**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD**

**20TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 7PM VIA MS TEAMS &**

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

**Present:** Cllr C Holland (Interim Chair)

Cllr M Barnes (on-line)

Cllr P Bowyer

Cllr G Jones

Cllr D Simcock

Cllr G Wilde

**Apologies:** Cllr K Eldridge

Cllr J George

**Absent:** Cllr L Wright

**In attendance**:

S Rosser – Principal Officer

J Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer

**Public in attendance:** None

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| E131/23 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.**  Apologies received from Cllrs Eldridge and George reasons for absence were accepted. |
| E132/23 | **Receive Declarations of Interest**  No Declarations of Interest received. |
| E133/23 | **To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 29th November 2023.**  Cllr Bowyer proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Simcock. All Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| E134/23 | **To receive a report and recommendations on the replacement planters for Frogmore Street.**  The proposed Amberol ‘Giant Precinct Planters’ are considered too large for the space. Highways would object, they would obstruct the pavement (consideration as sight friendly town). Funding already agreed. Further research into planters required. Suggestion is for fewer, better quality, purpose built/fabricated planters that are heritage linked and environmentally friendly. Principle Officer/Deputy Principle Officer to explore options and report progress at next Environment Committee Meeting. Proposal that disposal of damaged ‘rusties’ and removal of plants to Greenfinch nursery space to go ahead. Cllr Barnes proposed, Cllr Bowyer seconded. |
| E135/23 | **To receive a report on the future provisions for Abergavenny in Bloom.**  Wales in Bloom 2024 steering group stake-holders meeting 19th January 2024 to i) note preparations for Abergavenny in Bloom and ii) requirements as hosts 13th September to Wales on Bloom Awards. Town Councillor to host meetings. Key target is to support current volunteer groups and engage more of the community/business community. Cllrs attached to volunteer groups to encourage active participation in the ‘It’s your Neighbourhood’ category. Proposed Cllr G Wilde seconded Cllr Jones. |
| E136/23 | **To receive and note the Principal Officer’s update**.  Report received and noted.   1. ALLOTMENTS   Cllr Burch has requested the reinstatement of the sub-group to work on the possible options to offer as allotments or community growing sites if they become available. Cllr Jones and Cllr Barnes volunteered to join a re-constituted group.   1. COMMUNITY SPACES FOR NATURE PROJECT   Cllr Barnes asked if the green space at the rear of the bus station could be put forward for consideration in the project. Need for minimal maintenance.   1. GREEN SPACE AT MORRISONS SUPERMARKET   (Catherine Hunter, Biodiversity and Ecology Officer at  Monmouthshire County Council) in charge of project proposed  for site. Cllrs Barnes, Jones and G Wilde to be invited to attend  future meetings.   1. GABB Square Transforming Towns funding may be available ‘til March 2025. The Town Council must have a Place Making Plan in place. |
| E137/23 | **To receive and note the Service Delivery update.**  Report received and noted. |
| E138/23 | **Finance: (a) Receive an update on the Environment Budget headings.**  Cllr Bowyer proposed accepting the finance report as a true and  accurate record, seconded by Cllr G. Wilde. All agreed. |
| E139/23 | **To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:**  **DM/2023/01730**  Recommend approval.  **DM/2023/01628**  Recommend approval.  **DM/2023/01694** Listed Building Consent Heritage LBC –  Recommend approval.  **DM/2023/01695** Listed Building Consent Heritage LBC –  Recommend approval.  **DM/2023/01049**  Recommend approval.  NB the planning application **DM/2023/01410** (porch) had been approved last meeting; no changes, no further action. |
| E140/23 | **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).**  Cllr Bowyer Item 31: Abergavenny Railway Bridge construction works planned to begin in 2024 update to Strategy and Action Plan agreed. |
| E141/23 | **Report from Town Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee:**  **•** Abergavenny and District Tourist Association: Cllr 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  • MCC Planning Committee: Cllr George  • Y Fenni Business Community: Cllrs Eldridge & Nicholson  No reports received |
| E142/23 | **Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee.**  No reports were received as no County Councillors were present. |
| E143/23 | **Items for consideration at the next meeting Wednesday 31st January 2024.**  **• Invitation to Kim Waters to advise on monitoring the health of the River Usk.** Request from Cllr Barnes that Council look at the standing orders regarding time given to visiting speakers. Cllr Bowyer pointed out that the regulations should be left alone as the Standing Orders already gave clear guidance. Committee agreed with Cllr Bowyer.  **• Should there be Planning Applications requiring urgent consideration between 20th December 23 and 31st January 24 could Councillors by advised by e-mail to allow time for responses.** |

**MEETING CLOSED AT 8:12pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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