

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, BRECON ON MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

348/14 PRESENT

Councillor N Sandford (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor I Williams
Councillor A M Morgan
Councillor C T Walsh
Councillor Mrs R Evans
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor Mrs M Phillips
Councillor P Ashton
Councillor R Lewis

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

349/14 PRESENTATION AGINCOURT COMMITTEE

The Mayor welcomed Mrs E Jeffries and Mr B Davies who attended the meeting to provide members with more information in relation to the 'Brecon Gathering Events' which are planned for 2015. Mr Davies gave a brief background as to the history of Agincourt and what celebrations were being planned in Brecon to celebrate this 600th Anniversary. The Chair of Finance advised Members that the Agincourt Committee had submitted an application for financial assistance which they intended to use for a road closure order. The Chair of Finance further advised that the Committee had requested members of the Agincourt Committee to come along to a meeting of the full Council so that more details could be provided to ensure that the application could be supported. He thanked Ms Jefferies and Mr Davies for their attendance and for the information they had provided. Members were happy to support the application for a road closure and wished them well with the planned events. Mr Davies advised that he would be happy to provide members with regular updates on the progress of the events. The Finance Committee will reconsider the finance application at their next meeting.

350/14 DYFED POWYS POLICE - CCTV

Inspector M Scrase was in attendance to discuss the possibility of the Town Council funding an updated CCTV system for Brecon Town. Inspector Scrase advised that he was of the opinion that a sustainable CCTV system in the town would be very beneficial and it would assist greatly in the reduction of crime. Inspector Scrase introduced Mr S Hirons who proceeded to give members a comprehensive demonstration on an up-to-date CCTV system and how the this system would operate.

Members were very supportive of having a CCTV system in place in Brecon Town but were mindful of the costs involved. It was noted that funds had been included in the precept to help towards the costs of installing an updated CCTV system.

Members were of the opinion that a lot more detail in relation to the costs involved needed to be provided and the location of the cameras needed to be discussed further. They requested that a more detailed survey together with detailed costings and site plans be provided to them to enable them to give the matter further consideration. Inspector Scrase agreed that he would obtain a more detailed proposal for consideration by Members as soon as possible. The Mayor thanked Inspector Scrase and Mr Hirons for their attendance and the informative presentation.

351/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E A Pritchard, A M C Weale K Wilbud and J Deveney.

352/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors D Meredith, P Ashton and M Dorrance declared personal but not prejudicial interests in Agenda Item 10 inasmuch as they are Powys County Councillors. Councillors D Meredith and P Ashton declared an interest in Agenda Item 15 inasmuch as they are Members of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Councillor Mrs M Phillips declared an interest in Minute No. 279/14 inasmuch as she is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Theatr Brycheiniog.

353/14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor circulated a list of engagements he had carried out since October 2014.

354/14 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk advised that she had been notified by Councillor Mrs Pritchard that she wished to resign as the Town Council's representative on the Board of Governors at Mount Street Infant School. The Town Clerk notified Members that there would be an Agenda item for the next Full Council to nominate a replacement.

SECTION A

355/14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 October 2014 (pages 106 to 114) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

Arising from the Minutes

356/14 RESTRUCTURING OF COMMITTEES – (MINUTE 311/14)

Councillor Ieuan Williams expressed concern that it had been brought to his attention that it had been suggested that the discussion concerning restructuring of the committees had been brought about as a result of Labour members of the Town Council. He stated that the report that had been prepared was excellent and he stressed the importance of the Town Council evolving and moving forward in these changing times.

357/14 REPORT

Subject to the foregoing

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on the 27th October 2014 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence

358/14 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – 20 OCTOBER 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 20 October 2014 (pages 96 to 103) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 20 October 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

359/14 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 3 NOVEMBER 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3 November 2014 (pages 117 to 120) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 3 November 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

360/14 FISHING COMMITTEE MEETING – 3 NOVEMBER 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Fishing Committee held on 3 November 2014 (pages 122 to 124) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that she had been notified that a dead salmon had been seen by the Usk Bridge and that she had notified the Water Bailiff who was going to investigate the matter further.

RESOLVED

THAT, the Minutes of the Fishing Committee Meeting held on the 3 November 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

361/14 PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION

Members had before them a report from the Town Clerk following the meeting of the working group which set out the four options that had been discussed by the working group.

The Town Clerk advised that she had contacted Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to enquire about the possibility of funding but it was very unlikely that any funds would be available.

Members then discussed in detail the options put forward by the Working Group and in particular the preferred option which would be to work with Powys County Council under a service level type agreement whereby Powys would continue to run the services but the Town Council would pay for it. It was noted that funds had been placed in the precept to cover the estimated costs of running the toilets at the Promenade and Lion Yard. Members noted that the toilets at the bus interchange would remain open in any event.

Members were in agreement that every effort should be made to keep the toilets open and the suggestion put forward by the Working Group appeared to be the most sensible way forward as Powys already has the vehicles, man power and equipment in place to maintain the public toilets.

Members noted that an increase would be required to the precept to enable these toilets to remain open and it was suggested that the public be made aware of the Town Council's objectives to keep the toilets open as these are essential to the town.

