ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 20th MAY 2026 AT 7PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY

Present:

Cllr A Wilde (Chair)
Cllr M Barnes
Cllr J George
Cllr R Griffiths
Cllr M Powell
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr G Wilde

Absent: Cllr L Wright

In attendance:

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer/RFO
Rachel Lacey – Finance Officer/ Deputy Principal Officer
Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer/Deputy RFO
Youth Leaders from Abergavenny Youth Centre
Representative from ACE

PC23/26	**Receive and approve apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Cllr G Jones, Cllr B Nicholson. All Councillors unanimously resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
PC24/26	**Receive Declarations of Interest.** None received
PC25/26	**To receive and approve the minutes from the last meeting on 4th March 2026.** Cllr G Wilde proposed the minutes from the meeting on 4th March 2026, should be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Powell. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.
PC26/26	**Finance: To receive and approve the budget report for specific budgets allocated to this committee.**

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	(a) To receive and approve the budget report for specific budgets allocated to this committee. Report received and noted. Proposed by Cllr G Wilde, seconded by Cllr Griffiths that the Finance Report be accepted. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal. (b) The grant application from ACE (Abergavenny Community Enterprise). The Grant requested £1600 for their annual Play Day in August. So far £300 has been offered by MHA, sponsorship of £375 has been secured, totalling £675. A total of £925 is now required for the event to go ahead. Decision to be deferred to the next meeting of Policy and Resources Committee to enable further information to be requested. Proposed by Cllr George, seconded by Cllr Barnes, and approved by all Councillors. (c) To consider a Grant Application from Y Fenni Eisteddfod. Costs provided were from 2025, deferred to the next meeting of Policy and Resources Committee for further information to be requested.
PC27/26	**To receive a presentation from the Monmouthshire Youth Service.** Nicola and Kelly gave a thorough and informative presentation to the Committee outlining the activities that they facilitate using the annual funding provided by Abergavenny Town Council. They are looking to rebuild links and relationships with the local Gwent Police Neighbourhood Team. Nicola outlined the need for more equipment for the youth centre itself. They currently buy second hand furniture form Home Makers in Abergavenny – particularly sofas and chairs that are easy to clean and wipe down – but they are always needing more. Meeting to be arranged for Nicola and the Principal Officer to discuss a list of needs and requirements to look at how the Council may be able to assist. There was an invite extended for Council to attend the Youth Centre and visit the sessions held: Junior Session: Tuesdays 5pm – 6;30pm Senior Session: Thursdays 5pm – 6:30pm Further update on the equipment needs and possible support to be delivered to the Committee at the next meeting.

PC28/26	**To receive an update on the Tourism and Heritage agreement with Blaenavon Town Council.** 1.1 A three-year cluster agreement between the two councils has been agreed. This will run until 2028/29. 1.2 A meeting between all town council staff has taken place to introduce the teams, and to familiarise each council with the running of the other. 1.3 A short film announcing the agreement was made and released early May to positive support across all social media platforms and press. 2. RECOMMENDATION 2.1 To approve the presentation to ALBA (Abergavenny Ladies Business Association) on 4th June 2026. 2.2 To recommend support of a promotional networking event in both towns. 2.3 To recommend further investigation of an Events 2027 promotional package for both towns. Proposal from Cllr Barnes seconded by Cllr G Wilde to approve the presentation to ALBA; support a promotional networking event plus Events 2027 promotional package for both towns. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.
PC29/26	**To receive an update on the Town of Culture 2028** Received and noted. Abergavenny Town Council has submitted an expression of interest for the Town of Culture 2028. 1.1 ATC have been asked to provide more information by 26th May 2026, around the accountable and delivery bodies, for the initiative. 1.1 The Principal Officer has approached a panel of professionals (highlighted in the submission) to stand objectively separate from the organisations and groups and act as a prospective committee helping drive the project. 1.2 Although this initiative will go into the next Council's term, it would be prudent to have a representative to sit on this panel

