, and its strengths and weaknesses. Shared vision and understanding – what success looks like and what are we aiming for. How do we collectively bring this about – plan, schedule, prioritise. Shared and owned by all stakeholders. 2 reasons for this. It is the right thing to do - in order to unlock funding, we need these plans. The process – our expectation was to appoint consultants by now, with Monmouthshire County Council and Town Councils putting in funding, with the rest coming form Welsh Government. Ther has been a delay in the funding form Welsh Government. £360k including match funding form town councils. £62500 to be secured from Welsh Government to deliver this. Capital funding only. Could be used for strategy and action plan. Needs to be aligned with place making criteria. Has to be identified as a priority as part of the place making plan. There will be existing projects and priorities as well as new ones. Smart Town could be a yes in principle. Consultants will be producing three individual plans, they will support steering groups in this. Appointment held up due to funding scrutiny at Welsh Government. Town Councils will be collectively involved in the appointment. In developing the plan, final piece is an action plan. Needs to be clearly prioritised. Broadly defined. Caveat is the funds are capital funding for place making specifically, so needs to fit into category. Stakeholders that make up the steering group: county and town councillors, invited representatives from organisations as decided upon by the group themselves. Shared responsibility to highlight who to include. Consultant will engage with wider stakeholders through public engagement – reach beyond the usual engaged people. Monmouthshire County Council will have responsibility for finance, steering group will be responsible for making and promoting the plan. Project delivery will be governed by constituted group as per the template which will be provided to the stakeholder group. Monmouthshire County Council will be providing meeting support. Chepstow is working on improvements to town centre buildings, activating empty buildings and improving community resource. Traffic management and air quality could be included in principle. Evidence base and needs will be useful. Encourage adaptations for mobility and sight impediments as public realm works.  Cllr Griffiths concluded that potentially you can get access to £300k to allocate for projects in town. Going forward, make bids for projects. To start it off, procurement of consultant requires costs being covered by Welsh Government, Monmouthshire County Council, and Town Councils.  Cllr A Wilde thanked both for their informative presentation. |
| FC32/23 | **To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to Full Council:**  **• Armed Forces Champion: Cllr M Powell & Cllr T Konieczny:** Cllr Powell will be attending the official opening of the Veterans Hub at St Johns Ambulance Hall with the Mayor and Consort on 2nd October 2023.  **• Governor of Cantref School: Cllr B Callard**  **• Governor of Deri View Primary School: Cllr G Jones**  **• Governor of King Henry VIII School: Cllr B Nicholson/Cllr M Groucutt**  **• Governor of Our Lady & St Michael School: Cllr T Konieczny:** School came 2nd overall in Wales in Bloom Schools category.  **• Governor of Ysgol Y Fenni: Cllr G Jones**  **• Temporary Board of Governors King Henry VIII School: Cllr Eldridge:** Last meting has been held and the new board is in place. Remove from list for reports going forward.  **• King Henry VIII Foundation: Cllr B Nicholson and Cllr B Callard**  **• North Monmouthshire Area Committee: Mayor and Town Clerk**  **• North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee: Mayor and Town Clerk** |
| FC33/23 | **To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Full Council.**  No reports received. |
| FC34/23 | **To consider items for the agenda of the next Full Council Meeting to be held on 8th November 2023.**  None received at this time. |

**Meeting ended 7:55pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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