

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, BRECON ON MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.00 P.M.

292/13 PRESENT

Councillor M Dorrance (Mayor – In the Chair)
Councillor R. Lewis
Councillor I Williams
Councillor A M C Weale
Councillor Mrs R Evans
Councillor A M Morgan
Councillor K Wilbud
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor C T Walsh
Councillor J Deveney

Absent Councillor Mrs C M E Griffiths

In Attendance: Mrs Gail Rofe (Town Clerk)
Mrs Alison Jones (Assistant Town Clerk)

293/13 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E A Pritchard, Mrs M Phillips, N Sandford and P Ashton.

294/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

295/13 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor circulated a list of engagements he had carried out since the last meeting of the Council and these were as follows:

7th November 2013 Lord Atkin Lecture, Christ College; 10th November 2013 Remembrance Day Service; 11th November 2013 laid wreath on behalf of the Town at Brecon War Memorial Hospital as part of Remembrance Service and led the Town's event at the Cenotaph; 12th November 2013 attended Action on Hearing Loss event at the Guildhall; 15th November 2013 Mayor's Charity Coffee Morning at the Guildhall; 24th November 2013 opened St Michael's Church Fete, attended St David's Church Fete, Mayor's Charity street collection and switched on the Town's Christmas Lights.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to Councillors Mrs R Evans and D Meredith for their help with his coffee morning and to all those Councillors who assisted with the street collection.

296/13 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements by the Town Clerk.

SECTION A

297/13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 October 2013 (Pages 85 to 90) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE

298/13 BRECON JAZZ – 2014

Submitted letter from Pablo Janczur (Festival Director Brecon Jazz) requesting the Council's support for Brecon Jazz Festival 2014 – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(A)(1)**.

Members discussed the contents of this letter in detail and agreed to provide a sponsor's reception for the organisers and Mayor's guests on the same basis as that held in 2013.

With regard to the request for hire charges to be waived, Members did not think it appropriate to not charge at all for the hire of the Guildhall but after discussion agreed that a 50% reduction in the costs could be agreed.

In relation to the request for financial assistance towards the costs for street entertainment, the Chair of Finance suggested that this should be considered by the Finance and Establishment Committee and that an application form should be forwarded to Orchard for completion and submission to the next meeting of the Finance and Establishment Committee in February.

After a vote

IT WAS RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Town Clerk write back to Orchard advising that the Council agree to hold a reception on the Friday of the Jazz weekend, that the Council agreed to reduce the hire costs to 50% of the normal charge and requesting that an application for financial assistance be completed and returned together with a full set of accounts for the request for funds to assist with the street entertainment which would be considered at the next meeting of the Finance and Establishment Committee meeting.

299/13 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 4 NOVEMBER 2013

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4

November 2013 (pages 93 to 96) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 4 November 2013 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

300/13 FISHING COMMITTEE MEETING – 4 NOVEMBER 2013

Submitted – Minutes of the Fishing Committee held on the 4 November 2013 (pages 98 to 99) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

Arising from the Minutes

301/13 VICE CHAIRMAN – ELECTION OF (MINUTE 281/13)

Councillor I Williams again raised his concerns that there had still not been a vice chairman elected onto this Committee and that a meeting had been conducted with only 2 members present. He suggested that a review be undertaken as to the future standing of this Committee.

RESOLVED

THAT these concerns be noted and a review as to the membership of the Fishing Committee would be undertaken.

302/13 DRAFT PRECEPT – 2014/2015

Submitted – draft proposal for the Precept for 2014/2015 (a copy of which circulated at the meeting.)

Members thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for their efforts in preparing and producing a most comprehensive document which was very easy to follow. Councillors discussed the figures contained in the draft and noted that the Precept figure was the same as last year.

Members noted that many of the projects that had commenced during the last financial year were reaching conclusion and other projects within the town and the parks could now be focussed on.

It was discussed that bearing in mind the current economic climate it may be beneficial to consider increasing the S142 Advice Agencies budget.

Members discussed the possibility of starting up community projects for the clearing up, removal of rubbish old household items and litter picking.

The matter of the further extension of the Christmas Lights was discussed and

the need for catenary wires to be replaced before the lights were erected for 2014.

After detailed discussion and explanation it was :

RESOLVED

THAT the draft Precept be approved subject to the suggestions and alterations discussed above.

REPORTS OF MEMBERS

303/13 Councillor A M Morgan reported on a meeting he attended on the 6th November in relation to the proposed closure of Brecon Leisure Centre and advised members that over 200 people were in attendance and had signed a petition to keep the leisure centre open. He reported on how many people had used the leisure centre over the past year including those referrals from the NHS and the importance of this facility to the people of Brecon. He queried what would happen to the employees of the centre and asked why available space was not being utilised by other projects to generate income.

Members suggested that a representative from Powys County Council who was involved in these proposals be invited to the next meeting of the Full Council to give a full explanation and clarify as to what the aims and objectives of the County Council were in relation to the proposed new learning facilities and the leisure centre.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

304/13 Councillor I Williams advised the meeting that he was aware that Father Michael Thomas was relinquishing his position at St Mary's Church as from the 1st January and wished him every success in his new position as the Bishop's Chaplain.

305/13 Councillor I Williams advised the meeting that he had taken visitors to the Military Museum and was surprised that he was unable to gain free entry with his Powys resident's card and he queried the rationale behind this decision. It was requested that the Town Clerk contact the museum to seek clarification of the position.