Following further discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk write to Powys County Council putting forward the Town's Council's preferred option of a service level

type agreement whereby the Town Council would pay funds to Powys County Council to maintain the toilets at the Promenade and Lion Yard. She would request a meeting with officers of Powys County Council and the Working Group to discuss this matter further and report back to Full Council at the next meeting.

362/14 DRAFT PRECEPT 2015 – 2016

Submitted – draft proposal for the Precept for 2015/2016 together with a detailed report from the Town Clerk providing information and quotations for suggestions made by the Committees and her suggested recommendations.

The Chair of Finance thanked the Town Clerk for her effort in preparing and producing a most comprehensive document and recorded his thanks to the independent Auditor for his valuable assistance. The Chair advised Councillors that the draft precept had been increased to include the provision of public toilets and CCTV which would benefit the community, and business in the Town.

Members agreed that public toilet provision and the installation of a CCTV system were both projects that should be supported.

Members discussed the cost for the erection of the Christmas Lights and it was suggested that local businesses be contacted and requested to donate to the cost of the Christmas Lights display for next year.

The request for a full time caretaker for the Guildhall was discussed and following a majority vote it was decided that this could not be accommodated at this time.

Members then considered the other suggestions for inclusion in the precept and following detailed discussion and explanation it was

RESOLVED

THAT the draft Precept be finalised following the discussions by Members. The Precept be brought back to the Full Council Meeting in January for approval with agreed amendments incorporated.

363/14 WELSH GOVERNMENT – TRUNK ROAD SPEED REVIEW

Submitted a letter from the Welsh Government in relation to the Trunk Road Speed Review together with questionnaire for completion – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(B)**.

Councillor Dorrance advised that he has recently met with a member of the public who had grave concerns over the speed limits on the A470 particularly at Llanspyddid and he would be very supportive of speed restrictions being

introduced . Other Members voiced their concerns over the excess speed of traffic at other locations on the A470 and A40.

Members noted that Councillor Wilbud had attended other meetings in relation to this matter and therefore:

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT Councillor Wilbud be requested to complete the questionnaire on behalf of Brecon Town Council and put forward Members concerns and request for speed restrictions for submission to the Welsh Government.

364/14 BRECON JAZZ STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Submitted an email from Mr Roger Cannon asking Members to consider continued representation on the Brecon Jazz Stakeholder Group – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(C)**

Following clarification from Councillor Mrs Mary Phillips who is the currently the Town Council's representation on the Brecon Jazz Stakeholder Group as to the content of this email

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the comments be noted and Councillor Mrs M Phillips to remain as the Council's elected representative on the Brecon Jazz Stakeholder Group.

365/14 SALINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION.

Submitted letter Mr Brian Newman in relation to the Brecon-Saline Twinning Association – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(C)**

Members discussed what should be done with the existing funds that were being held by the existing Committee and whether these should be by held by Brecon Town Council pending the formation or otherwise of a new Twinning Association. Councillor Mrs R Evans advised at this stage that she was unaware that the original Committee had been disbanded and she believed that this Committee was still in existence.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk contact Mr Newman advising that the Town Council would hold the remaining funds pending the formation of a new Committee and seeking clarification that the existing Committee had been officially disbanded.

366/14 SUNDAY BUS SERVICES

Councillors D Meredith and P Ashton left the chamber and did not take part in any discussions concerning this Agenda item.

Submitted email from Councillor M Dorrance inviting a member of Brecon Town Council to attend a meeting with Powys County Council to discuss the future of the Beacons Bus Service – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(E)**.

Members had before them a short report from the Town Clerk advising of the latest position regarding the No 39 bus service between Hay and Brecon. She further advised that she was awaiting details of the cost of a feasibility study from Brecon Beacons National Park.

RESOLVED

THAT Councillor N Sandford be nominated to attend the meeting in relation to the Beacons Bus Service. The Report of the Town Clerk was noted and received and Members requested that the Town Clerk reply to Talgarth Town Council to confirm their support, subject to costs involved.

367/14 FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – THE GUILDHALL

Submitted a report from the Town Clerk following a meeting with the Fire Officer to review the Fire Risk Assessment and an amended copy of the Fire Risk Assessment for the Guildhall – copies of which were circulated at the meeting (**Appendix C(F)**).

RESOLVED

THAT the Report of the Town Clerk be received and the recommendations contained therein be implemented. The amended Fire Risk Assessment for the Guildhall was approved and received.

368/15 POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – COMMUNITY DELIVERY

Submitted a letter from Powys County Council in relation to 'Community Delivery' – a copy of which was circulated at the meeting - **Appendix C(G)**.

Members were concerned about the costs implications for Town and Community Councils if they were to take on some or all of the services outlined in the letter from Powys County Council. They also noted that a series of pilot schemes were being implemented and queried why Brecon and had not been invited to take part in any pilots.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk respond to Powys County Council requesting projected costings for the range of services that had been identified as those that Town and Community Councils might wish to take on and requesting details of how towns are selected to take part in pilot projects and advising that Brecon would wish to be considered for any future pilot schemes.

369/14 BRANCH LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Submitted a letter from Powys County Council advising of the proposed new opening hours for Branch Libraries – a copy of which was circulated at the meeting – **Appendix- C(H)**

This letter was received and the contents noted.

REPORTS OF MEMBERS

There were no Reports of Members submitted.