

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 25<sup>th</sup> September 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 J George  
Cllr C Holland (Vice Chair)  
Cllr G Jones  
Cllr G Wilde

**In attendance:**

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer / RFO

Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer / Deputy RFO

Member of the public – Mr Steve Nurse

E89/24	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence.</b> Cllr K Eldridge, Cllr J George, Cllr D Simcock, Cllr L Wright. All Councillors resolved to accept the reasons for apologies.
E90/24	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.</b> None
E91/24	<b>To approve the minutes from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024.</b> Cllr Holland proposed the minutes from the meeting on 31st July, be approved as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr G Wilde. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal. Cllr A Wilde noted that the SLA for the Town Team had been brought back as an agenda item for consideration, as requested.
E92/24	<b>Finance:</b> (a) Report on the Environment Budget headings received and noted. Cllr Jones proposed the finance report be accepted, seconded by Cllr Holland, all Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.
E93/24	<b>To receive and note the Principal Officer's update.</b> Report received and noted. 1. Sugar Loaf Mountain CCTV pilot. Very well received. Anti-social behaviour, overnight camping and fly tipping significantly reduced. MCC, National Trust and Bannau Brecheiniog have received zero complaints; police are receiving communications

	<p>from residents about anti-social behaviour and are happy to be in receipt of complaints. Successful partnership, all parties would like the CCTV pilot extended next year. Camping appears to be an issue in the Lower Byfield car park.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. KAT have achieved 4,000 litter bags collected.</li> <li>3. SCRIBE online collaboration with MCC. Indebted to the Media Agency for their work on the Wales in Bloom to collate Linked-In feed-back and traction.</li> <li>4. Brecon Road/Chapel Road residents have requested a new waste bin. Highways approval required – to check there is no obstruction. NB the Town Team are now at capacity. Prior to any further installations we need to review current bin locations to consider moving bins rather than adding more.</li> <li>5. Improvement Budget appears to have been spent however grants are due in to replace funds eg spent on Mural.</li> </ol>
E94/24	<p><b>To Receive and Note the Service Delivery Update</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TOWN TEAM             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Currently still operating at reduced capacity. MCC Grounds have been supportive in providing a driver in order that the bins are serviced regularly. Re SLA MCC considering the contractual issue for responsibility in redundancy. All other changes agreed. The SLA to come back to next Environment Committee.</li> <li>(ii) Highways and Pen Y Val Estates to be consulted re improvements to woodland path prior to Town Team taking on the work. Highways may authorise hard path</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. TOILETS             <p>Awaiting meeting with Jan Baldwin and Anthony Berrington from Support Services to look at the SLA, likely to be finalised by March '25. MCC delays – restructuring.</p> </li> <li>3. DOG-WASTE BINS. The damaged bin (20 at Cae-Pen-Y-Dre) is well used replacement essential. Bin 5 – complaint from resident – after review agreed to clear round bin regularly however, no suitable alternative site identified. Bin to remain where it is. Bin 2 Ysbytty Fields is reported to have a broken support and should be repaired.</li> </ol>

	<p>Cllr Jones proposed the replacement bin be purchased and installed; and securing of damaged support undertaken. Seconded by Cllr Holland, all Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.</p> <p><b>4. MUNICIPAL PLANTING CONTRACTORS</b>  Seasonal planting/watering and all year-round planting throughout the town is maintained by two contractors. Our watering is carried out by Willows Nursery at very competitive rates (only contractor across Monmouthshire willing to contract for watering). Smart meters show containers are watered effectively. The new planters' reservoirs should increase efficiency. The styles of planting are different. From October 2025, 'Greenfinch Nurseries' have asked to take on the watering of the beds/containers they maintain. NB Castle Street and Bus Station beds not on contract. Contracts for both contractors will need to change. Cllrs may wish to consider contracts as separate parts; amending as they stand or re-tendering whole.</p>
E95/24	<p><b>To Consider a report on Wales in Bloom 2024</b>  Report received and noted.  Outstanding results well received. Vote of thanks to office staff who organised and arranged the event. Feed-back from RHS committee and delegates very positive. Cllr G Wilde commented on the amazing Media coverage and press releases which have been picked up and shared. Requested wider coverage eg in the Focus; and perhaps include links to TV and to key-note speaker. ATC should continue to promote Abergavenny as a tourist destination. At: Greener Abergavenny; One Voice Wales; continue to work with SWTRA to agree signs at the town entrances.</p> <p>Abergavenny has really special green spaces in its wards. National Forest for Wales sign in Castle Meadows unveiled by Chairman of NRA. The 'Big Pond' has achieved pond conservation status.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Barnes that Abergavenny in Bloom continue as an event going forward. ATC to consider its role in the event. Seconded by Cllr G Wilde. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.</p>
E96/24	<p><b>To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:</b>  DM/2024/01131 - Councillors voted to recommend approval.</p>

E97/24	<p><b>To receive updates from Councillors on the Strategy and Action Plan.</b></p> <p>Pleased to report updates – many to green – in most of the points allocated to Environment Committee. Strategy and Action Plan to be updated accordingly.</p>
E98/24	<p><b>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abergavenny and District Tourist Association: Cllrs A Wilde and D Simcock – AGM to report up on 30/10/24</li> <li>• CCTV user group: Cllrs George &amp; Jones – no report</li> <li>• Friends of Linda Vista Gardens: Cllrs Wright &amp; Simcock – 150 year anniversary in 2025. Should be promoted.</li> <li>• Friends of Bailey Park: Cllrs Bowyer &amp; English – issue with tents. All weather surface edging stones breaking away. Can this be put to MCC/Town Team to repair.</li> <li>• Friends of Castle Meadows: Cllrs Simcock &amp; Wright – no report</li> <li>• Monmouthshire CC Planning Committee: Cllrs Holland &amp; George – no report</li> <li>• Greener Abergavenny – Cllrs Barnes &amp; A Wilde – Event scheduled in Market Hall for Oct 20th. Open invitation.</li> </ul>
E99/24	<p><b>To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Environment Committee.</b></p> <p>None reported</p>
E100/24	<p><b>Items for the next meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation on Abergavenny River Corridor – waiting for confirmation of alternative dates.</li> <li>2. SLA Town Team brought back for approval. (Issue of Redundancy to be resolved).</li> <li>3. Municipal Planting Contracts to be added as agenda item.</li> <li>4. The future for Abergavenny in Bloom – agenda item.</li> <li>5. Repeat request for Natural Resources to present to council re addressing the health of the River Usk – NB there is a presentation at The King's Arms 7pm 30<sup>th</sup> September. Open invitation to attend.</li> </ol>

Meeting ended 20:19 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR ..... *A. Wilde* ..... DATE *30/10/2024* .....