	to help guide the Council's interest on this part of the submission. 2. RECOMMENDATION 2.1 To allocate a representative to sit alongside the Principal Officer to work with the Delivery Body to write a full bid submission should we get shortlisted. Cllr G Wilde offered to stand. 2.2 To approve the creation of both a delivery body and accountable body for the project going forward. Proposal from Cllr Barnes seconded by Cllr Simcock to approve both parts of the recommendation and that Cllr G Wilde be approved to join the panel. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal.
PC30/27	**To receive and note the Principal Officer's update.** Report received and noted. 1. Wellbeing Information Centre. To bring to the attention of Council: Funding acquired by Monmouthshire's Social Services, GAVO and Bridges has not been renewed for 2026/27. The centre will not have the same opening hours or courses available from the end of May 2026. Many classes have relocated to the Tithe Barn Community Wellbeing Café. 2. Parking Initiative A parking disc initiative. An annually produced, set charge, parking disc purchasable in a number of local shops and council offices enables holders two hours free parking in nominated car parks. The scheme has helped to encourage more people to come into that town and use the services and shops. The initiative may be worth proposing to Monmouthshire County Council to see if this may work to promote town centre visits across the county.
PC31/26	**To receive an update on the Events to be held in Abergavenny in 2026** Report received and noted.

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	Events page on the town council website now being regularly populated with event information from across Abergavenny and the wider area. A town has a year-round, hard copy, events leaflet delivered to every household. An initiative like this may be worth considering. RECOMMENDATION 1.1 To convene an online Events Meeting to discuss a possible Events 2027 programme. 1.2 To consider a joint programme across Blaenavon and Abergavenny. 1.3 To recommend contacting all event organisers to ensure the information for this year's events are on the webpage to maximise coverage. All Committee members in agreement with the recommendation.
PC32/26	**Report from Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee:** • **Abergavenny Community Trust** – Cllrs Barnes and G. Wilde: meeting in the coming week. • **Abergavenny Eisteddfod** – Cllrs Burch and Groucutt: no report. • **Abergavenny Relief in Need -** Cllrs Simcock and A Wilde: no report. • **Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE)** – Cllrs Jones and English: no report. • **Mind in Gwent –** Cllrs G Wilde & A Wilde: Funding in place to continue staffing. • **7 Corners** – Cllr Barnes – Newsletter provided however outreach work with young people at the centre not yet begun. No IYE Festival planned 2026. Cllr Barnes proposed, seconded by Cllr Powell, that the funds are withheld until it is clear that the deliverables are actioned and 7's are supporting young people. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal. • **Writing Festival** – Cllr B Nicholson: no report. • **Food Festival** – Cllr G Wilde - no report • **Arts Festival** – Cllr D Simcock: 6th June free-to-public event town wide. Due to circumstances beyond their control the Arts Festival Organisers requested assistance. If committee are in

	agreement: invoices from MCC street licencing and the Events Company, both trusted suppliers, can be paid by ATC from Arts Festival funding from their co-operation agreement. Proposed by Cllr A Wilde and seconded by Cllr Barnes that the recommendation is accepted. All Cllrs resolved to accept this proposal. • **Black Mountain Jazz** – Cllr G Wilde – Increasing outreach to attract young people to BM Jazz Cats. • **Plas Gunter Mansion Trust** – Cllrs B Nicholson & B Callard – no report. • **Tithe Barn** – Cllrs G Wilde and R Griffiths – no report.
PC33/26	**Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee:** AGM held on 14 May 2026. Councillors formally reappointed Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby as Council Leader and Cllr Tudor Thomas as Chair.
PC34/26	**Items for consideration at the next meeting 1st July 2026.** 1 Grant application from The Abergavenny Eisteddfod 2 Invite Parking and Enforcement to present to Council

Meeting ended at 20:58pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR..A Wilde..... **DATE** ..1/7/2026.....