

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 8TH JULY 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 R Griffiths
Cllr J George
Cllr M Groucutt
Cllr C Holland
Cllr B Nicholson
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr A Wilde
Cllr G Wilde
Cllr L Wright

In attendance:

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer/RFO
Rachel Lacey – Deputy Principal Officer/Deputy RFO
Ben Morris & Mia Morris
Kathy Young – DanceBlast Abergavenny

PR 87/26	Apologies for Absence received from: Cllr MA Brocklesby, Cllr D English, Cllr G Jones and Cllr M Powell. It was resolved to accept the apologies for absence.
PR 88/26	Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda: None.
PR 89/26	To approve the minutes from 10th June 2026: Cllr G Wilde proposed the minutes from the meeting on the 10 th June 2026 be accepted as a true and accurate record seconded by Cllr A Wilde. Resolved by all Councillors to accept this proposal.



PR 90/26	To receive and note the reports from Gwent Police. A report was not available, as there will be a walkaround with members of Gwent Police, members of Monmouthshire Safety Team and Councillors at 4pm on Thursday 9th July 2026. To meet at the Town Hall - If it is too hot to walk about Councillors can highlight any issues or areas of concern to the Police and Monmouthshire Safety Team.
PR 91/26	Finance: Reports received and noted (a) To receive and approve Month 3 Reconciliation Report. (b) To receive and approve Month 3 Cashbook Report and Trial Balance Reports. (c) To receive and approve Month 3 Bank Statements. Cllr G Wilde proposed the finance reports (a-c) be accepted as a whole, rather than in parts. Seconded by Cllr Griffiths. Resolved by all Councillors to approve this proposal and approve the reports. (d) To receive a grant application from Abergavenny Ministry Area. Councillors received a grant application from the Abergavenny Ministry Area for St Mary's Church who are supporting the Abergavenny Yarning Ladies bring an exhibition from The Longest Yarn to Abergavenny, for display in St Mary's Church in May 2027. Project cost is £2,500 and they are applying for £2,000 towards the costs of bringing The Longest Yarn to Abergavenny and keep the entry free. It was proposed by Cllr Nicholson that they also look at funding from other sources and the town council award a grant of £1,000, seconded by Cllr Barnes. Resolved by all Councillors to approve this proposal, as per Local Government Act 1972, s145; Provision of entertainment and support to the arts, and s144, Power to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism.
PR 92/26	To receive a presentation and report from DanceBlast Abergavenny. Councillors received a presentation from Kathy Young, Company Director of DanceBlast Abergavenny.

	Currently in a building behind the Melville Centre. Introduced aerial circus in 2018 and cover ages 5 to adult with a reputation for inclusivity. Over 500 community members attend each week for a variety of classes. DanceBlast are asking for support from the town council, for DanceBlast to purchase the Old Drill Hall which currently houses the Baker Street Cinema, along with on-going support for 3 to 5 years. They are looking at grants from the Welsh Government Community Facilities fund and the Lottery People and Places fund. They are looking for 10% of the building purchase cost from the Town Council (approx. £50k) and also a Co-operation Agreement of £15-£20k per year for 5 years towards set up costs and renovations. It was agreed that the Principal Officer RFO/Deputy RFO will bring a report on the General Reserve and Ear Marked Reserves to the next meeting in September to enable Councillors to make an informed decision regarding the 10% contribution to the building purchase cost. The Principal Officer will ask Kathy from DanceBlast to populate the Co-operation Agreement template so it can be brought to the September meeting.
PR 93/26	To receive a report from the Principal Officer. A verbal report was given. 1. ONE VOICE WALES CONFERENCE & AWARD PRESENTATION Cllr G Wilde, Cllr Bowyer, Principal Officer and Deputy Principal Officer attended the conference and award presentation last week and were delighted to win an award for 'Best Youth Engagement Initiative'. We will now be presenting on the subject at the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference in September. We also received a Highly Commended Certificate for 'Community Engagement Project' for our entry regarding the It's Your Neighbourhood initiative for Abergavenny in Blook, and a Commended Certificate for 'Use of Digital Resources' for the Podcasts.

