

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26th FEBRUARY 2025 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 L Wright

In attendance:

Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer / Deputy RFO
Community Police Officer – Gwent Community Team

E16/25	Receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllrs Eldridge, Simcock and G Wilde. All Councillors resolved to accept the reasons for apologies.
E17/25	Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda. Cllr Wright MCC Planning Committee; Cllr Wright left the room during item E28/25. They took no part in the discussion.
E18/25	To approve the minutes from 29th January 2025. Cllr Holland proposed the minutes from the meeting on 29 th January 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Jones. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.
E19/25	To receive a presentation from Gwent Police Neighbourhood Team Last month's crime figures received and noted. New facility at Llanfoist enables response time to be quicker allowing police to attend and deal with calls more speedily. Positive engagement with businesses has seen shoplifting figures come down. Recent major success recovering £60k of stolen tools. Police now returning property to owners. ASB figures are down. Youths, mostly visiting by train, engaged in anti-social behaviour (ASB) around supermarkets. Police 'zero tolerance'. Working with schools to educate young people on the dangers of knife crime. Cllr Jones thanked police for their engagement and continued support

E20/25	<p>To receive a report on the Environment Budget Headings.</p> <p>Received and noted. Cllr Jones proposed the finance report be approved, seconded by Cllr Holland. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.</p>
E21/25	<p>To Receive a report on the insurance renewal for Keep Abergavenny Tidy.</p> <p>Report received and noted. It was stated that the cost was very minimal given all the work done by KAT volunteers presenting the Town in such a clean and welcoming manner. Cllr George proposed the insurance renewal be approved, seconded by Cllr Wright. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.</p>
E22/25	<p>To receive a report on the purchase of an electric wheelbarrow for community use.</p> <p>Report received and noted. Cllrs requested an agreement form be approved prior to release to community group. Agreement to cover: training in its use around the town; return in clean and tidy state; public liability; security of the kit; sign out sign in keys. Further request from Cllr George to 'brand' kit with Town Council logo.</p> <p>Cllr Jones proposed the kit for Town Team; In Bloom contractors; and community use be approved, seconded by Cllr Wright. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.</p>
E23/25	<p>To consider a proposal for the purchase of a Gateway Wi-Fi unit for expansion of Smart Town Technology.</p> <p>To continue to expand smart town technology with a second LoRaWan gateway for the town. The Principal Officer has contacted suppliers for quotations to purchase and install kit. MCC have agreed a location and the supplier can provide the kit and installation. The recommendation, on grounds of sustainability and portability, would be for the solar panelled, stand-alone unit. However if council approve the purchase, it is entirely the decision of councillors which option to accept. It was agreed that expansion of the Smart Town Technology would be welcome and would encourage schools to access, research and share data. eg additional data from air quality monitoring on and near the A40. This data would be available on the ATC dashboard. There was debate as to the advantages of each option.</p>

	<p>Cllr Wright proposed the purchase of the Solar Powered option be approved, seconded by Cllr George. Councillors voted 5 -2 to accept this proposal.</p>
E24/25	<p>To receive a report on a public art project for Frogmore Street</p> <p>Cllr Wright acknowledged the initial research of the Abergavenny and District Civic Society (ADCS) and, presented a report featuring a public art scheme on the hoardings around the Richards site. The report outlined an initial exploratory meeting with interested parties, a representative of the site owner and representatives from ATC and MCC. To go ahead the project would need approval to go to tender and confirmed sources of funding. Costs have ranged from £30k - £75k depending on the artists, materials and agreement on the installation as temporary or demountable for future use. Cllr Wright proposed local schools be involved as well as local artists; the owner has given permission for the scheme requesting 'work of quality'. Discussions are on-going. Cllr Barnes commented that it is not feasible for ATC staff to take on the project, opined that finding an organiser to take on the project and keep on target was a way forward. The project could be completed in stages as funds become available.</p>
E25/25	<p>To receive and note the Principal Officers update.</p> <p>Items for update are covered under other headings.</p>
E26/25	<p>To receive and note the Service Delivery update.</p> <p>Situation unchanged. Town Team still one member short. MCC provide cover where staffing allows. Principal Officer liaising with MCC regarding replacement staffing. Toilet SLA continues. Servicing of sanitary bins as current. Going forward, with emerging plans to support Smart Town initiatives a new e-wheelbarrow is expected to provide sustainable watering for ATC planted containers. New Corten planters are to be installed on Frogmore Street next week. Deputy Principal Officer has liaised with business community re: locations. Both Municipal Planting Contractors' contracts can be approved for continuation 2025/26. This was agreed by Committee. Deputy Principal Officer to convene meeting with contractors and report back to next Environment Committee.</p>

	Willows Nursery to retain watering contract for containers and baskets as planted up by them.
E27/25	<p>To receive a report on Abergavenny in Bloom.</p> <p>Further breakdown of costs associated with Abergavenny in Bloom incurred with hanging baskets, requested by Cllr Barnes.</p> <p>Meetings for volunteer and 'It's Your Neighbourhood' entries 11th February 2025 and 18th February 2025 were well attended. Further meeting to 'badge' and advertise Abergavenny and Britain in Bloom scheduled for 2nd April 2025. Suggested theme is 'heritage'.</p> <p>ADCS project to rejuvenate the Tesco bus-stop beds with local volunteer groups now underway. It can become another It's Your Neighbourhood entry.</p>
E28/25	<p>To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications:</p> <p>DM/2025/00128 recommend approval</p> <p>DM/2025/00148 recommend approval</p> <p>DM/2025/00163 recommend approval. General comment: much to commend in the application in terms of improving the aspect of that gateway to town and in employment opportunities.</p>
E29/25	<p>To receive updates from Councillors on the Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>Ongoing projects once underway, could enhance Strategy and Action Plan. Updates at a later date.</p>
E30/25	<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 – Reports received and noted. CCTV to be fixed to the leisure centre. Welsh Government edict that no new CCTV can be fixed to lampposts. All Abergavenny cameras fully operative. One member of the team is retiring. Plan to repeat Sugar Loaf pilot. Blue light CCTV options cost effective runs with own operations centre. Next meeting is next quarter. • Friends of Linda Vista Gardens: Cllrs Wright & Simcock – no report • Friends of Bailey Park: Cllrs Bowyer & English – no report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 – no report. • Greener Abergavenny – Cllrs Barnes & A Wilde – Membership growing; plan is to change the format to engage more with public by holding monthly events and to change the format of the Autumn Fair (11th October) and hold it at the Priory Centre. There is interest in joining with projects at Neville Hall and membership to form a CIO and encourage more volunteering. Project moving ahead.
E31/25	To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Environment Committee. MCC offering the Carnegie Library building for rental. 2 tenders being considered.
E32/25	Items for the next meeting on 26th March 2025 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abergavenny in Bloom – agenda item. 2. Public Art project: Richards Site Frogmore Street update 3. NRW speaker

Meeting ended 20:31 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR *A Wilde* DATE 26 | 3 | 2025

