

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, BRECON ON MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

204/14 PRESENT

Councillor N Sandford (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor I Williams
Councillor A M Morgan
Councillor K Wilbud
Councillor C T Walsh
Councillor P Ashton
Councillor Mrs R Evans
Councillor J Deveney

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

205/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A M C Weale, Mrs M Phillips, R Lewis, M Dorrance, D Meredith and Mrs E A Pritchard

206/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

207/14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor circulated a list of all the engagements he had attended since July 2014 up to the date of the meeting.

208/14 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements by the Town Clerk.

SECTION A

209/14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 July 2014 (pages 51 – 53) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE

210/14 CONDITION OF STREETS AND PAVEMENTS IN THE TOWN

Submitted a letter from Ms Jean Hosie expressing her concerns in relation to the dirty condition of the streets and pavements in Brecon - a copy of which was previously circulated – **Appendix C(A)(1)**.

Members discussed these comments in great detail and were in agreement that the pavements and streets within Brecon were in need of power washing with strong detergent. They noted that this did not create a good impression to visitors of the Town. Members also raised ongoing concerns now as the winter approaches about the amount of moss and algae on the pavements and how slippery and dangerous they will become. Councillor Ashton advised that he had received a copy of Ms Hosie's email and he had reported these concerns to Powys Council and requested the streets be cleaned.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk write to Ms Hosie acknowledging her email and advising that Brecon Town Council would pass on her concerns to Powys County Council.

211/14 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 JULY 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7 July 2014 (pages 34 to 37) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 7 July 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

212/14 CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 JULY 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Civic Committee held on 7 July 2014 (pages 39 to 40) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on the 7 July 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

213/14 FISHING COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 JULY 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Fishing Committee held on 7 July 2014 (pages 44 to 46) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

Arising from the minutes

214/11 NATURAL RESOURCES WALES – RIVER WALK

Members enquired whether there had any further correspondence from Natural Resources Wales following the meeting and walk of the river on the 31 July. The Town Clerk advised that she had received nothing further to date but would chase the matter up.

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Fishing Committee Meeting held on the 7 July 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

215/14 EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 14 JULY 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 14 July 2014 (pages 48 to 50) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 14 July 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

216/14 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING –1 SEPTEMBER 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 September 2014 (pages 57 to 60) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 1 September 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

217/14 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL – 1 SEPTEMBER 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Meeting of the Town Council held on 1 September 2014 (pages 64 to 65) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council held on the 1 September 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

218/14 ENVIRONMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING –1 SEPTEMBER 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on 1 September 2014 (pages 66 to 71) (copies of which had been previously circulated.

Arising from the Minutes

219/14 ROSPA PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORTS (MINUTE 200/14)

Further to the discussion in relation to the ROSPA reports and the possibility of a member of ROSPA attending an Environment Meeting to discuss their work and advise the Committee on how to ensure that its play equipment was as safe as possible, it was suggested that it may be beneficial for the representative to attend a meeting of the Full Council rather than just the Environment Committee so that all Members would be aware of the advice given.

RESOLVED

THAT this suggestion be agreed and if a representative from ROSPA did attend that it would be at a full Council Meeting.

Subject to the foregoing

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on the 1 September 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

220/14 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL – 8 SEPTEMBER 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Meeting of the Town Council held on 8 September 2014 (pages 73 to 74) (copies of which had been previously circulated.

Arising from the Minutes

221/14 PRESENT (MINUTE 208/14)

Councillor Paul Ashton requested the Minutes reflect that he is shown as present and in fact had given his apologies and Councillor A M Morgan requested that the Minutes record that he was present at the Meeting.

Subject to the foregoing

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on the 8 September 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record

and signed.

222/14 WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – IMPROVING AVAILABILITY OF ALLOTMENTS

Submitted Welsh Government Consultation document on improving the availability of allotments and community gardens a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(B)**

Members suggested that this matter be passed onto the Chair of the Environment Committee. Members did enquire about the possibility of making available the land that was previously used as allotments at the Promenade which could then be used for allotments again.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk make enquires in relation to the land at Fennifach which had previously been used for allotments with Powys County Council. That if Members had any further observations/comments that they provide these to the Town Clerk prior to the 6th October and the Town Clerk would liaise with the Chair of Environment to formulate a response.

223/14 COMMUNITY WORK PLACEMENT – GUILDHALL

Submitted a request from Mr Ian Whitehead-Ross for the Town Council to consider offering a community work placement for claimants on Jobseekers Allowance.

Members considered this request in detail and enquired whether there would be any financial cost to the Town Council if a placement was offered.

It was noted that there was very limited workspace available in the office at the Guildhall and following further discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

Due to the very limited workspace available it would not be feasible to offer a community workplace and the Town Clerk to advise Mr Whitehead- Ross accordingly.

224/14 WEDDING LICENCE – GUILDHALL – RENEWAL

Members were invited to discuss the renewal of the wedding licence for the Guildhall. The Town Clerk advised members of the costs and confirmed the approximate number of Weddings that were held each year at the Guildhall

RESOLVED

THAT the Wedding Licence for the Guildhall premises be renewed.

