

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 11th DECEMBER 2024 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.

**Present:** Cllr P Bowyer (Chair)  
Cllr M Barnes (Vice Chair)  
Cllr S Burch  
Cllr B Callard  
Cllr D English  
Cllr M Groucott  
Cllr C Holland  
Cllr M Powell  
Cllr D Simcock  
Cllr G Wilde

#### In attendance:

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer / RFO  
Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer / Deputy RFO  
Gwent Police - Aled Thompson

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>To receive a report from Gwent Police.</b> Addressing speeding – police are using hi-vis radar stops to remind drivers of the 20 MPH speed limits around the town. Pub-watch – very few issues in November. Shop-watch – businesses sharing information about frequent offenders. The aim is to disrupt/identify shoplifters. Storm Darragh – calls to attend trees down and Usk Valley flooding. Rough sleepers/begging – language barrier makes dealing with rough sleepers difficult, Police still engaging. Richards' Fire – CID investigation on going.
<b>PR 121/24</b>	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence:</b> Cllr M Brocklesby, Cllr K Eldridge, Cllr J George, Cllr G Jones, Cllr B Nicholson, Cllr A Wilde, Cllr L Wright. It was resolved to accept the apologies for absence.
<b>PR 122/24</b>	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.</b> Cllrs Burch and Powell – MCC Planning Committee Cllr Bowyer – member of Civic Society
<b>PR 123/24</b>	<b>To approve the minutes from 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b> Cllr G Wilde proposed the minutes from the meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, be accepted as a true and accurate record

	<p>seconded by Cllr C Holland. Resolved by all Councillors to accept this proposal.</p>
<b>PR 124/24</b>	<p><b>To receive a Cost of Living Presentation from Emma Goode, Cost of Living Officer, One Voice Wales.</b> Presentation postponed.</p>
<b>PR 125/24</b>	<p><b>Finance:</b> Reports received and noted. All spends within agreed budget. (a) To receive Month 8 Reconciliation Report (b) To receive Month 8 Cashbook Report. (c) To receive Month 8 bank statements Proposed by Cllr Bowyer seconded by Cllr Holland that councillors accept the finance reports. All Cllrs in agreement.  (d) To consider alterations to the ATC draft budget for 2025/26. Awaiting Council Tax Base figures from MCC in order to set final ATC budget 2025/26. Final decision by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. NB for consideration with regard to increased budget. <b>Committees and commitments:</b> i) translation costs increased to meet bi-lingual commitments. ii) As demands on officers and staff increase, we will employ an additional deputy principal officer. Provision is made under the salary budget. This will be cheaper than hiring in Locum and give an additional benefit of working within established systems. To fulfil training obligations costs will increase 2025/26 to provide: ILCA &amp; CILCA; OVW units as well as MCC Health and Safety/Fire Officer certificates. Possible increase in costs for IT kit for any additional staff. Consider increase to Events budget to hire events company which proved invaluable in delivering the Christmas Lights Switch On – support on the day, stage set up, and waste collection, as well as providing associated legal paperwork. Cllr G Wilde asked if CAB/MIND Monmouthshire could have a budget increase because of increased demand and cost of living increases. Co-operation agreements currently not able to look at uplift until they come due for renewal. New template to be considered so that they include inflation/cost of living increases in order to meet deliverables. Thanks from Cllr G Wilde to Principal Officer and Chairs for getting the draft budget done in such a timely fashion. Cllr Barnes requested funding breakdown of costs associated with Abergavenny in Bloom to be prepared going forward.</p>



