

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 29th JANUARY 2025 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.

Present: Cllr A Wilde (Chair)
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

E01/25	Receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllrs George, Barnes and Eldridge. All Councillors resolved to accept the reasons for apologies.
E02/25	Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda. Cllr Wright MCC Planning Committee; Deputy Principal Officer – Planning Application item E11/25; Cllr Simcock E05/25 Melville.
E03/25	To approve the minutes from 18th December 2024. Cllr G Wilde proposed the minutes from the meeting on 18 th December 2024, be approved as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Holland. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.
E04/25	To receive a presentation and update from Kim Waters on the work of the Welsh Rivers Union. The presentation highlighted the causation and effects of pollution in local rivers. e.g. climate change flooding - intensive arable farming practices – winter sowing, ploughing to the edge of streams/reens/rivers, soil/fertilizer runoff: release of sewage from Welsh Water installations adding phosphates and chemical waste; intensive livestock farming – slurry from dairy and poultry, with runoff/dumping. Effects: loss of species and habitat. Salmon, Shad, Trout and habitat support such as Ranunculus aquatilis - water crowfoot (protected species) are under threat of extinction even in SAC areas. NRW, Welsh Water and Welsh Government have statutory duty to make the Usk SAC compliant. ATC urged to

	have Board Member from NRW attend to speak to committee. The health of rivers can be recovered – it needs systematic change.
E05/25	To receive a grant application from The Melville Centre. Deferred to Policy and Resources Committee 12 th February 2025.
E06/25	To Receive and Note the Deputy Principal Officer's Update. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions have opened with MCC about a second LoRaWan gateway for the town. This would enable the air quality monitoring pilot on and near the A40 to go ahead. Deputy Principal Officer to negotiate sourcing sensors. 2. Gwent Green Grid Project opposite Morrison's Green Space trees have been planted. Part of consultation initiative discussed 14th June 2024). 3. Sugar Loaf CCTV project ongoing discussions to repeat pilot 2025. Next meeting Monday 3rd February 2025 4. Monlife arborists have felled dangerous trees in Castle Meadows. 5. Annual Report now with Printer. Limited hard copies (250) in line with sustainability, will be available at the TIC and Library.
E07/25	Finance: Receive a report on the Environment Budget headings. Cllr Jones proposed the finance report be accepted, seconded by Cllr Simcock, all Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.
E08/25	To receive and note the Service Delivery update. Situation unchanged. Town Team still one member short. MCC provide cover where staffing allows. The mechanical street sweeper has been returned to the Depot freeing space in the bunker and allowing the kit to be used across the county as required. Toilet SLA continues; Servicing of sanitary bins as before, Bins for Boys pilot proving successful. NB we have emergency stoma kits, in collaboration with Hollister, in the Theatre facilities. Another initiative to support the community. Going forward, with changing plans to support Smart Town initiatives and sustainable watering the contracts should be revisited.
E09/25	To receive a report on the Municipal Planting Contracts. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Planters delivered 29th January 2025 and are in storage. Negotiation, with Frogmore Street businesses & Promobility Group over siting to be revisited 1st week of February. Planting including purchase of soil to be advised by 'Greenfinch'.

