

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 29th JULY 2026 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.

Present: Cllr C Holland
Cllr M Barnes
Cllr P Bowyer
Cllr S Burch
Cllr R Griffiths
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr A Wilde
Cllr G Wilde (Vice Chair)

Absent:

In attendance:

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer/RFO
Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer/DRFO
Rachel Lacey – Financial Officer/Deputy Principal Officer
E Munn - Intern

E92/26	Receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllr J George and Cllr G Jones All Councillors resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
E93/26	Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda. None – resolved to accept 'as and when'.
E94/26	To approve the minutes from 24th June 2026. Minutes received and noted. Cllr Simcock, seconded by Cllr Bowyer, proposed the minutes from the meeting on 24 th June 2026, be approved as a true and accurate record. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.
E95/26	Finance: Receive a report on the Environment Budget headings. Report received and noted.

	Cllr Bowyer, seconded by Cllr Barnes, proposed the Finance Report be approved. All councillors resolved to accept this proposal.
E96/26:	To receive a report from the Monmouthshire Enforcement Team Deferred to September or October's meeting.
E97/26	To receive an update on the Public Art Projects Report received and noted. i) Monmouthshire Youth Service working with a local artist have invited Cllrs to attend the skate park, public art activity (date to be announced). The project engaging local children in much the same way as the Cantref project. ii) A mural on the Bailey Park wall. Discussion around inviting other local artists to get involved. iii) High Street Diamond Jubilee painting needs some restoration. iv) Railway – Transport for Wales to be approached. v) Placemaking – Castle Street works, request that public art be incorporated into the project.
E98/26	To receive reports on play parks and parks: • Union Road Playpark Group – letter of support has been sent; play equipment brochures have been forwarded, shared project on Social Media. • Belgrave Park – No report. • Swan Meadows – Cllr G Wilde – no change from last month, still in a poor condition. Concern expressed about the suitability of the play equipment. Cllrs raised the feasibility of a splash park being incorporated into Placemaking for Gabb Square or Bailey Park.
E99/26	To receive an update on the Llanfoist-Castle Meadows Active Travel Bridge work. The Mayor and Cllrs attended the 'Ground-Breaking event' at Castle Meadows. The Abutment works and Casson work (in the river) are on track. ATC is in receipt of the contractor's update newsletters. The contractor is in discussion with 'Stump-up for Trees' with a view to plantings, post works.
E100/26	To consider proposals and costings for flood monitoring equipment form Monmouthshire County Council.

	MCC working with NRW want to create a community flood monitoring system to help, in future events, give early warning to residents along the Cibi. Chapel Road has an NRW asset overflow grid. It would be helpful to monitor flow with a CCTV camera and a second camera at Chapel Mill. Legal obligation for flood monitoring of rivers falls to MCC and NRW however there is no budget. It is not within ATC's remit. Clarification of costs requested: what kit is being requested (kit list is extensive) who is responsible for the ongoing yearly access fee? Cllr Burch to liaise with MCC Flood Team to report back on what kit is required, monitoring responsibilities, acquiring permissions and how are the costs of ongoing monitoring to be met. ATC to consider request for support once in receipt of report.
E101/26	To receive and note the Principal Officer's update. Report received and noted. 1. ADDITIONAL CCTV PROPOSALS Town walk 9th July enabled discussions between Neighbourhood Colleagues at Gwent Police, Blue Light CCTV, Monmouthshire's Community Safety team, and town councillors re: issues with 'hot spot' areas. Blue Light have suggested a stand-alone remote camera deter overnight parking. Feed-back to Monmouthshire for consideration on how to tackle issues. 2. EMERGENCY GROUP CONTACTS Stemming from 'Community Conversations' Monday 20th July 2026, a Manager from a local Care Home raised emergency support provision. They are part of a group which has reps from all Abergavenny Care Homes. They'd like to come along and talk to Councillors to share what they have available that can assist the wider community in times of crisis. A stand-alone Facebook/What's App group could be created now, to get information out quickly in times of emergencies. Ownership could be between local town and community councils in the vicinity as a trusted, single point of information. Suggested page name was Abergavenny ER – Abergavenny Emergency Response – Gwent Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue could feed into the link.

