**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 27TH MARCH 2024 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.**

**Present:** Cllr P Bowyer

 Cllr M Barnes

 Cllr K Eldridge

 Cllr J George

 Cllr C Holland (Chair)

 Cllr D Simcock

Cllr G Wilde

Cllr L Wright

**Absent: None**

**In attendance**:

Cllr A Wilde

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer / RFO

Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer / Deputy RFO

**Public:** Dr Rachel Watson

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| E30/24 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Cllr G Jones it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.  |
| E31/24 | **Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.** None received.  |
| E32/24 | **To approve the minutes from 17th January 2024.**Cllr Bowyer proposed the minutes from the meeting on 13th December 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr George; all Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| E33/24 | **To receive a report from Principal Officer – ATC Entry Signs** Cllrs received an update from the Principal Officer on the progress of updating the 3 Town Signs at: Llanfoist Bridge; Hardwicke Roundabout; Neville Hall. Signs have been cleaned by the Town Team however SUTRA have not responded to request for permission to replace/wrap existing signs nor access to the road (A40); exemplar sign designs sent to 2 companies used by MCC for costing – no response. Cllr Eldridge proposed approaching other companies used by City/Local Authorities. Principal Officer outlined the highways requirement for specific materials to be used and without SUTRA agreement no further progress could be made. Principal Officer/Deputy Principal Officer will continue to pursue SUTRA for agreement. Report back next Environment Committee Meeting. |
| E34/24 | **To receive and note the Principal Officer’s update.**Report received and noted.(a) Principal Officer in conversation with KW regarding requested visit to speak at Council from NRW. Request that should NRW personnel agree that it be a stand alone meeting as 15 minutes would be insufficient to explore the plight of the Usk and remedial works to restore river health. This would allow other interested parties to attend. Cllr Barnes requested that farmers be invited. He had attended a similar meeting in Monmouth organised by the *Friends of the Lower Wye*.(b) ATC are facilitating a hybrid meeting to discuss restoring, planting and maintaining flood-plain meadows. Gwent Green Grid, Friends of Castle Meadows, Flood Plain Meadows Partnership, MCC officers.(c) Public Liability Insurance for KAT. Cllrs noted that the KAT volunteer team do an incredible job of keeping Abergavenny tidy and approved the town funding of insurance through a local agency.(d) Following our presentation at the world first Smart Town Conference in Wrexham we have established networking links to other Smart Technologies and providers. Possible next project: Air Quality monitoring. Low-cost kit can be built by schools to capture air quality. Building and using kit should help engage young people in the importance of monitoring air quality data to highlight times of day/areas of pollution, in order to address the problem. Cllr Barnes very interested in promoting such a project especially monitoring the A40 through town. Principal Officer asked by Committee to explore further and report back. |
| E35/24 | **To receive and note the Service Delivery Update.**Reports received and noted.(a) The Town Team SLA is due for renewal. The improvement they make to the public realm is substantial. MCC are losing staff from their maintenance team. MCC are requesting the Town Team take on more grass cutting. Meeting arranged with MCC and Town Team to discuss SLA. Cllr Barnes expressed concern that more work would be pressed onto the Town Team leaving less time for Abergavenny Specific projects. Filming ‘Meet the Team’ with councillors from different wards, Social media promotion of their work. Ask residents: what do they want for their precept?(b) ‘Boys need Bins’ MCC hazardous waste provision. Principal Officer to explore company and cost options with MCC prior to SLA agreement. (c) Wales in Bloom – new environmentally friendly planters can be sourced, prior to ordering ATC to carry out a clip-board exercise with businesses and pro-mobility groups regarding siting of the replacement planters. Cllr Wright offered to assist the Principal Officer. (MCC funded) cross hatch markings, reflective bollard and 2 planters in Lion Street placed to combat anti-social parking. MCC have requested ATC take on the maintenance. ATC contractors expressed concern at being asked to work in the road. Cllrs Barnes, George and Eldridge expressed concern that ATC not consulted. Principal Officer assured Cllrs that strong objections and alternative strategies had already been presented.(d) CCTV memorandum of understanding. CCTV does provide valuable information to police. Public complaints that CCTV not working are unfounded. Cllr George proposed CCTV SLA renewed seconded by Cllr Bowyer. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal. Sugarloaf Partnership trial study – site meeting of stakeholders proposed for 18th April 2024. National Trust keen to support the trial. |
| E36/24 | **Finance to Receive a report on the Environment Budget headings Month 11**.Cllr George asked if hazardous waste could include dog waste bins and if so, could the contracts be merged. Principal Officer to make enquiries. Cllr Barnes proposed the finance report be approved as an accurate record seconded by Cllr G Wilde; all Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| E37/24 | **To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:**DM/2024/00078Councillors voted to approveDM/2024/00186Councillors voted to approve |
| E38/24 | **To receive updates from Councillors on the Strategy and Action Plan.**Cllr Holland recommended this be deferred to the next Environmental Committee Meeting, giving Cllrs the opportunity to review the revised and updated document. This met with a favourable response. Cllr G Wilde reported that he had spoken with two groups using the sampling equipment in the Usk. Pleased to see evidence of ATC grant working so swiftly for the community. |
| E39/24 | **To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:*** Abergavenny and District Tourist Association: Cllr Simcock – no report
* CCTV user group: Cllrs George & Jones as E35/24 (d) and to endorse Blue Light proposals for Sugarloaf Partnership trial project.
* Friends of Linda Vista Gardens: Cllrs Wright & Simcock – no report
* Friends of Bailey Park: Cllrs Eldridge & Bowyer – New mural excellent, some minor vandalism to plants, more volunteers would be welcomed.
* Friends of Castle Meadows: Cllrs Simcock & Wright – no report
* Monmouthshire CC Planning Committee: Cllr George – no report
* Y Fenni Business Community: Cllrs Eldridge & Nicholson – no report
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| E40/24 | **To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee.**Cllr Wright nothing to report. |
| E41/24 | **Items for the next meeting on 24th April 2024**Increase in anti-social parking and dog fouling. Cllr George appreciated that there are difficulties with staffing levels however requested visit from MCC re: enforcement issues and what can be done. |

**Meeting ended 20:01pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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