ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2024

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PR33/24: PRINCIPAL OFFICER’S UPDATE

1. AWAY DAY

Councillors and Staff came together on Saturday 17th February 2024 to revisit the Strategy and Action Plan which has been in place since October 2022. The purpose was to review all points, and to update where necessary. The document then went to e proof-read and updated by Cllr Nicholson, and this is now ready for readoption. The Council also had the opportunity to discuss other items such as training (how much training councillors should undertake and how often), access to rooms (Mayor’s Parlour), and the arrangements around office cover and staff availability. The day was well attended by 12 Councillors and 2 staff, and it was suggested to run another similar event towards the end of July 2024.

1. COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024/25

The Principal Officer will be sending out Microsoft Teams calendar invites for the next 12 months of committee meetings to cover May 2024 – April 2025. If possible, can all Councillors note these and make every effort to attend these either in person or online via Microsoft Teams.

Please ensure the Principal Officer is aware of any reasons for absence and apologies as soon as possible, including holidays and work commitments.

1. SOCIAL MEDIA FORTNIGHTLY MEETINGS

The Principal Officer has facilitated the Council being able to attend the fortnightly catch ups which are booked for Tuesdays with the contracted company, which has seen a small amount of engagement from the same councillors. These were being offered at 10am once a month, and then 5pm once a month. It is requested from the company and Principal Officer if this arrangement is working for everyone, and if Councillors wish this opportunity to continue being made available to all Councillors every fortnight.

There has been a suggestion to create a ‘Meet the Team’ piece for the website and social media to highlight the benefit of Abergavenny having the Town Team. If possible, it would be good to capture something in each ward, so a volunteer Councillor from each of the 6 wards is being asked for to be part of this project. They will then ask various questions to create an interview-style mini-documentary to showcase what the team do. It is being scheduled for Thursday 11th April for filming and photographing, between 7am – 3pm. A schedule of what will be filmed where will be drawn up once availability of Councillors is known, and appropriate tasks are decided upon for the Town Team to enable filming to be conducted safely. It is hoped Councillors who are not normally featured would like to participate, so as to introduce the less-familiar faces to the communities that are now engaging with the town council via the website and social media.

1. SMART CITY CONFERENCE 2024

Menter Mon has invited the Principal Officer to join a discussion panel at the Smart City Conference in Wrexham on Friday 15th March 2024, which is showcasing smart technology projects from around the UK. The Principal Officer will join representatives from Conwy and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Councils to talk about the projects each have undertaken and discuss how this can assist Councils in being more cost effective and resource-aware. The Chair of Policy and Resources Committee will also be attending, and both hope to raise awareness of the way in which Town and Community Councils can utilise such technology in the delivery of services which fall to us to maintain and resource.

1. WAR MEMORIAL

The Principal Officer has met with the Cemeteries Officer from Monmouthshire County Council and representatives from the Abergavenny branch of the Royal British Legion to discuss the condition of the War Memorial on Frogmore Street. Some repairs and refurbishment are required, and three quotes have now been obtained by Monmouthshire County Council outlining works which are needed. There are no funds available from the County Council, so the Principal Office would like to bring a report to the next Policy and Resources Committee to consider the cost implications, and recommendations on how the Town Council can support this project.