	<p>2 Willows Nursery have asked about tenders/contracts for 2025/26. Also requested theme or colour scheme for Britain in Bloom.</p>
E10/25	<p>To receive a report on Abergavenny in Bloom.</p> <p>Breakdown of costs associated with Abergavenny in Bloom, as requested by Cllr Barnes, was presented, received and noted.</p> <p>Business' Meeting 28th January 2025 generated interest to explore how members could help 'Bloom' become a more independent, constituted body. Representatives present agreed to speak to members. Participation rather than funding. There was a request for data regarding how Wales in Bloom/Britain in Bloom could generate footfall from promoting Abergavenny as a tourist destination. Abergavenny and District Tourist Association to be approached by Deputy Principal Officer for STEAM figures. Representatives reassured that ATC would still be investing in municipal planting. Advertising to 'badge' and advertise Bloom and participation more widely would be welcomed. Signage discussed; costs and permission issues explained. Theme requested.</p> <p>Next meeting for volunteer and 'It's Your Neighbourhood' entries 11th February 2025 at Our Lady and St Michaels school 6:30-7:30pm. Further meeting 18th February 2025 in TIC to bring in any other community groups for IYN. Other group wishing advice/help completing IYN forms welcome.</p>
E11/25	<p>To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:</p> <p>DM/2022/01525 Refuse application with reference to Highways objection. Proposed Cllr Jones Seconded Cllr G Wilde. All Cllrs concurred, with one abstention (Cllr Wright).</p> <p>DM/2024/01589 Approve – no material considerations. Proposed Cllr Holland Seconded Cllr A Wilde. All Councillors voted to recommend approval. One abstention (Cllr Wright).</p> <p>DM/2024/01191 Approve - no material considerations. Proposed Cllr Jones Seconded Cllr Holland. All Councillors voted to recommend approval. One abstention (Cllr Wright).</p>

E12/25	<p>To receive updates from Councillors on the Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>Pleased to report updates in items: 1,2,3,4,5 and 16</p>
E13/25	<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 – no report • Friends of Bailey Park: Cllrs Bowyer & English – Following a donation to the Friends, a meeting was held to explore purchase and installation of play equipment in the play area. Match funding being sought. • Friends of Castle Meadows: Cllrs Simcock & Wright – No report. Request from Cllrs to be invited to the next meeting. • Monmouthshire CC Planning Committee: Cllrs Holland & George – Cllr Holland attended MCC planning Committee site visit 13th January 2025. • Greener Abergavenny – Cllrs Barnes & A Wilde – Meeting scheduled for 30th January 2025. Report at next meeting.
E14/25	<p>To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Environment Committee.</p> <p>i) MCC 2025/26 Budget out for consultation until 22nd February 2025 ii) Exploratory Meeting to discuss possible public art project/tendering process/costs and funding streams.</p>
E15/25	<p>Items for the next meeting on 26th February 2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abergavenny in Bloom – agenda item. 2. Municipal Planting Contracts to be added as an agenda item. 3. Public Art project: Richards Site Frogmore Street

Meeting ended 20:36 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR *A Wilde* DATE *26/2/2025*

E20/25: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FINANCE REPORT UP TO 31.01.2025

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
140 Environment Service Provision								
4110 Abergavenny In Bloom	7,506	45,775	32,500	(13,275)		(13,275)	140.8%	7,381
4354 Dog Waste Bins	1,094	10,613	17,500	6,887		6,887	60.6%	
4355 Town Crew	10,018	100,182	150,000	49,818		49,818	66.8%	
4360 Environmental Groups	63	3,146	5,000	1,854		1,854	62.9%	
4365 Toilets General	0	21	55,000	54,979		54,979	0.0%	
4410 Tourist Board	0	15,000	15,000	0		0	100.0%	
4455 CCTV	3,693	20,172	16,500	(3,672)		(3,672)	122.3%	
4456 Impl Action Plan (Env)	0	5,442	10,000	4,558		4,558	54.4%	
4470 Toilets Sanitary Bins	0	1,829	2,000	171		171	91.5%	
Environment Service Provision - Indirect Expenditure	22,375	202,180	303,500	101,320	0	101,320	66.6%	7,381
Net Expenditure	(22,375)	(202,180)	(303,500)	(101,320)				
6001 plus Transfer from EMR	7,381	7,381	0	(7,381)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(14,994)	(194,799)	(303,500)	(108,701)				

SIGNED AND CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD AS PER AGENDA ITEM E20/25.

CHAIR..... *Agulbe*

DATE *26* / *2* / *2025*

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 26th FEBRUARY 2025

DATE	
Barnes Maurice	Maurice Barnes
Bowyer Philip	Philip Bowyer
Eldridge Kyle	Apologies
George James	James George
Holland Chris (Vice Chair)	Chris Holland
Jones Gethin	Gethin Jones
Simcock David	Apologies
Wright Laura	L. Wright
Anne Wilde (Chair)	Anne Wilde
Wilde Gareth	Apologies

7/10

