

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, BRECON ON MONDAY 22 JUNE AT 7.00 P.M.

92/15 PRESENT

Councillor D Meredith (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor A M Morgan
Councillor Mrs R Evans
Councillor C Walsh
Councillor I Williams
Councillor P Ashton
Councillor K Wilbud
Councillor Mrs E A Pritchard
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor Mrs M Phillips
Councillor R Lewis
Councillor S Bennett

In Attendance: Mrs Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Mrs Alison Jones (Assistant Town Clerk)

93/15 PRESENTATION – BRECON ADVICE CENTRE

Mr David Weston from the Brecon Advice Centre attended to give a presentation on the work of the Advice Centre. The Mayor commenced by congratulating Mr Weston on his receipt of the 'Wales Volunteer of the year Awards 2015'.

Mr Weston thanked the Town Council for the ongoing financial support it provided which helped to keep the Centre open. Mr Weston outlined the costs of running the centre, the nature of the advice it provided and the number of local people who had benefitted from free advice over the past financial year.

Mr Weston stressed that this was a 'drop in' facility which provided excellent advice and this was a very important factor to the people it supported.

The Mayor thanked Mr Weston for his attendance and wished him and the Brecon Advice Centre all the best for the future

94/15 DYFED-POWYS POLICE

Sgt Ellis attended and provided Members with the up-to-date crime figures. He highlighted incidents of criminal damage and drug offences that the Police had been monitoring and reported on crimes that had been solved. Sgt Ellis advised that there would be extra Police resources available during the Brecon Jazz Weekend.

Members notified Sgt Ellis about a number of scam emails that they were aware of.

The Mayor thanked Sgt Ellis for his attendance and information provided.

95/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Sandford and A M C Weale.

96/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor K Wilbud declared an interest in Agenda item 9 inasmuch as he is Chair of the Brecon Volunteer Bureau who are taking part in the proposed event. Councillor R Lewis declared an interest in Agenda item 9 inasmuch as he attended a meeting of the group. Councillor M Dorrance declared an interest in Agenda item 10 inasmuch as he is a member of the Applicant and in Agenda item 13 inasmuch as he is a member of Powys County Council.

97/15 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor commenced by thanking Zeera for their fundraising efforts for his charity. The Mayor congratulated Councillor Mrs M Phillips and all those involved for the excellent performance of 'One Night Only'

The Mayor listed the other events he had attended since the last meeting which included the YFC Rally at which he judged a completion, Abbeyfield Gold Award Ceremony, the Millennium Stadium in the presence of Queen Elizabeth to witness the presentation of colours to the Royal Welsh, opening Argos, his Civic Sunday which he stated was an enjoyable day and he thanked the Town Clerk and the staff for their work in arranging the event, the opening of the new sailing clubhouse at Llangorse, the Agincourt Celebration and he wished to congratulate all those who organised and took part in the successful event, the Rotary Dinner and finally the Civic Sunday for the Chair of Powys County Council.

98/15 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk advised that new Member's Register of Interest Forms had been circulated for completion and return.

She further advised that the Council were now under a legal obligation to publish Members' Declarations of Interest Forms and enquired whether Members would like these to be sent out with Agendas for completion prior to meetings and it was agreed that this would be a good idea.

Finally, she reported that there was a Dementia Workshop Training Session at the Guildhall the following day if any Member wished to attend.

SECTION A

99/15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 May 2015 (pages 4 to 13) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

Arising from the Minutes

100/15 LIVING WAGE AND EMPLOYMENT ISSUES (MINUTE 34/14)

The Chair advised that he had met with the Chair of Finance and that a meeting of the 'working group' needed to be arranged to discuss matters further.

THESE comments were noted

101/15 REPORT

Subject to the foregoing

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on the 26th May 2015 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE

102/15 SALINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Submitted email from Mr Jim Roth President Saline Friendship Guild in relation to a proposed visit to Saline in 2016 – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(A)(1)**.

Councillor Mrs R Evans advised that she had received positive feedback from people wishing to be involved in a trip to Saline in 2016 and requested that another meeting be held in the near future to progress matters. She also requested that a letter be sent to Brecon High School to see if they wished to be involved in the proposed trip.

RESOLVED

THAT a meeting be arranged in the next few weeks. The Town Clerk to write to the Head of Brecon High School advising of the proposed trip in 2016 and asking if they wished to be involved.

103/15 LETTER OF THANKS – AGM

Submitted a letter of thanks from Lt Col A M Rennie following the Annual General Meeting – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(A)(2)**

THIS letter was received

104/15 LETTER OF THANKS - AGINCOURT COMMITTEE

Submitted a letter of thanks from Elaine Starling on behalf of the Agincourt Committee – a copy of which was circulated at the meeting – **Appendix C(A)(3)**

THIS letter was received.

105/15 PLANNING MEETING – 1 JUNE 2015

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 June 2015 (pages 17 to 21) (copies of which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 1 June 2015 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

106/15 FINANCE MEETING – 1 JUNE 2015

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 1 June 2015 (pages 24 to 29) (copies of which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on the 1 June 2015 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

107/15 APPLICATION FOR FINANCE – PLAN BRECON

Further to the meeting of the Finance Committee of 1st June, Members were asked to consider an application for financial assistance from members following receipt of further information requested by the Finance Committee.

Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the sum of £571 be awarded to Plan Brecon towards their Promfest event at the Bandstand. The Town Council wished them every success with the event.

108/15 APPLICATION FOR FINANCE – BRECON AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION

Further to the meeting of the Finance Committee of 1st June 2015 members

were invited to consider further an application for financial assistance from Brecon and District Credit Union towards a Financial Literacy in Schools Project following receipt of further information requested by the Committee.

The Town Clerk had been requested to research whether the Council could legally provide financial assistance for salaries and running costs under Section 137 and she clarified that there was no legal restriction but the Council had historically resolved that it would not provide funding for these.

Members considered the further information that had been requested and in particular what schools in Brecon would benefit for the project and were concerned that the information provided was not sufficient for them to reach a decision. Following further discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

A representative of the Credit Union be invited to attend a meeting of the Full Council to provide further information about the project and the benefits envisaged for the pupils of Brecon Schools.

109/15 EMPTY SHOPS – BRECON

Submitted email from Mr Peter Jenkins expressing his concerns in relation to the number and condition of the empty shops currently in Brecon - a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(B)**.

Members discussed this email in great detail and shared Mr Jenkins concerns in relation to the issue. It was however noted that these shops were privately owned and as such there was very little the Town Council could do improve them. Councillor Dorrance advised that he was aware of a Welsh Government Scheme which enabled property owners to apply for a grant to improve the appearance of empty shops in Town Centres.

Members also considered inviting a representative from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to attend a meeting of the Full Council to discuss Town Centre regeneration.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk conduct a survey of the empty shops in Brecon and ascertain ownership and then to write to each owner/landlord with details of the Welsh Government scheme for improvement of empty shops. Also to write to the Brecon Business Club advising them of this and asking if they had any suggestion/comments in relation to the Town Centre improvement.

110/15 PUBLIC HEALTH (WALES) BILL – PROVISIONS OF TOILETS

Submitted information in relation to Public Health (Wales) Bill – provision of

toilets available for use by the public – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(C)**

Members noted that by the time this legislation was in place the Town Council would already be responsible for providing public toilets. Members also noted that the website address provided for further information was currently unavailable.

RESOLVED

THAT the information provided be noted and the situation would be monitored once access to the website could be gained.

111/15 POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

Submitted information from Powys County Council concerning consultation events in relation to the closure of the Welsh-Medium stream at Brecon High School – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(D)**

Members discussed the proposed closure and agreed that it would have a detrimental effect on the education of the pupils in Brecon and would inevitably impact on Ysgol-y-Bannau. Members were also concerned about the extra travel for pupils who wished to remain being taught through the medium of Welsh.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk complete the consultation questionnaire confirming that Brecon Town Council were opposed to the closure of the Welsh-Medium stream at Brecon High School.

112/13 BARRIER SYSTEM – THE BANDSTAND

Members were requested to consider the purchase of a rope and barrier security system for use at the Bandstand. The Town Clerk advised that at a recent event children had run into the bandstand during a performance which was a health and safety risk. Members agreed that it was very important that members of the public be kept away from any electrical equipment.

RESOLVED

THAT a rope and barrier system be purchased and placed at the entrance to the Bandstand during all live performances.

113/13 NEPAL EARTHQUAKE FUNDRAISING

The Town Clerk advised members that the total sum of £1,870 had been raised during the week following the Nepal Earthquake Disaster through fundraising and donations and discussed the best way to give this money to the Gurkha Welfare Community,

Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Mayor present the cheque to a representative from the Gurkha Welfare Community in Brecon during his speech at the Annual Gurkha Parade. It was further resolved that the Mayor would take the Book of Condolence with him when he visits Nepal next year to be placed in the Museum at Pokhara.

114/15 ANNUAL GURKHA PARADE – 2 AUGUST 2015

The Chair advised that he had met with the Gurkha Captain in relation to this year's parade as it was a special year being the 200th anniversary of service to the Crown and as such the Gurkha Community were putting on an event at the Market Hall to include traditional food and entertainment and it was hoped that as many people as possible would go along after the Parade. The Mayor requested that the reception at the Guildhall be held before the Parade this year to allow the Town Council's invited guests to attend the Market Hall following the Parade if they wished.

Members discussed the proposed photograph of former Mayors and retired Gurkha Soldiers and agreed that this would take place at the pre-parade reception. Members also considered inviting the Mayors of Brecknockshire to attend the Parade this year to commemorate the 200th anniversary. Councillor Dorrance requested at this stage that it be considered that all the Mid and West Wales AM's be included in the Council's Civic Database for future events.

RESOLVED

THAT the reception at the Guildhall commence at 12.30 p.m. The Mayor's/Chair's of Brecknockshire be invited to this year's Parade. The matter of the Mid and West Wales AM's be placed on the next meeting of the Civic Committee for consideration.

115/15 KEY HOLDERS - GUILDHALL

Members were requested to review the principal key holders for the Guildhall and following discussion and consideration

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the principal key holders remain unchanged namely The Town Clerk and Mr Ray Morgan.

REPORTS OF MEMBERS

116/16 Councillor I Williams circulated a report following a meeting he attended of

the Brecknock Access Group.

THIS report was received

ANY OTHER BUSINESS