

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, BRECON ON MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

348/13 PRESENT

Councillor M Dorrance (Mayor – In the Chair)
Councillor R. Lewis
Councillor I Williams
Councillor Mrs R Evans
Councillor A M Morgan
Councillor K Wilbud
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor C T Walsh
Councillor J Deveney
Councillor Mrs C M E Griffiths
Councillor Mrs E A Pritchard
Councillor P Ashton
Councillor N Sandford

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

349/13 BRECON LEARNING CAMPUS

The Mayor introduced Mr Gwyn Owen, Powys County Council's Leisure Services Manager for South Powys and Mr Jim Swabey Powys County Council's Project Manager for the Campus who were present at the meeting to brief Councillors on the aims and objectives in respect of the proposed new learning facilities and the leisure centre. Mr Owen provided a detailed background on the proposals which it is envisaged will replace the existing dilapidated high school and the Coleg Powys building on the same site. Councillors were advised that there was no set date for commencement of the construction and the 'strategic outline case' was now been revised.

Members were invited to put their questions/concerns to the representatives from Powys County Council. Members raised the issue of funding and the impact on students being educated on a building site during construction. A number of Councillors raised concerns about the provision of leisure facilities and in particular the potential loss of the swimming pool, bowling alleys and other facilities to members of the public.

Mr Swabey acknowledged that there was a lot of public anxiety about the leisure facilities but that nothing had been agreed to-date and this was very much in its conceptual stage. Mr Swabey concluded by reiterating that there were many matters that had yet to be decided and the proposals were very much dependent on what funding is available and what the Welsh Government approves. The Mayor thanked both Mr Swabey and Mr Owen for attending.

350/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M Phillips and A M C Weale.

351/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

352/13 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor acknowledged the death of a former Mayor of the Town and Borough Mr Mervyn Jenkins and expressed condolences to the family. The Mayor advised members that the mother of fellow Town Councillor Martin Weale had passed away and that the thoughts of the Council were with him.

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

2nd December 2013 Citizenship Ceremony, 5th December 2013 Light up a Life Service, 6th December 2013 Mayor's Carol Concert, 8th December Les Miserables at Christ College, 11th December 2013 Launch of Brecon Mind, 11th December 2013 Abbeyfield AGM, 21 December 2013 Wales and West Housing Association and Brecon Town Football Club Sponsorship event, 19 January 2014 Rorkes Drift Service.

353/13 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements by the Town Clerk.

Councillor Ieuan Williams at this stage of the meeting wished to express his congratulations to the Mayor for being nominated as the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Labour Party which he believed was a great achievement both personally and for the Town Council.

SECTION A

354/13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 November 2013 (Pages 101 to 105) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

Arising from the Minutes

355/13 MILITARY MUSEUM – (MINUTE 305/13)

Councillor Ieuan Williams enquired whether the Town Clerk had spoken with the Museum in relation to their charging policy for Powys residents. The

Town Clerk advised that she had spoken with them and they had confirmed that due to funding implications they were no longer able to offer free entry to Powys residents.

CORRESPONDENCE

356/13 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – PROPOSED CLOSURE

Submitted a letter received from Ms Kirsty Williams AM from Public Health Wales in relation to the proposed closure of public conveniences – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(A)(1)**.

THIS letter was received and the comments were noted.

357/13 POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL - FLOODING – AT NEWTON GREEN

Submitted an email from Wayne Jones, Principal Emergency Planning Officer in response to an email from the Town Clerk in relation to flooding at the five properties in Newton Green which was raised at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 6th January – a copy of which was circulated at the meeting – **Appendix C(A)(2)**.

The email was received and noted

358/13 DYFED-POWYS POLICE – CCTV

Members were advised that the Police Sergeant was expected at the meeting to discuss the matter of CCTV but had been unable to attend. Members had before them an email from Dyfed-Powys Police enquiring whether the Town Council would consider taking over funding and ownership of the CCTV Systems in Brecon Town, a figure of £40,000 was provided as the approximate set up costs to restore the current system.

Councillors discussed this request in detail and whilst they agreed that CCTV was important in the detection and prevention of crime they were of the opinion that they needed to be much better informed as to how the figure of £40,000 had been arrived at. Councillors also wished to be advised as to where the cameras are located, how the CCTV would be monitored and where the base station would be. Further, would all maintenance contracts be in place and what repairs and renewals would be envisaged.

Councillor Walsh requested that once further information had been received the matter be placed before the Finance Committee for further consideration.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk respond to Dyfed-Powys Police and seek a detailed breakdown of the costs involved and clarification on the issues raised by Members.

359/13 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 JANUARY 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 January 2014 (pages 108 to 111) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 6 January 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

360/13 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 JANUARY 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Environment Committee held on the 6 January 2014 (pages 114 to 117) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 6 January 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

361/13 REPORT INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

Submitted a report from the Independent Auditor Mr Peter Jenkins (a copy of which had previously been circulated) **Appendix C(B)**

RESOLVED

THAT this report be accepted.

