**ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 30th OCTOBER 2024 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE**

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

**Present:** Cllr A Wilde (Chair)

Cllr M Barnes

Cllr P Bowyer

 Cllr C Holland (Vice Chair)

Cllr G Jones

Cllr D Simcock

Cllr G Wilde

Cllr L Wright

**In attendance**:

Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer / Deputy RFO

Member of the public – Cllr John Lamb – visitor from USA.

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| E101/24 | **Receive and approve apologies for absence.** Cllr K Eldridge and Cllr J George. All Councillors resolved to accept the reasons for apologies.  |
| E102/24 | **Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.** None |
| E103/24 | **To approve the minutes from 25th September 2024.**Cllr Jones wished to confirm that a new dog waste bin would be purchased. All agreed, then proposed the minutes from the meeting on 25th September 2024, be approved as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Holland. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.  |
| E104/24 | **Finance**: 1. Report on the Environment Budget headings received and noted.

Cllr G. Wilde proposed the finance report be accepted, seconded by Cllr A. Wilde, all Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal. |
| E105/24 | **To receive and note the Principal Officer’s update.**Report received and noted.1. River Gavenny Partnership – recommendation from the Deputy Principal Officer to pass date and contact information to KAT – agreed. Request to Deputy Principal Officer to source agreed report from River Gavenny Partnership to be forwarded to Environment Committee members.
2. Grateful thanks to Principal Officer for continuing to request a date for a speaker from NRW to present to Council on how to tackle cleaning the River Usk. Request to Deputy Principal Officer to contact NRW requesting date to speak to council.
3. Bannau Brycheiniog Local Development Plan-Supplementary Planning Guidance. Proposed by Cllr Bowyer and Seconded by Cllr A. Wilde that Cllrs respond as individuals to proposals.
4. Planning Aid Wales – Abergavenny Placemaking walkabout scheduled for the same day.
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| E106/24 | **To Receive and Note the Service Delivery Update**1. TOWN TEAM
2. Re SLA MCC have confirmed the contractual issue for responsibility in redundancy lies with them. ATC purchases the service rather than employing Town Team staff. Given that the Town Team are operating at reduced capacity – long term ill health - concern raised by Cllr Barnes that the SLA does not guarantee replacement staff cover. Note of thanks was made of the extra MCC provision that has already been given to ATC. Proposed by Cllr Jones that ATC accept the SLA. Seconded by Cllr Bowyer. Approved by majority; 1 abstention.
3. Improvements to woodland path, by Town Team, well received by residents. Thanks extended by Cllr G. Wilde.
4. Installation of litter bin for Chapel/Brecon Road. Update requested – current roadworks are to be completed before the bin can be installed.
5. MUNICIPAL PLANTING CONTRACTS

Deferred to next Environment Committee meeting. 1. Abergavenny in Bloom – Positive reception to creating a new interest group to drive Bloom and build on incredible success in 2024. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Bowyer that Tony Konieczny be approached to lead Bloom 2025; contact the business sector as well as voluntary groups, ATC and Principal Officer/Deputy Principal Officer; arrange initial meeting for interested parties before end of November 2024. Approved unanimously that TK be approached.
2. Give Dog Fouling the Red Card. Report and items available received and noted. Cllr Jones requested that ATC order free signs and notices to be put up in the wards. Two further dog waste bins reported as damaged and requiring repair. Cllrs to report ‘hot spots’ of persistent fouling in ward areas to Deputy Principal Officer. List to be distributed to all Cllrs and MCC Neighbourhood Services Team. Cllr Barnes highlighted the fouling in Frogmore Street, High Street, Cross Street was becoming an issue and requested the Town Team be suitably equipped to be able to clean it up. Residents can report persistent fouling via Fix My Street – MyMon App. MCC Dog Fouling Awareness Day – Tuesday 19th November 2024. Cllrs invited to attend

Cllr inquiry about completion of SLA for Toilets – Deputy Principal Officer’s response: the SLA to continue under current agreement. New SLA, likely to be finalised by March ’25.  |
| E107/24 | **To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:**DM/2024/01249 - Councillors voted to recommend approval. DM/2024/01239 - Councillors voted to recommend approval. |
| E108/24  | **To receive updates from Councillors on the Strategy and Action Plan.**Pleased to report updates in points: 4 and 10, Strategy and Action Plan to be updated accordingly. Cllr Simcock raised the concern of inadequate signage to our green spaces (point 3) and supported requesting improved signage through Placemaking. |
| E109/24 | **To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:*** Abergavenny and District Tourist Association: Cllrs A Wilde and D Simcock – Attended AGM. Pleased to note the recognition for Bloom work and awards. ADTA have increased social media presence and finances are good. MCC support – increasing interest in Monmouthshire as a tourist destination.
* CCTV user group: Cllrs George & Jones – no recent meeting to offer report
* Friends of Linda Vista Gardens: Cllrs Wright & Simcock – AGM shortly
* Friends of Bailey Park: Cllrs Bowyer & English – AGM Monday 4th November.
* Friends of Castle Meadows: Cllrs Simcock & Wright – no report
* Monmouthshire CC Planning Committee: Cllrs Holland & George – no report
* Greener Abergavenny – Cllrs Barnes & A Wilde – Feed back from event very positive – comparison reports sent to Cllrs for consideration. Event well organized and attended interactive event should become a regular event..
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| E110/24 | **To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Environment Committee.**Cllr Wright: Replacement Local Development Plan Consultation 5th November. |
| E111/24 | **Items for the next meeting on 27th November 2024**1. Abergavenny in Bloom – agenda item.
2. Municipal Planting Contracts to be added as agenda item.
3. Abergavenny River Corridor – Deputy Principal Officer to source report from River Gavenny Partnership
4. Repeat request for Natural Resources Wales to present to council re: addressing the health of the River Usk
5. Update RLDP draft response for MCC
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**Meeting ended 20:07 pm APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

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