

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

**Present:** Cllr G Jones (Chair)  
Cllr M Barnes  
Cllr S Burch  
Cllr B Nicholson  
Cllr M Powell  
Cllr A Wilde  
Cllr G Wilde

**In attendance:** Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer/RFO  
Cllr L Wright

**Public present:** Owen Lewis: Owen wished to ask Council about support for Banks on the High Street in Abergavenny. He has met previously with Cllr Wright and the Principal Officer as well as MP for Monmouthshire Catherine Fookes, who spoke about banks on the High Street in Parliament. Not keen on hubs, as they will still be unable to service many who are vulnerable or ned support. Are Halifax going to have a presence in with Lloyds? Vulnerable or Older People need and want to use cash. It is also a chance to speak to someone and these people may help to spot any potential victims of scams. Would like to see support for the banks that remain on the High Street. Can the Council find out more behind the rationale of why there is so much support for banking hubs? The petition he gathered highlighted similar concerns to those discussed by Councillors. Banks make the town good and safer to use as so many are nervous with using online facilities. Councillors commented that most business banking can be done online as for individuals, but the lack of somewhere to get or pay in cash affects independent retailers. Charities suffer as there is nowhere to pay in cash. It was discussed if Council can support the use of cash, and defend those banks that remain on the High Street by way of a statement of support. Suggested that Chair of Committee should write to MP about this. Councillors could contact each branch we still have to offer support and to lobby to keep them there. Many in our community still rely on cash, and don't even have bank accounts, and vulnerable adults need cash support as their support workers give them their allowance weekly, so need an in person facility. Can't put a price on the in person interactions. Email to ask for update from MP, with a view to

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offering support via a statement to support the campaign to keep Banks on the High Street.

PC14/25	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence.</b> Apologies received from Cllr J George. All Councillors resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
PC15/25	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest.</b> None
PC16/25 <i>Joined late</i>	<b>To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025.</b> Cllr G Wilde proposed the minutes from the meeting on 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025, should be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Simcock. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.
PC17/25	<b>To receive and note report from MonLife Play and Youth Team</b>  Reports circulated and noted. No response from representative at MonLife on presentation so will ask Josh Klien to attend future meeting. Clarification on plans for 25/26, branding and connection to Abergavenny schemes so public know about the Council contribution, and to ask for a breakdown to show specific figures for Abergavenny residents/service users.
PC18/25	<b>To receive and note the Principal Officer's update.</b>  Received and noted. Request from People and Communities Committee to ask Environment Committee to write Letter of support to CADW and MCC Planning for Mill Street application. Thanks noted for Deputy Principal Officer on work on Frogmore Street schemes. Council noted award received by the Principal Officer from High Sheriff of Gwent.
PC19/25	<b>Finance: To receive and approve the budget report for specific budgets allocated to this committee.</b> Report received and noted. Principal Officer reminded Council that the Grant Application Form is being redesigned alongside guidance notes for applicants. Cllr G Wilde proposed the Finance Report be accepted. Seconded by Cllr B Nicholson. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.

PC20/25	<p><b>To receive an update on the Events to be held in Abergavenny in 2025</b></p> <p>Cllr Nicholson said the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 on Teams had a lower attendance than previous meetings but was still very constructive. Next one is 3<sup>rd</sup> April 6pm – 7pm on Teams. Our aim is to get a new Events Form on to our website for key information to be uploaded by event organisers. One overarching comment we keep getting, is that there is so much on, people don't know where to look.</p> <p>Cllr G Wilde asked if Mike Skilton from Black Mountain Jazz can be invited to the next one as they are organising a Community Day on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Barnes asked if we had received any information on the Country and Western Festival happening in May. Cllr Burch asked if the new uploads can also be shared or directed to Visit Monmouthshire website.</p> <p>Principal Officer is meeting with Event Management Company to ask for costs to support VE80, and Christmas Light Switch On Event with staging and lighting.</p> <p>Councillors asked if the Electronic Notice Board can be fixed: Principal Officer is working with Borough Theatre to get a WiFi connection stable enough to support the board set up, and then we can start offering the space for community events and information once again. Hope to have a positive update soon.</p>
PC21/25	<p><b>To receive any updates from Councillors for the Strategy and Action Plan:</b></p> <p>9: The gardens at Nevill Hall Hospital are becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation</p> <p>25: Cllr Jones looking to engage with Ysgol Y Fenni</p> <p>28: Stand up to racism initiative: Sean Walton – consider inviting to future meeting. Abergavenny is a very diverse town it would be good to reach out and invite him along. Review and renew statement of support for Town of Sanctuary. Ensure attendance and representation at Community Iftar.</p>
PC22/25	<p><b>Report from Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Abergavenny Community Trust</b> – Cllrs Barnes and G. Wilde: successful open day 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Raising more funds via grants. Looking into gifts in wills: 10% can be gifted to a registered charity if your estate is more than £350k. Seedy Sunday is this weekend, and the allotment community growing space meeting will be the same day at 2pm.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Abergavenny Eisteddfod</b> – Cllrs Simcock and Jones: next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE)</b> – Cllrs Jones and English: Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Audited Accounts now complete.</li> <li>• <b>Mind in Gwent</b> – Cllrs G Wilde and A Wilde: Meeting with Dave again in Abergavenny, hopefully in the next month or so. Looking for 6 monthly Abergavenny specific updates.</li> </ul>
PC23/25	<p><b>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee:</b></p> <p>Budget Day tomorrow at Monmouthshire County Council. Armed Forces Day launch for 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in Caldicot Castle.</p>
PC24/25	<p><b>Items for consideration at the next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</b></p> <p>Councillors would like to ask the new Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a future meeting to talk about her remit and look specifically at Abergavenny projects.</p>

**Meeting ended at 20:15pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR**



**DATE**