362/13 INTERNAL AUDIT AND CONTROL TEST

The Council had before them documentation to conduct an internal audit and control test in relation to the Council's Risk Assessment and Financial Management (copies of which had been previously circulated – **Appendix C(C)**)

After the Town Clerk had explained the processes and invited the Councillors to inspect the relevant accounts, balances and documentation available for inspection and answered queries from the members it was –

RESOLVED

THAT the Mayor, Councillor Matthew Dorrance, sign and agree that the Council Risk Assessment and the Financial Management of the Council was satisfactory on behalf of the Council.

363/13 MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Submitted the key issues from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Assessment 2012/2013 – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(D)**.

THIS document was received.

364/13 DATA PROTECTION POLICY

Councillors were requested to consider adopting a data protection policy for the Council and a suggested draft policy had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(E)**.

Members discussed the benefit of having such a data protection policy in place and bearing in mind information which the Council holds on data bases it was :

RESOLVED

THAT in order to protect the Council the suggested data protection policy be adopted.

365/13 POWYS REGISTRATION SERVICE

Submitted information from Ms Bronwyn Curnow regarding same sex marriages at registered premises (the Guildhall) – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(F)**

THIS information was received and approved for the Guildhall as a wedding venue.

366/13 DEMENTIA CHAMPION TRAINING AND DEMENTIA FRIENDS SESSIONS

Members were invited to consider attending Dementia Champion Training and Dementia Friends Sessions – **Appendix C(G)**

After discussion it was

RESOLVED THAT Councillors were in favour of having the training at the Town Clerk to liaise with Rhiannon Davies and arrange a suitable time and date for the training to take place at the Guildhall and advise Councillors

367/13 BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – SOCIAL INCLUSION POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

Submitted the draft Strategy for Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Social Inclusion Policy and Action Plan – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(H)**.

RESOLVED

THAT Members had no comments to make at this stage.

368/13 TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Members were invited to discuss the possibility of producing an annual newsletter to be distributed to all residents informing them of what projects and events the Town Council has been involved in over the previous year. A draft newsletter was circulated at the meeting for Councillor's perusal.

Councillors commented that this was an excellent way in which to engage with the community.

Councillors agreed that the Newsletter would have to be distributed by each Councillor to residents in their Ward and it was suggested that the newsletter should state that it has been distributed by the Town Councillors at no cost to residents.

RESOLVED

THAT a Council Newsletter be produced.

369/13 "2 SIGNATURES" RULE – ABOLITION OF

Submitted – information that Parliament is now considering abolishing the '2 signatures' rule and allowing electronic payments for Town and Community Councils – a copy of which was previously circulated – **Appendix C(I)**.

Councillor R Lewis queried whether this would be implemented in Wales. Councillors agreed that it would be very helpful to the Town Clerk as many companies now wished payments to be made by card rather than cheques and hoped that this would be implemented as soon as possible.

370/13 FISHING COMMITTEE

Councillors were asked to agree the appointment of Councillors I Williams and K Wilbud to the Fishing Committee.

THIS appointment was agreed

371/13 GOUESNOU TWINNING COMMITTEE

At the request of the Chair of Gouesnou, members were asked to appoint two additional representatives to the Committee.

RESOLVED

THAT Councillors I Williams and Mrs R Evans be appointed as additional Town Council representatives on the Gouesnou

Twinning Committee.

At this point of the meeting Councillors were advised that it was believed that the Saline Twinning Committee was being disbanded as there was no-one to take over the Chair and secretary role. Councillors expressed their concerns as this was a Committee of the Town Council. The Town Clerk agreed to look into the matter and contact the current chair to be appraised of the situation. It was agreed that if this was confirmed then the Town Council would oversee the Committee until new officers could be found.

372/13 TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Members had before them a report of the Town Clerk and information from Vision ICT in relation to the available upgrades to the Town Council Website – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(J)**

RESOLVED

THAT the Brecon Town Council upgrade package provided by Vision ICT be approved and agreed.

373/10 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS – BECKNOCK WELFARE TRUST, HARLEY THOMAS CHARITY AND ALDERMAN THOMAS WILLIAMS CHARITY

Submitted the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010 in respect of Brecknock Welfare Trust, Harley Thomas Charity and Alderman Thomas Williams Charity. After the Councillors had been given a brief overview by the Town Clerk, it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Accounts be approved and accepted.

374/13 REPORTS OF MEMBERS

There were no Reports of Members.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

375/13 Councillor I Williams raised his concerns about the trees at the Bishops Palace and the danger they posed if branches were to come down. The Town Clerk advised that she had previously written to the Bishop and he had passed the matter to the Property Department of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales who are responsible for the property to take the appropriate action.

376/13 The Town Clerk advised that the bench which had been positioned by the River Tarell had been vandalised and the slats from the back removed. Members agreed that the damage should be made good and the bench

repaired.

