**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19TH APRIL 2023 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY**

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

Cllr P Bowyer

Cllr M Barnes

Cllr S Burch

Cllr B Callard

Cllr K Eldridge

Cllr J George

Cllr M Groucutt

Cllr C Holland

Cllr G Jones

Cllr B Nicholson

Cllr M Powell

Cllr D Simcock

Cllr L Wright

**Absent without apologies.**

None.

**In attendance**:

S Rosser - Town Clerk

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| FC11/23 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.**  Cllrs Brocklesby and Wilde sent apologies, and it was resolved to accept their reasons for absence. |
| FC12/23 | **Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.**  Declarations received from Cllr Burch relating to MonLife discussions due to area of Cabinet responsibility at MCC, and Cllr Konieczny on good Citizen nomination discussion. |
| FC13/23 | **To approve the minutes from 15th February 2023.**  Mins from last meeting proposed as a true record by Cllr Holland, and seconded by Cllr Jones. All Councillors voted to resolve to accept these as a true and accurate record. |
| FC14/23 | **To consider a nomination for the Good Citizens Award.**  GC nomination. Nomination paper circulated to all Cllrs for considerations. No queries or questions received, proposed to award the nominated parties with a Good Citizen Award at the Community Dinner on 21st April 2023 by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Simcock. All Cllrs able to take part in the vote agreed unanimously, and it was resolved to make the award on the 21st April 2023. |
| FC15/23 | **To receive and note the Spring Update from MCC on King Henry VIII 3-19 School.**  Cllr Konieczny and regular updates from the MCC team but asked how does the community find out about these? Cllr Groucutt responded saying the newsletter is distributed locally. Cllr Callard was really pleased that they were using the construction as work experience opportunities for students. Hopes to see this continue. Councillor Groucutt said this staff of Morgan Sindell have an architectural student who's doing their dissertation on the impact of the build on the community. Cllr Holland asked if the sports pitch reinstatement would be the last thing to come? Councillor Groucutt said these will revert once the build is complete. Councillor George asked if local steel was being used in the construction? Councillor Groucutt confirmed that this was coming from Usk. Councillor George asked about the new uniform for both schools integrating in September. The cost will be prohibitive, can current students use their current uniform? Councillor Groucutt said there is a big push to have new uniform for students in September. Councillor George responded saying lots won't have the money for this, and as this is new there will be no swaps available. Councillor Groucutt said the new head teacher is saying about equality of opportunity and uniform is a big part of this. Councillor Powell asked if they could phase in the uniforms especially if there are students in their last year of school. Councillor Nicholson said that she can raise this at the KHS foundation meeting. She also commented that at night there are no lights on the site and it is very unsafe. The leisure centre say it is a contractor issue. Councillor Groucutt said that lights had been removed due to vandalism as live wires had been left exposed. Councillor Nicholson asked what provision was being put in place for people walking on their own after dark. Cllr Groucutt said cameras and fencing had been damaged so they had to be removed they will look at this again once dark nights start coming in.  Councillor Groucutt said a milestone visit from the Welsh Minister for education yesterday saw pupils, MCC Cabinet Members, contractors and teachers sign a steel girder to mark the visit. All visitors at the ceremony yesterday with Jeremy Miles spent time and engaged with students. It was a splendid morning. Cllr Konieczny asked why the town council had not been invited to this milestone event? Cllr Groucutt responded that only the MCC executive were invited. |
| FC16/23 | **To consider reviewing Standing Orders and adopting updated submission from OVW, in preparation for the AGM on 10th May 2023.**  Town Clerk informed council that an updated version of standing orders was due in the next week. Councillor Konieczny said the Local Government Act changed in May 2022 and Standing Orders have to reflect this. We can only amend these at the AGM. We have a couple of possibilities: we can update our existing standing orders, highlight and comment what needs amending. We can receive the new standing model hopefully at the next meeting. It is important if this is not received, that we have a draught to adopt at the AGM. A discussion will be needed prior to the AGM; the Town Clerk will circulate the current standing orders, Cllrs can then submit comments, and the Chairs and Town Clerk will collate these. Are Cllrs happy to submit suggestions? Councillor Jones said he is happy to do this, then pull together a draught for the AGM. Councillor Groucutt said if One Voice Wales are sending through a new version, it would be sensible to look at these when they arrive. Counsellor Konieczny said we already have our own standing orders, but they do need to be brought up to date. Councillor Simcock said there had been no mention at today's meeting of One Voice Wales. Councillor Konieczny will ask the Town Clerk to pursue this with One Voice Wales to get a date of when the proposed revised standing orders are due to arrive, so we can act accordingly. |
| FC17/23 | **To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to Full Council:**   * **Armed Forces Champion: Cllr M Powell & Cllr T Konieczny:** no report. * **Governor of Cantref School: Cllr B Callard:** no report. * **Governor of Deri View Primary School: Cllr G Jones:** no report. * **Governor of King Henry VIII School: Cllr B Nicholson:** already received. * **Governor of Our Lady & St Michael School: Cllr T Konieczny:** no report. * **Governor of Ysgol Y Fenni: Cllr G Jones:** No Report from Cllr Jones, Cllr Konieczny commented that Ysgol Gymreag Y Fenni were invited to a theatre matinee for Yr 5 & 6 students but we received no response, so the offer was extended to Llanfoist. The production was music and mime, no language used so suitable for Welsh Medium Primary students. Shame they didn’t engage. * **King Henry VIII Foundation: Cllr B Nicholson and Cllr B Callard:** no report. * **North Monmouthshire Area Committee: Mayor and Town Clerk:** no report. * **North Monmouthshire Liaison Committee: Mayor and Town Clerk:** no report. * **One Voice Wales: Cllr D Simcock and Cllr T Konieczny**: Cllrs Simcock and Konieczny as well as the Town Clerk attended the One Voice Wales Larger Councils meeting today. It was very long, lots are not always relevant to us. OVW reports their work with WG and Unitary Authorities to make sure TCCs are taken seriously, checking on impact of changes to legislation. WLGA looking at changes in how unitary and local authorities communicate and will form a strategic action plan to react to needs of local residents. Universal across Wales saying its not working – top down hierarchical issues were mentioned a lot. Lyn Cadwallader is going to the Minister to find ways to improve that. Presentation from Pembrokeshire on breaking the mould to engage across all sectors. Very happy to share protocols and interventions being encouraged. County Cllrs may want to set up a visit to see how it is working there. Top down failure of PSB and engaging with TCCs. Any TCC with a precept over £200k should engage. Not given a voice, to give input, or know what money is being spent on. Very clear what is meant to happen, but it doesn’t, so feeding back via OVW that it’s not working. Problems will get deeper and worse and we can only tackle this if working effectively.   Cllr Burch said here had been discussions on Area Committees again. Severnside has met. Cllr Powell said she used to sit on this, Abergavenny always ran pretty well. It was a good chance for the public to get involved. Cllr Burch said it would give County and Town Councillors a joint committee for issues in an area. Cllr Jones said Cllr Wright is on the Democratic Services Scrutiny Committee so can also take this forward. |
| FC18/23 | **To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Full Council:**  No further updates. |
| FC19/23 | **To note the AGM date of Wednesday 10th May 2023, and to consider items for the agenda of the next Full Council Meeting after this on 17th May 2023**.   * 17/05/23 to move Full Council to June date and meeting calendar to be amended. |

**Meeting ended 7:37pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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