2. PLACEMAKING PROCESS AWARD

Thanks to the Regen Team at Monmouthshire County Council and Chris Jones on a consultancy basis, the Placemaking Process won an award at the Royal Institute of Town Planners.

3. MAY 2027 ELECTIONS

A query was raised at the People and Communities Committee meeting last week over who can stand for what in the May 2027 elections. There was some confusion if there was going to be a change so that multiple positions can not be held (i.e. if you are a County Councillor you could not stand as a Town Councillor).

Having checked with Democratic Services at Monmouthshire County Council it can be confirmed that there are no changes so if a Councillor stands for Town and County they can sit in both. It is only Members of the Senedd that you could not stand for anything else.

4. TOWN OF CULTURE UPDATE

The Principal Officer expressed thanks for everyone who has offered their support after the negative feedback for the image submitted for the Town of Culture interactive map, and also immense thanks to the Media Agency who pulled out all the stops and got that over the line within the timescale.

The Principal Officer has been asked to speak on Radio Wales on Thursday 9th April at 8.30am in the morning prior to the announcement of the shortlisted towns the same evening around 5pm.

5. WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENT

Mia Morris, as a young person who is enthusiastic about politics is going to join the Town Council for her work experience.

Mia will be talking to all Councillors about how they became involved as a Town Councillor, to the Youth Representatives at Blaenavon Town Council, and visiting County Hall, and possibly get a meeting with Catherine Fookes MP. Mia can then feedback to the

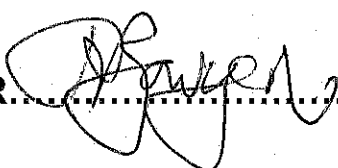
AB

	Council on how to get more young people engaged in town council politics. 6. STAFF Following the announced retirement of our current Community Support & Engagement Officer as of 31st August 2026 the Principal Officer would like to re-write the job description and review the hours with the possibility of expanding the role and bring a proposal to the Councillors at the planned away day. Rachel Lacey, Deputy Principal Officer/Deputy RFO is now FILCA qualified.
PR 94/26	To receive an update on the progression of Placemaking projects. 1. An image was shared for the cut outs to create the grills around the tree bases on Lion Street. 2. On Monday 13th July at 1pm there will be a presentation from architects for the design for the new Welcome Hub on Castle Street. Everyone on the Placemaking Delivery group should have received an invite. The project should be completed by end of March 2027. 3. We are awaiting a date for a meeting on the proposals for the former Richards site. 4. The Pro-mobility access map has been presented. The Regen team has asked for the top 3 priorities to see if they can be delivered as soon as possible.
PR 95/26	To consider the following planning application: DM/2026/00616 – Approve. Cllr Bowyer informed that the building on Market Street with the brickwork restoration is due to be covered with plasterboard in accordance with planning. It would be nice to keep the brickwork design on show and extend down Market Street. Cllr Bowyer suggested that the Council write

	to the appropriate body with the suggestion, as part of the improvement of Market Street in Placemaking. Cllr Nicholson proposed this, seconded by Cllr G Wilde. Resolved by all Councillors to accept this proposal.
PR 96/26	To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee: • Borough Theatre MCC/ATC Collaboration – Cllr Groucutt and Nicholson; No report • Melville CftA CIC Board – Cllr Barnes and A Wilde; No report • One Voice Wales: Cllr Bowyer and G Wilde; No report • Abergavenny Citizens Advice Bureau – Cllrs A Wilde and Wright; They will be going out to advert shortly for the new Chief Executive due to retirement of the current Chief Executive.
PR 97/26	To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee. No report.
PR 98/26	To consider items for the next meeting on 9th September 2026 • To consider the funding request from DanceBlast • To receive the Co-operation Agreement application from DanceBlast

Meeting ended 20:31pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR  **DATE** 09/09/26