ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 8th APRIL 2026 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.

Present: Cllr P Bowyer
Cllr M Barnes
Cllr S Burch
Cllr B Callard
Cllr D English
Cllr R Griffiths
Cllr M Groucutt
Cllr C Holland
Cllr G Jones
Cllr Nicholson
Cllr M Powell
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr A Wilde
Cllr G Wilde
Cllr L Wright

In attendance:
Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer / RFO
Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer / Deputy RFO
Rachel Lacey – Deputy RFO / Deputy Principal Officer
Rona Richards – Artistic Director, Happy Dragons Theatre CIC

PR 43/26	**Apologies for Absence received from:** Cllr J George. It was resolved to accept the apologies for absence. Cllr Barnes chaired the meeting. He proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for his outstanding work throughout the year, engaging with youth.
PR 44/26	**Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda:** Cllr Powell item PR55/26
PR 45/26	**To approve the minutes from 11th March 2026:** Cllr Holland proposed the minutes from the meeting on 11th March 2026, be accepted as a true and accurate record seconded by Cllr G Wilde. Resolved by all Councillors to accept this proposal.

PR 46/26	**To receive a report from Gwent Police:** Report received and noted. Reduction in Shoplifting Offences – greater police presence in the town and successful walk about with the Community Safety Team. Engagement with surgeries going well as is the Gaming Van initiative. Visits around 'County-Lines' event. Speeding and Seatbelt awareness raising event. Health and Safety issues - youths on rooftops – police working with housing associations and businesses to explore how access to roofs can be denied. Team was pleased to be invited to Iftar events. Cllr questions/concerns raised were referred back to police.
PR 47/26	**Finance:** (a) To receive and approve Month 12 Reconciliation Report. Included in the report are payments for the Market Hall Roof Decorations materials. Replacement IT equipment costs. Free Masons funding paid out for Flood relief. (b) To receive and approve Month 12 Cashbook Report and Trial Balance Reports (c) To receive and approve Month 12 Bank statements Reports received and noted. Cllr G Wilde proposed the finance reports (a-c) be accepted as a whole, rather than in parts. Seconded by Cllr A Wilde. Resolved by all Councillors to approve this proposal and approve the reports. (d) To receive an end of year report from the Finance Officer Going forward there will be a third cash-book 3 report for transparency with the CCLA account, To be noted that ATC should be extremely proud of what has been achieved with the precept. ATC has made smart use of the funding to support and enhance the town. Cllr English wished to acknowledge the work of the staff to get to this point. Cllr Holland proposed the finance reports (d) be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Nicholson. Resolved by all Councillors to approve the report.

PR 48/26	**To receive and consider the renewal Service Level for Children & Young People's Provision from MonLife.** Mon Life has proposed a new Service Level Agreement for £10k funding. SLR received and noted. The ATC funding allows flexibility in provision. As part of the agreement, MonLife will furnish Council with a report. Proposal from Cllr English seconded by Cllr Brocklesby to accept the SLA. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.
PR 49/26	**To receive a presentation of a grant application from Happy Dragons Theatre CIC** This is an Abergavenny-based theatre company which creates theatre for, with and about communities in Wales. Currently working with People First Abergavenny, Happy Dragons run theatre workshops exploring the themes of self-advocacy, inclusion, and social connection. Current project: 'Dance' an original film about inclusion, drawing on lived experience of feeling 'othered' and socially isolated. The script also celebrates talents, dreams, and everything that makes people unique and loved. Happy Dragons Theatre are awaiting the outcome of an application to the Arts Council Wales Creative Fund and the local Rotary Club requesting support to make the film. Cllr Brocklesby raised the idea of conditionality, supported by Cllr Barnes. ATC should meet with the Artistic Director to discuss (i) funding requirements should the Arts Council Grant be approved; (ii) a clear video distribution plan. Answers to questions such as which networks and socials will host the film and engagement with organisations such as Autism Wales/Disability Wales. Proposal from Cllr Nicholson seconded by Cllr Brocklesby to accept the application and award the requested amount; request updates re: Arts Council funding, firm up the distribution list post-production. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.
PR 50/26	**To receive a report on the Borough Theatre and wider building from Monmouthshire County Council**

	MCC invited to future meeting.
PR 51/26	**To receive an update on repairs of roads, pavements throughout the town centre.** Works scheduled to begin in April have been put back due to workload/lack of budget caused by potholes and landslips. Cllr Powell reported that Tudor Street has developed very deep potholes. Deputy Principal Officer to photograph and report this to MCC.
PR 52/26	**To receive and approve the award submissions for the One Voice Wales Conference 1st July 2026.** Draft submissions presented. Proposal from Cllr Brocklesby seconded by Cllr Holland to approve the 3 submissions subject to correction of typographical errors and addition of statistics to support statements. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.
PR 53/26	**To receive a report from the Principal Officer.** Report received and noted. 1 Town of Culture submission completed and submitted – the theme is culture and the landscape. Great support from Media Agency; consultants and people who completed the survey. Thanks have gone out to groups/people providing contact information about Abergavenny's place in the world. Regardless of the Town of Culture result, ATC would like to get everyone together – May/June – to see how we use the information we have gathered to create a tourism specific to Abergavenny. Huge thanks to the Mayor and everyone who contributed. The Town of Culture submission will be sent to Cllrs. 2 School Public Art project. Mayor invited to speak. 3 Request for volunteer Cllr to join online OVW Larger Councils meeting.
PR 54/26	**To receive an update on the progression of Placemaking projects.** 1) Accessibility Audit completed in conjunction with Promobility Powerpoint will be sent to Cllrs for consideration. Presentation to Promobility group tomorrow.

	2) Trees replaced on Lion Street; metal grills and tree guards to protect trees. 3) Creation of Hwb on Castle Street. Awaiting quotations. Delivery Team meeting scheduled for mid May. 4) Waiting on 2 further quotations for demolition of White Horse Lane toilets. 5) Abergavenny Mural completed. 6) SWTRA have put bollards in on Lower Monk Street. Businesses have passed on gratitude.
PR 55/26	**To consider the following planning applications:** Cllr Powell left the meeting. DM/2026/00170 - Approval DM/2025/01495 - Approval DM/2026/00413 - Approval
PR 56/26	**To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:** • Borough Theatre Cllr Groucutt and Nicholson – no report • Melville CftA CIC Board – Cllrs Barnes and A. Wilde – hoping to sign long-term lease with MCC. Delay is in the detail. • One Voice Wales: Cllrs Bowyer and G Wilde – no report. • Abergavenny Citizens Advice Bureau – Cllrs A Wilde and Wright – No report.
PR 57/26	**To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee.** 1. March 26th 'til elections front facing engagements have to be done in different ways – no political gain. 2. Potholes – repairing between 50 and 80 a day – situation made worse by the bad weather. Report frequently. Process: new teams respond with urgency then return within 14 days, then return to patch or resurface. Needs better communication and better signage.

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PR 58/26	**To consider items for the next meeting on 13th May 2026 which will follow the Annual General Meeting.** **Items for future meetings:** 1. National Emergency Rethink – film about the Climate/Food Emergency just released. Expectation is that the film will be shown in every locality to involve MPs Councillors from County and Community. Cllr Barnes requested that ATC support, in principle, a showing in Abergavenny in the Autumn. 2. Report/Update on Borough Theatre/Market from Monmouthshire County Council Tracey Thomas - Head of Culture, Community Learning and Events.

Meeting ended 20.59 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR .....**DATE** 13 MAY '25