225/14 PUBLIC CONVENIENCE PROVISION

Submitted – the Cabinet Report in relation to the Local Environment Service Public Convenience Provision – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(D)**

Members noted that they have previously voted not to take on public convenience provision but were aware that Town Councils would shortly be receiving further requests to take over the public toilets

Councillor Ashton that there were a great deal of concern expressed at the recent Budget Seminar meeting and there would be a need for community councils as well as town councils to be consulted also.

Members discussed and reiterated all their previous observations and concerns about the closure of the public toilets and the impact on the Town Centre and the public health aspect should toilets not be available.

Members agreed that a lot of further information particularly in relation to the costs involved needed to be provided and following further discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

The matter would be put back on the Agenda once further information had been provided from Powys County Council for full discussion.

226/14 WHITE PAPER REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Further to the meeting on the Full Council on the 16th July (Minute No. 153/14) members were invited to give their comments in relation to the Government White Paper on reforming Local Government.

Some members reported that the document was extremely complicated and not at all reader friendly.

The Town Clerk advised of comments she had received from Councillor R Lewis and these would be forwarded on behalf of Brecon Town Council.

RESOLVED

THAT Councillor R Lewis' observations be submitted and should any other Member wish to comment they would do so directly via email.

227/14 POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Further to the meeting of the Full Council on 16 July 2014 (Minute 145/14) Members were invited to put forward their observations in relation to the Grounds Maintenance issues for forwarding to Powys County Council.

Members commented on how little the grass areas and verges were cut and that the grass was no longer collected but left all over the roads and pavements. Members also noted that there seemed no programme for weed killing on the pavements and kerbs any more.

RESOLVED

THAT Members observations be emailed to the Town Clerk together with photographic evidence and she would then report these concerns to the Powys County Council.

228/14 SUNDAY BUS SERVICE – HEREFORD TO BRECON

The Town Clerk advised of a conversation she had with Talgarth Town Council in relation to possible ways of working together to try and re-start this bus service following the success of Hay Town Council in keeping the service going. Members had before them the Hay Sunday Bus Report prepared by Richard Tyler of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

Following a detailed discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

In the first instance the Town clerk liaise with Talgarth Town Council into the possibilities of commissioning a feasibility study which could then be considered at length at a future meeting of the Town Council.

22914 106 AGREEMENT – LLANFAES

The Town Clerk reported that she was in correspondence with Brecon Beacons National Park and was seeking clarification as to whether the funding could be used to the Church itself. The Town Clerk commented that the matter really needed to be moved forward. Councillor Mrs R Evans raised concerns that the facility provided should be for the benefit of the whole of the community and not just those who used the Church. She raised the suggestion of looking into the possibilities of purchasing St Joseph's School for use as a community centre for Llanfaes.

It was suggested that the the three local Councillors for Llanfaes should get together and perhaps carry out a public consultation exercise to ascertain the views of the residents

RESOLVED

THAT the Councillors for Llanfaes arrange a meeting to discuss ways of moving this matter forward. The Town Clerk would contact the Diocese of Menevia to seek their advice on what the future plans are for the now closed St Joseph's School. The matter would then be brought to a meeting of the Full Council for further consideration.

230/14 LLANFAES RECREATIONAL GROUND – TRANSFER OF LAND

The Town Clerk advised Members that she had now received confirmation from Powys County Council that the works to the car park at Llanfaes School had been concluded and that the piece of land that had been requested would no longer be needed.

THESE comments were noted.

231/14 WORKING TO BECOME DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

Members were advised that Brecon had now become the first Community in Wales to receive official 'Working to become Dementia Friendly' recognition from the Alzheimer's Society and were invited to discuss ideas to mark this occasion. Councillors P Ashton and J Deveney reported that the training had been very warmly accepted by the community and achieving this recognition is something that Brecon should be proud of.

RESOLVED

THAT Councillors Ashton and Deveney would liaise with the Town Clerk and Rhiannon Davies from the Alzheimer's Society to discuss ideas to mark this occasion and would report back to Council in due course.

232/14 BANDSTAND – THE PROMENADE

The Town Clerk advised Members that everything was on track for the opening of the bandstand on the 11th October. The Town Band and Aberhonddu Choir were booked to perform together with other musical guests. The Town Clerk advised that the contractors had left the electricity supply on but this had now been rectified.

THESE comments were noted.

233/14 ANNUAL RETURN – 2014

Members had before them the Annual Return and Issues arising from the External Auditors. Following clarification from the Town Clerk

THIS document was received and approved.

234/14 POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL AND POWYS HEALTH TEACHING BOARD

Submitted - invitation to a budget conversation workshop being held jointly by Powys County Council and Powys Health Teaching Board – a copy of which was circulated at the meeting.

THIS invitation was received.

MEMBERS REPORTS

235/14 Councillor I Williams advised that there was now a new Dean at the Cathedral and enquired whether a small reception should be held at the Guildhall for Councillors to welcome him to Brecon.