

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 12th FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.

Present: Cllr P Bowyer (Chair)
Cllr M Barnes
Cllr S Burch
Cllr D English
Cllr J George
Cllr M Groucott
Cllr C Holland
Cllr G Jones
Cllr B Nicholson
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr G Wilde
Cllr L Wright

In attendance:

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer / RFO
Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer / Deputy RFO
Owen Davies – Trustee, Plas Gunter Mansion

PR 12/25	Receive and approve apologies for absence: Cllr MA Brocklesby, Cllr B Callard, Cllr K Eldridge, Cllr M Powell, Cllr A Wilde. It was resolved to accept the apologies for absence.
PR 13/25	Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda. Cllr Simcock – Melville Theatre.
PR 14/25	To approve the minutes from 15th January 2025 Cllr Groucott proposed the minutes from the meeting on 15 th January 2025, be accepted as a true and accurate record seconded by Cllr C Holland. Resolved by all Councillors to accept this proposal.
PR 015/25	To receive a presentation from Plas Gunter Mansion A well-received and highly professional presentation detailing a heritage project, of national significance, right at the heart of historic Abergavenny. The presentation outlined plans to open the community asset of the Gunter Mansion, and grounds (by 2027/28), as a tourist destination. There are designs for (i) design of a heritage garden – a new public

	<p>green space in the town centre (ii) a sympathetic, modern looking extension, including a lift. By opening the path through the ground floor from Cross Street to the garden, the house and grounds will link the Gunter Mansion to other historic sites in Abergavenny on a heritage route. Funding from a development grant, local organisations including the Town Council, and Heritage Lottery funding. The Gunter Mansion has retail space on the ground floor to help support the project.</p>
<p>PR 16/25</p>	<p>Finance:</p> <p>(a) To receive Month 10 Reconciliation Report (b) To receive Month 10 Cashbook Report.</p> <p>Cllr Holland proposed sections a & b be held over until the next Policy and Resources meeting and reports delivered separately as Month 10 reports and Month 11 reports. Seconded by Cllr English. Resolved by all Councillors to approve this proposal.</p> <p>(c) To receive Month 10 bank statements. Proposed by Cllr Holland seconded by Cllr English that the bank statements be accepted as a true record. Resolved by all Councillors to approve this proposal.</p> <p>(d) To receive a grant application from The Melville Centre.</p> <p>Application form, constitution and accounts seen. Funds to be used to match fund (with Prosperity Funding) new LED stage lighting which can be used to teach stage lighting as well as for performances. Cllr Groucott stated that the outdated lighting system should be replaced, to help preserve the Melville as a destination for the arts along with the Borough Theatre. Cllrs Jones and George supported the argument for re application in April. The Principal Officer confirmed that the ATC Grant allocation was spent for this year, Cllrs could advise Melville to reapply in April 2025 or, authorise the grant to come from General Reserves. This would be entirely the decision of the councillors.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Barnes seconded by Cllr Burch that councillors agree the request with funding to come from General Reserves. 8 Councillors in agreement, 2 against, 2 abstentions.</p>

PR 17/25	<p>To receive a report on Allotments/Community Growing from Cllr Burch.</p> <p>Report received and noted.</p> <p>The questionnaire re: interest was well returned. 55 responses of interest in taking a plot and 18 responses willing to consider being part of a committee. Cllr Nicholson highly supportive of pursuing this. Any new constituted group would have the responsibility for developing a policy and awarding plots. Working Group meeting 17th February 2025 to consider next steps. Additional suggestion to invite interested parties to attend a meeting from 2pm on 'Seedy Sunday' at the Community Centre. Cllr Burch to contact interested parties, the Community Centre for a room and issue invitations. All Cllrs welcome to attend.</p>
PR 18/25	<p>To receive a report from the Principal Officer.</p> <p>Report received and noted.</p> <p>Cllr G. Wilde is attending online training with Planning Aid Wales.</p> <p>One Voice Wales (OVW) questionnaire completed and returned. Cllr Barnes requested a copy. Earlier today Cllr Bowyer, the Principal and Deputy Principal Officers attended an online meeting with OVW. Derek Walker – Senedd Future Generations Commissioner for Wales spoke about the 7 overarching principals and 50 key targets. As a point to note - these are built into our Strategy and Action Plan. The OVW Innovative Practice Awards 2025 closing date is 28th February. We should consider submissions again as other local councils look to what we do as exemplars of good practice. Thanks to councillors for the work reported in the Annual Report which is recognised for its good quality content.</p>
PR 19/25	<p>To receive an update from the Place Making steering committee:</p> <p>Cllr Bowyer: nothing to report since last meeting.</p>
PR 20/25	<p>To receive updates from Councillors on the Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>Invitational meeting of Councillors and Borough Theatre Team – meet and greet - building relationships.</p>
PR 21/25	<p>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough Theatre MCC / ATC Collaboration – Cllr Groucott and Cllr Nicholson – report on

	<p>meet/greet initiative at next committee meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melville CftA CIC Board – Cllrs Barnes and Cllr Burch: Nothing to report. • One Voice Wales: Cllrs Holland and Bowyer - On line meeting attended. • Abergavenny Citizens Advice Bureau – Cllr A Wilde and Cllr L Wright – no meeting to report.
PR22/25	<p>To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cllr Wright: Potential Public Art project transforming hoardings in Frogmore Street advance notice of upcoming meetings. b) Cllr Burch some progress on the Active Travel plans at Castle Meadows. Awaiting confirmation of 2 year funding. Too late in the year to start work although contractors are agreed. Work to start this year subject to funding. Work on the Bridge scheduled for 2026 – subject to funding. c) Cllr Jones and Cllr George requested that local councillors be given a tour of the New King Henry School due to open April 2025. Cllr Groucott offered to ask MCC on behalf of ATC.
PR23/25	<p>To consider items for the next meeting on 12th March 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive a Cost of Living Presentation from Emma Goode, Cost of Living Officer, One Voice Wales. • April 2025 opening of the new Abergavenny railway station lift/bridge.

Meeting ended 20:23 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR



DATE

