**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 24th APRIL 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 G Jones

 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

Geoff Price and Tyrone Johnston – Monmouthshire County Council Enforcement Team

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| E42/24 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.** No Apologies.  |
| E43/24 | **Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.** None received.  |
| E44/24 | **To approve the minutes from 27th March 2024.**Cllr Barnes requested a correction – E34/24 ‘heard about’ not ‘attended’. Cllr Bowyer proposed the minutes from the meeting on 28th February, with the agreed correction, be approved as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Simcock; all Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| E45/24 | **To receive a report from MCC Enforcement on enforcement issues.** Cllr Holland welcomed Geoff and Tyrone online to he meeting. Geoff explained about current low staff levels, and the impact on coverage by the reduced team. The roles and responsibilities were discussed, and Councillors were able to ask about areas around town which residents are having issues around parking. Any issues can be reported directly to the team on carparking@monmouthshire.gov.uk **.** |
| E46/24 | **To receive and note the Principal Officer’s update.**Report received and noted.**Entry Signs** (1) Cllrs received an update from the Principal Officer on the progress of updating the 3 Town Signs. SWTRA have not responded. Approved road signage company has responded with costings. ATC asked to consider and approve artwork – mock up to be circulated to Full or People and Communities Committee. Cllr Jones requested that information in Welsh come first on the signage. Cllr G Wilde requested that colour of reflective background fit with Sight Aware proposals. (2) Network Rail Update QR code available on newsletter, website has up to date progress reports.(3) Keep Abergavenny Tidy report presented. Cllr Barnes pointed out that Abergavenny is not generating more rubbish, just that the KAT group are more proactive in collecting in their local areas; outside the town environs and on days other than the 1 day/month. Cllrs acknowledged the valuable work that the volunteer group does.(4) 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 arranged for 25th April 2024. It will be recorded and could form the basis for a follow-up meeting. |
| E47/24 | **To receive and note the Service Delivery Update.**Report received and noted.(1) Toilets. Two complaints received and one positive commendation. Cllr Eldridge reported a further concern from a resident about the Bailey Park toilet lights being left on through the night. These have been forwarded to the Support Services Team for action. Permission given to request a cost for the Bailey Park toilets to be open 7 days/week for the Summer. The Service Level Agreement for 2024/25 is under review, and it is hoped to also have this to form part the report on the costs for Bailey Park toilets at the May Environment Committee Meeting. (2) Dog Bin survey (as part of the ATC asset register) completed thanks to Cllrs Holland and Jones. Dog fouling in the town centre: Town team to affix signs to lampposts to remind owners to pick up after their pet. Town team to assess if and where a dog waste bin could be placed in Frogmore Street/High Street/Cross Street.(3a) CCTV memorandum of understanding returned for signing and ratifying to Monmouthshire County Council.(3b) Pilot project Blue Light CCTV in Sugarloaf Car Park be accepted proposed Cllr Holland, seconded by Cllr Wright. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal. (4) Cllr Bowyer asked who has responsibility for the mill wheel bed installed at the entrance to the Orchard last year. In need of maintenance prior to Abergavenny in Bloom judging.  |
| E48/24 | **Finance to Receive a report on the Environment Budget headings Month 12**.Cllr Bowyer proposed the finance report be approved as an accurate record seconded by Cllr G Wilde; all Councillors resolved to accept this proposal. |
| E49/24 | **To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:**DM/2024/00393 - Councillors voted to recommend approval. DM/2024/00425 - withdrawn prior to meeting.DM/2024/00438 - Councillors voted to recommend approval. DM/2024/00341 - Councillors voted to recommend approval.DM/2023/01049 - Councillors voted to recommend approval. |
| E50/24 | **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.11. Review of dog bins audit and photos complete. 16. Cllr Burch is coordinating a working group for a growing space at NHH which is meeting 29/04/24.  |
| E51/24 | **To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:*** Abergavenny and District Tourist Association: Cllr Simcock – new guide for 24/25 launched, very comprehensive, very engaging on social media with a good networking event at The Angel. Brochures well distributed. Core membership of 100, bringing in far more from outside Abergavenny, great to see investment working well.
* 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. Not happy with PSPO not including formal gardens for dog exclusion area. Letters received form FoBP committee and passed on to Cllr Thomas to take up with MCC. New Coffee Box now open by Pavilion 7 days a week.
* 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, clip board exercise being carried out with Frogmore Street traders on position of new planters.
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| E52/24 | **To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee.**Cllr Wright working with Gwent Police on speed issues on Merthyr Road. Monitoring on 25/04/24 to get data on speeds. No further news on Castle Meadows, ongoing discussions re: cattle grids, stakeholder meeting to follow. Bridge tender out again, looking to combine with another project. No progress so far.  |
| E53/24 | **Items for the next meeting on 29h May2024**Cllr Barnes asked if Greener Abergavenny can be added to list of Reps on External Bodies for the AGM. Cllr G Wilde asked to discuss street lights and Borough Theatre light outside building. Cllr Holland thanked Councillors for their support during his term as interim chair.  |

**Meeting ended 20:27pm APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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