**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 17TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.**

**Present:** Cllr P Bowyer

Cllr M Barnes (Vice Chair)

Cllr MA Brocklesby

Cllr S Burch

Cllr B Callard

Cllr K Eldridge

Cllr D English

Cllr J George

Cllr M Groucutt

Cllr C Holland

Cllr M Powell

Cllr D Simcock

Cllr A Wilde (Chair)

Cllr G Wilde

Cllr L Wright

**Absent without apologies:** None.

**In attendance**:

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer / RFO

Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer/Deputy RFO

**Public:** None

Meeting opened with a welcome to Cllr English.

Cllr Bowyer has requested Cllr A Wilde Chair the meeting due to his late arrival back to the UK, and with the Vice Chair joining online form abroad with an unstable wi-fi connection, to enable the meeting to proceed.

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| PR01/24 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.**  Apologies were received from Cllr Jones and Cllr Nicholson it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence. |
| PR02/24 | **Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.**  Cllrs G Wilde and M Barnes – Trustees Citizen’s Advice Bureau  PR10/24 |
| PR03/24 | **To approve the minutes from 13th December 2023.**  Cllr Holland proposed the minutes from the meeting on 13th December 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Groucutt, and all Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| PR04/24 | **To receive and approve a report on proposed award submissions for One Voice Wales National Awards Conference**.    Cllr Simcock proposed and Cllr Powell Seconded the proposal that ATC submit entries in 5 award categories. |
| PR05/24 | **To receive and approve a report and tender proposal for Website and Social Media Support**.  Deputy Principal Officer presented a written report and a tender proposal. If accepted there was a request that the tender go live by Thursday 18th January 2024 with tenders to be submitted by 9am, 9th February 2024. The chairs of Committees and the Mayor to meet (10am 9th February 2024) to select an agency to manage ATC’s website and provide Media Support. Cllr Barnes approved most media platforms however expressed concern about association with the X (Twitter) platform. Cllr Holland proposed the tender go ahead, Cllr Bowyer Seconded. Committee agreed that the tender go ahead. Cllr Barnes voting against was the only objection. |
| PR06/24 | **To receive a report on the draft budget proposals for 2024/25**  Written report noted. Precept this year 8.83% increase equating to a rise of 19p/week on Band D property. Cllr Bowyer thanked all those involved in drawing up the budget especially the committee chairs who have put in a great deal of time in creating this budget. It has been to all committees and full council for discussion. Proposal by Cllr G Wilde the budget be accepted seconded by Cllr Holland. Unanimously agreed. |
| PR07/24 | **Finance:**  **(a) To receive Month 9 Reconciliation Report**  **(b) To receive Month 9 cashbook report**  **(c) To receive Month 9 bank statements**  **(d) To receive Quarter 3 VAT return breakdown**  **(e) To receive a virement report for 2023/24**  Proposal by Cllr Groucutt the finance reports be accepted, seconded by Cllr G Wilde. Unanimously agreed. |
| PR08/24 | **To receive and note the Principal Officer’s update.**  Placemaking funding to be released.  Good Citizens Award nominations to be discussed at Full Council in March.  To note that ATC is 125 years old on November 1st 2024 - suggestion that a Victorian themed event/concert is planned in celebration. The town mace requires renovation. Proposal from Cllr G Wilde seconded by Cllr English that the Principal Officer approach ‘The Repair Shop’. If accepted the story to be released on our Media Platforms.  Report on CCLA and possible investment of ATC funds. Finance and banking report to Committee in February 2024, Full Council in March 2024, for consideration.  Cllr Wright explained the British Retail Association Awards are open to Town Council nominations in Business; Infrastructure; People Skills; Environment (£15k prize in each category) closes 18th February 2024. Inform Cllr Wright if ATC wishes to enter. |
| PR09/24 | **To receive updates from Councillors on the Strategy and Action Plan.**  Dog fouling reported by business owners as a nuisance. Cllr Eldridge prepared to write a news article. |
| PR10/24 | **To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:**   * Borough Theatre MCC / ATC Collaboration – Cllr Groucutt – no report * Melville CftA CIC Board – Cllrs Barnes and Eldridge no report * One Voice Wales: Cllr Simcock and the Deputy Principal Officer attended. Report to be circulated. * Abergavenny Citizens Advice Bureau – Cllr A Wilde and Cllr Eldridge. Nothing further to add as CAB had recently given a presentation to ATC. |
| PR11/24 | **To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee.**  Cllrs Brocklesby, Burch, Callard, Groucutt, Powell: Given time is short the MCC draft budget consultations 2024/25 are being targeted at Councils. Series of hybrid meetings at County Hall beginning Monday 5th February 2024 inviting scrutiny from residents. |
| PR12/24 | **Items for the next meeting on 14th February 2024**  Website and Social Media Tender outcome  Finance and Banking practices report  Good Citizens Award nominations |

**Meeting ended 8:09pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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