<b>PR 126/24</b>	<p><b>To consider grant applications from:</b></p> <p>(a) Abergavenny and District Civic Society. Proposed by Cllr Holland seconded by Cllr Burch that councillors approve the application. All Cllrs in agreement.</p> <p>(b) Llanwenarth Village Hall Committee. ATC approved the application to support the repairs for this active and well used community facility. Full breakdown of costs to be provided for this one-off application. Proposed by Cllr Holland seconded by Cllr Burch that councillors approve the application. All Cllrs in agreement.</p> <p>(c) Keep Abergavenny Tidy application for £80:00 to brand hi-vis jackets. Proposed by Cllr Callard seconded by Cllr Burch that councillors approve the application. All Cllrs in agreement.</p> <p>(d) Food Festival – Market Hall Decorations shortfall this year of £2,029 would ATC offer additional funding to cover costs. Proposal from Cllr Callard that the 'food festival' tag be dropped as the Market Hall Decorations are an all-year-round attraction for Abergavenny. The change of decoration theme coincides with the Food Festival. No financial input from them. ATC agreed. Budget to be increased 2025/26. Proposed by Cllr Callard seconded by Cllr Holland that councillors approve the application. All Cllrs in agreement.</p>
<b>PR 127/24</b>	<p>(a) To consider an Abergavenny Eisteddfod co-operation agreement being drafted. Report noted to put ATC branding on certificates and announce as 'Mayor's Award' which shows the town's support and allows the Eisteddfod flexibility in awards. Cllr Groucott stated that Councils are charged by Welsh Government to encourage the development of the Welsh Language. Supporting the Eisteddfod maintains the role of ATC in supporting the development of the Welsh Language. Council requested the Adult Eisteddfod date in June be moved to avoid clash with Armed Forces Day and Pride Event.</p> <p>(b) To consider a renewal cooperation agreement from the Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership. Cllr Groucott spoke strongly in favour of the co-operation agreement because of the really important role ACE plays in supporting the community it serves. Accounts are in preparation; Cllr Barnes proposed the co-operation agreement be approved – subject to accounts satisfactory</p>



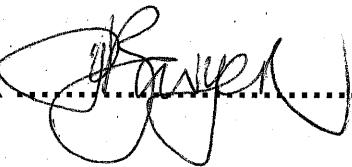
	and regularly being presented. Seconded by Cllr Groucott. All Cllrs in agreement.
<b>PR 128/24</b>	<b>To receive a report from Cllr Burch on proposals for Allotments and Community Gardening.</b> Report received and noted. Concern for confirming this agreement is finding a constituted body to hold the lease; bid for and accept grants and manage the community growing project. Existing allotment groups rejected taking on a new enterprise. Cllr English and Cllr Barnes requested figures to gauge the demand eg numbers on waiting lists at existing allotment groups; survey level of interest from residents in the area. Cllr Bowyer praised enthusiasm for allotment schemes however raised concerns about workload if the lease and management fell to ATC. What would be the problems if members of the community growing group resigned/did not maintain their plot? Proposed that people interested in growing are brought together to set up their own allotment group. Cllr Barnes proposed the subject be brought back to committee in February, with prior survey results and data to inform decision. Seconded Cllr English. All Cllrs in agreement.
<b>PR 129/24</b>	<b>To receive a report from the Principal Officer.</b> Report received and noted.
<b>PR 130/24</b>	<b>To receive an update from the Place Making steering committee:</b> Cllr Bowyer: brief update from last meeting. Consultants are finalising their report and recommendations and proposed a further steering group meeting in January 2025. Documents to follow shortly.
<b>PR131/24</b>	<b>To receive and approve the updated Strategy and Action Plan.</b> Nothing to add.
<b>PR 132/24</b>	<b>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borough Theatre MCC / ATC Collaboration – Cllr Groucott and Cllr Nicholson – Nothing to report.</li> <li>• Melville CftA CIC Board – Cllrs Barnes and Cllr Burch: Nothing to report.</li> <li>• One Voice Wales: Cllrs Holland and Bowyer document noted.</li> <li>• Abergavenny Citizens Advice Bureau – Cllr A Wilde and Cllr L Wright – nothing to report.</li> </ul>

<b>PR 133/24</b>	<p><b>To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee.</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
<b>PR 134/24</b>	<p><b>To consider items for the next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Allotment update for February 2025 – report to be an agenda item.</li> <li>(ii) Confirm date for presentation by Emma Goode.</li> </ul>

**Meeting ended 20:52 pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR**



**DATE**

11/12/25

