

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18th DECEMBER 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 D Simcock
Cllr G Wilde

In attendance:

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer / RFO
Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer / Deputy RFO

Absent without apologies Cllr Eldridge, Cllr Wright

E128/24	Receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllrs George and Jones. All Councillors resolved to accept the reasons for apologies.
E129/24	Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda. Deputy Principal Officer – Friends of Castle Meadows
E130/24	To approve the minutes from 27th November 2024. Cllr Barnes requested an amendment to the Abergavenny in Bloom item: that the chair work in conjunction with the Chair of the Environment Committee. Cllr Holland proposed the minutes from the meeting on 27 th November 2024, be approved as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Simcock. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal with amendment.
E131/24	To receive a Grant Application from Friends of Castle Meadows. Last month's presentation E115/24 all councillors at that meeting agreed to accept the proposal in principle, on receipt of a grant application form. The Grant Application was presented and reviewed – an additional £500 was requested and agreed. Proposal to agree the grant by Cllr Holland seconded Cllr Bowyer, all Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal. Cllr Barnes cautioned that dredging works are part of an ongoing 3-5 year maintenance programme and that ATC should not be expected to finance this each time.

E132/24	<p>Finance: Report on the Environment Budget headings received and noted. There will be an increase (to £7:35/bin/collection) in cost of servicing dog waste bins. Replacement uniform and Hi Vis waterproofs for Town Team required. Increase 25/26 salaries. Increase in training course costs. Sugar-Loaf Partnership CCTV hailed as successful. Partners wish to repeat the CCTV project: Easter – September 2025. Funding contributions from National Trust & MCC due for current year. Cllr G Wilde proposed the finance report be accepted, seconded by Cllr Holland, all Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal. Request from Cllr Barnes for a breakdown of costs associated with Abergavenny in Bloom.</p>
E133/24	<p>To receive and note the Principal Officer's update. Report received and noted, as outlined in Service Delivery Update and Municipal Planting contracts.</p>
E134/24	<p>To receive and note the Service Delivery update. 1 Town Team still understaffed. The Council is happy to support the request to MCC that an 'apprentice' be employed to help future-proof the team as well as bring them back up to strength. 2 Abergavenny in Bloom Baskets to be collected and stored (Willows Nursery) ready for next year. 3 PHS contract – agreed that one bin be relocated. Prostate Cancer UK: 'Bins for Boys' ATC pilot to move one service bin from each block into male cubicle to assess demand. Councillors in favour of trial. 4 Toilet SLA: remaining as it is for now.</p>
E135/24	<p>To receive a report on the Municipal Planting Contracts. 1 Deferred to next meeting. 2 Planters in storage with manufacturer. Can be delivered mid-late January 2025 if Frogmore Street sites are agreed once hoardings are up and space allows – planned negotiation with Promobility Group over siting. The advantage with these planters: they can be moved with a forklift truck. Planting including purchase of soil to be advised by 'Greenfinch'.</p>
E136/24	<p>To receive a report on Abergavenny in Bloom. Volunteer's Meeting 5th December report received and noted. Representatives present voted to accept the invitation to represent Wales in Britain in Bloom. In principle, voluntary groups happy to work towards Abergavenny in Bloom becoming a more independent body. Cllr Barnes observed to achieve this will take</p>

	<p>time and ATC will need to nurture and guide. Cllr Bowyer reflected on an area of concern raised by volunteers – take of the age profile of volunteer groups. There is a need to recruit younger members if the volunteer work is to continue. Business' meeting planned for January 2025.</p>
E137/24	<p>To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications: Planning Applications DM/2024/01496 and DM/2024/01497- Pleased to note the swift and professional manner in which the process, to ensure site safety, has been carried out. DM/2023/01204 Council recommended approval with reservation: that as offered, the lights are timed to turned off at night with no overspill to nearby properties. Proposed Cllr Holland seconded Cllr A Wilde. All Councillors voted to recommend approval.</p>
E138/24	<p>To receive updates from Councillors on the Strategy and Action Plan. Pleased to report updates in points: 2: New planters and KAT litter picks. 4&6: Big Pond Project 5: Bus Station beds rebuilt and planted. Gabb Square twinning association monument restoration. 10: Bins for Boys initiative. 16: Joint project Tesco bus-stop project Civic Society/Rotary/ATC to enrich the soil, purchase and plant bulbs and plug plants and work with schools/youth organizations to plant and engender civic pride. 18: Active travel: MCC propose to stagger the gates on Cross Street to allow easier access in and out of pedestrianized part of town for bikes/mobility scooters. ATC supportive of the principle. Placemaking may offer further enhancements for through routes.</p>
E139/24	<p>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny and District Tourist Association: Cllrs A Wilde and D Simcock – no report. • CCTV user group: Cllrs George & Jones – no report • Friends of Linda Vista Gardens: Cllrs Wright & Simcock – The wooden dragon from Tudor Street has been gifted to Linda Vista – it needs some restoration which is in hand. Potential joint rejuvenation project with MCC – awaiting grant funding to: eg. re-build the pond; path improvements; pollard and fell trees requiring attention; signage and interpretation boards; possibility of solar power etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Bailey Park: Cllrs Bowyer & English – No report • Friends of Castle Meadows: Cllrs Simcock & Wright – No report. • Monmouthshire CC Planning Committee: Cllrs Holland & George – no report • Greener Abergavenny – Cllrs Barnes & A Wilde – plans to change format and location of themed Annual Fair [not using Market Hall 2025]. Ideal would be to hold bi-monthly presentations aimed at a particular environmental topic with clear outcomes to attract younger members and encourage them to take on projects/responsibilities.
E140/24	<p>To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Environment Committee.</p> <p>No report.</p>
E141/24	<p>Items for the next meeting on 29th January 2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abergavenny in Bloom – agenda item. 2. Municipal Planting Contracts to be added as agenda item. 3. Request Kim Waters to speak on progression of Welsh Rivers Union project. 4. Request notes from August Green Corridor/Gavenny Corridor presentation.

Meeting ended 20:20 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR *A Wilde* DATE *29/1/2025*