

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

#### Present:

Cllr A Wilde (Chair)  
Cllr Nicholson (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr M Barnes  
Cllr P Bowyer  
Cllr B Nicholson  
Cllr M Powell  
Cllr D Simcock  
Cllr G Wilde  
Cllr L Wright

#### In attendance:

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer/RFO  
Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer/Deputy RFO  
Cllr R Griffiths- Observation of Committee  
Paul Garnault – Manager of the Abergavenny Food-bank  
One member of the public present to observe meeting

PC01/26	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence.</b>  Apologies received from Cllr J George, Cllr G Jones, Cllr Wright All Councillors unanimously resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
PC02/26	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest.</b> Cllrs A Wilde and G Wilde – PC04/26
PC03/26	<b>To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 4th November 2025.</b>  Cllr Bowyer proposed the minutes from the meeting on 4th November 2025, should be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr G Wilde. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.

PC04/26	<p><b>To receive a presentation from the Manager of the Abergavenny Food Bank.</b></p> <p>An informative presentation about the history, organisation, activities and rising need was given. Councillors were very appreciative of the presentation and to learn of the work, by the food-bank, in supporting the community and facilitating clients out of food-poverty. Clients are referred (with voucher) to access the food-bank. Key priority is helping people gain agency support to step out of food-poverty. CAB (financial inclusion) and GDAS (substance abuse) officers attend sessions to offer help and advice. Over the last 12 months over 2500 packages of a 3-day emergency food supply have been distributed by volunteers. Donations of food come from the generosity of people in Abergavenny. Cllr A.Wilde thanked Paul for his presentation.</p>
PC05/26	<p><b>To receive and note the Principal Officer's update.</b> Report received and noted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 7CORNERS. The Admin Officer at 7Corners asked for assistance in sharing job adverts. The Mayor and Principal Officer are meeting with the Admin Officer to ensure the deliverables which form our Cooperation Agreement are able to be fulfilled.</li> <li>2. BLAENAVON CLUSTER PROJECT A Clustering Charter for Tourism and Cultural Collaboration has been discussed and agreed in principle, to be presented to Full Council at Abergavenny on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026, and Blaenavon on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 respectively. Providing both Councils ratify this agreement, this will support Blaenavon Town Council's Tourism Objectives Document, and Abergavenny Town Council will write and present their own Tourism Objectives Document to Policy and Resources Committee in February/March 2026. Representatives from the Tourist Information Centre and The Media Agency provided valuable input and advise on next steps/further collaborations.</li> <li>3. BEAUPREAU TWINNING ASSOCIATION Information under events.</li> </ol>

	<p>4. ANEURIN BEVAN HEALTH BOARD SURVEY RESPONSE The Aneurin Bevan University Health Board would like a consultation response to the reorganisation of the Stroke Rehabilitation Services currently provided.</p> <p>5. NEIGHBOURHOOD CARE NETWORK NEWSLETTER The latest newsletter has been circulated to Councillors for information.</p> <p>6. HEALTH AND WELLBEING DIRECTORY The latest directory has been shared with Councillors for information.</p>
PC06/26	<p><b>Finance: To receive and approve the budget report for specific budgets allocated to this committee.</b></p> <p>Received and noted. Thanks extended to the Finance Officer for greater clarity in the presentation of the Finance Reports.</p> <p>With the increased costs for daily papers, Cllr Barnes requested that an enquiry be made as to how well they are used. Cllr Nicholson suggested that a prominent sign be displayed alerting people visiting the library that papers were available at the counter.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Bowyer, seconded by Cllr G Wilde that the Finance Report be accepted. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.</p>
PC07/26	<p><b>To receive a report from Cllr Gethin Jones on the Open-Air Cinema Project 2026</b></p> <p>Report received and noted.</p> <p>Contact made with a drive-in cinema company. Drive-in would enable cinema goers to hear the movie directly from their car. The company already work with Blaenavon Town Council on their outdoor Cinema offer. There are options the company offer: OPTION 1 - ATC RENT A SPACE AND SELL TICKETS, HIRE THE SCREEN, FILMS AND TECHS, RUN AN EVENT ATC rent outdoor space such as the leisure centre, sell tickets, host stalls and run food and drink concessions as an ATC event.</p>

	<p>The Cinema company run the event. The company not prepared to run an event at this time.</p> <p><b>OPTION 2 – ATC HIRE THE SCREEN, FILMS AND TECHS AND RUN AN EVENT</b></p> <p>The company recommend this option. ATC sell tickets, run food options, sell advertising spots or stall spaces. The company would set up and run the cinema for a fixed fee: The event is limited to 40 spaces. Committee offered thanks to Cllr Jones for his research 'though concluded that ATC would not be in a position to run such an event. Cllr Bowyer, seconded by Cllr G Wilde, proposed that the concept of facilitating such an event, be left on the table, but not taken further at this time. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.</p>
PC08/27	<p><b>To receive an update on the Events to be held in Abergavenny in 2026</b></p> <p>Report received and noted.</p> <p>1 Twinning Association.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Youth football teams from Beaupreau will attend the Town Hall/Theatre Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May as part of a cultural experience.</li> <li>(ii) 40<sup>th</sup> twinning Anniversary of Beaupreau/Munsingen. A delegation from Abergavenny has been invited to Beaupreau to attend the celebrations 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026.</li> </ul> <p>2 Changing regulations surrounding the organising of events. ESAG requires anti-terrorism training. Stewards will need to be trained in order for us to be compliant with regulations. Looking ahead if public events are to go ahead: road closures arranged, 2-way-radios ordered; specialists eg Events Company, St John's Ambulance and Security should be in attendance to protect staff, stewards and public. Be aware this adds to budgeting the cost of events.</p> <p>3 Cllr Nicholson to Chair on-line events meeting in January 2026 to update the calendar. Meeting open to all Cllrs.</p> <p>4 Britain in Bloom: July 2026</p>
PC09/26	<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: Grateful to ATC for increasing the grant. Other funding sources falling away as harder to meet grant criteria.</li> <li>• <b>Abergavenny Eisteddfod</b> – Cllrs Burch and Groucutt: Event scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026; sponsorship letter circulated.</li> <li>• <b>Abergavenny Relief in Need</b> - Cllrs Simcock and A Wilde: no report – meeting scheduled for 08/01/2026.</li> <li>• <b>Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE)</b> – Cllrs Jones and English: Christmas event well attended and well received.</li> <li>• <b>Mind in Gwent</b> – Cllrs G Wilde and A Wilde: co-operation agreement forwarded.</li> <li>• <b>7 Corners</b> – Cllr Barnes – ongoing changes.</li> <li>• <b>Writing Festival</b> – Cllr B Nicholson: no report</li> <li>• <b>Food Festival</b> – Cllr G Wilde - no report</li> <li>• <b>Arts Festival</b> – Cllr D Simcock: point of contact - no report</li> <li>• <b>Black Mountain Jazz</b> – Cllr G Wilde – no report</li> </ul>
PC10/26	<p><b>Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee:</b> Nothing to report</p>
PC11/26	<p><b>Items for consideration at the next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.</b></p> <p>(i) Events 2026</p>

Meeting ended at 20:50pm

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

CHAIR..... *A Wilde* ..... DATE ..... *4 | 3 | 2026* .....