	3. NATURE ISN'T NEAT <u>Let's Talk Nature Isn't Neat Let's Talk Monmouthshire</u> A reminder of the county initiative to encourage more to adopt a policy of nature isn't neat. 4. ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK MAP https://www.letstalkmonmouthshire.co.uk/atnm-2026 A reminder for those who have not yet responded to the current consultation that this is live until 30th August 2026. 5. Motorcycle SAFETY CONSULTATION <u>Let's Talk Motorcycle Safety Let's Talk Monmouthshire</u> 6. People's Emergency Briefing Monday 19th October 2026 at 7pm. Mayor Cllr Bryony Nicholson is hoping to invite elected members and community representatives to a screening 19th October 2026. Venue and numbers to be confirmed. Cllrs requested to make every effort to attend.
E102/26	To receive an update on the Frogmore Street Memorial Garden. A discussion with Monmouthshire Veterans Support Hub/Green fingers has been positive about taking on the gardens. Garden will need an initial clean and sweep for any sharps and dangerous rubbish. Town Team to be approached in the first instance. Any major cutting back of shrubbery can be requested from Monmouthshire grounds team. The project be handed to the Green Fingers crew to assess and report back on suggestions for improving the site going forward.
E102/26	To receive and note the Service Delivery update. Report received and noted. 1. TOWN TEAM ATC now need to alter contracts to cover the two days being dropped by another operative through retirement. This has all been agreed in principle, and will give us the following cover: Three operatives four days per week, and 4 on one day. The team are now working on new day plans to enable the best coverage across the 6 wards.



Please encourage use the 'Report It form' on our website to send through any requests for issues which need tackling. This gives us a way of monitoring what comes through and from where, to better map out the ad hoc work that is dealt with by the team.

2. GREEN FLAG AWARDS

Full Green Flag Award list:

Castle Meadows in Abergavenny, since 2014

Linda Vista Gardens – first time entrant

Bailey Park

Laurie Jones Community Orchard

Green Fingers Community Gardening Project– first time entrant.

From 20 across Monmouthshire, Abergavenny has been fortunate to be awarded 5 of these, and two for first time entrants. Deputy Mayor Cllr Gareth Wilde attended the flag raising ceremony at Green Fingers Site on 16th July.

3. TOILETS

Sunday openings are being queried as is the Summer opening of Bailey Park toilets. The Principal Officer is in discussions with the Deputy Support Services Manager as our SLA states the toilets will be open daily between 7am and 5pm.

4. BRILLIANT BASICS CELEBRATION

Linda Vista Gardens works are now complete, and Monmouthshire County Council will be hosting a Green Flag celebration on Thursday 13th August at midday. An invite has been sent to all Councillors and staff.

5. HERITAGE ENGAGEMENT

The Principal Officer has spoken to the Heritage Officer at Monmouthshire County Council on the issues raised regarding 1 Market/High Street. The stop order was issued as no listed building consent had been acquired. The Heritage Officer would be very happy to attend a future meeting to give an overview of what they look for and require when such buildings submit planning requests, so we are better informed in future.

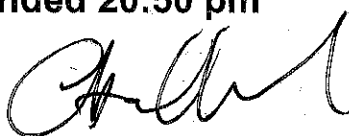
E103/26	To receive a report on Abergavenny in Bloom. Report received and noted. Thanks and special mention for KAT, Town Team and MCC Grounds who have worked tirelessly to present Abergavenny at its best. Contractors' Plantings attracted very favourable comments from resident/visitors and judges. The portfolio focusing on IYN very well received by judges. Judges keen to encourage the two IYN groups who withdrew this year, to enter 2027. Several locals engaged with IYN groups have been identified as possible Bloom Champions including a Youth Champion. 4 Places reserved for the presentation Awards in Talgarth in October 2026. Abergavenny in Bloom presentations by RHS Chair, at Greener Abergavenny event 18th October 2026. Watering of planters undertaken by Greenfinch has now been taken over by the Town Team.
E104/26	To consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications: DM/2026/00782 – approval. The Committee would like to ask if there is any stipulated guidance on the number of parking spaces that should be allocated to this type of surgery, and note the comments already made regarding the provision of parking for this application. DM/2025/01495 - approval Over recess, committee delegated planning comment to Principal Officer and Chair of Environment Committee should 'comment by' dates fall outside committees reconvening.
E105/26	To receive reports from Town Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee: • Abergavenny and District Tourist Association: Cllrs G Wilde and D Simcock – No report. • CCTV user group: Cllrs George and Jones – no report. • Friends of Linda Vista Gardens: Cllrs Wright & Simcock – no report. • Friends of Bailey Park: Cllr Bowyer & English – No report.

	• Friends of Castle Meadows: Cllrs Simcock & Wright – no report. • Monmouthshire CC Planning Committee: Cllrs Holland & George – nothing on current agenda. • Greener Abergavenny – Cllrs Barnes & A Wilde – Fair in October going ahead. Has generated considerable interest. • KAT – working hard. • Community Orchard – no report. • Abergavenny in Bloom – • NHNS – New infrastructure plan in place.
E106/26	Report from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee. • Flooding Strategy on its way to formal adoption. Section 19 report (NRW) – Monmouth reached the required number of properties flooded. Abergavenny did not. • Replacement LDP with inspectorate – no update.
E107/26	Items for the next meeting on 30th September 2026: 1. Invite Parking Enforcement 2. Invite representative from Dwr Cymru

Meeting ended 20:50 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR



DATE

30/09/26.