

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, BRECON ON MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2015 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**426/14 PRESENT**

Councillor N Sandford (Mayor in the Chair)  
Councillor D Meredith  
Councillor I Williams  
Councillor C T Walsh  
Councillor Mrs R Evans  
Councillor M Dorrance  
Councillor R Lewis  
Councillor K Wilbud  
Councillor A M C Weale

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

**427/14 PRESENTATION - MID AND WEST WALES FIRE BRIGADE**

Mr Neil Evans from Mid and West Wales Fire Brigade attended the meeting.

Mr Evans outlined the works that the Fire Service undertook and in particular advised Members that they were looking at ways of getting better data sharing with other agencies to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable people in the community. He requested the Fire Service would be most grateful for assistance that Town Councillors could provide in advising residents of their Wards of the benefits of having home fire safety checks.

Mr Evans reported to members the work being done via the Young Fighters Scheme and a road safety role play scheme which would be held at the High School.

Members were invited to put any questions or observations to Mr Evans.

The Mayor thanked Mr Evans for attending and for the information that he had provided.

**428/14 DYFED-POWYS POLICE**

Inspector M Scrase was in attendance. He commenced by advising Members that the crime figures for the Christmas period had been comparatively successful

Inspector Scrase then went on to discuss the progress of CCTV cameras. He advised that he had been unsuccessful in obtaining any match funding from Powys County Council. He was considering other forms of funding by way of public/private partnerships and had already been in contact with businesses in Bethel Square and there had been some positive feedback in this regard.

Inspector Scrase circulated a quote he had received from Technical Services to supply and install the CCTV system. He also advised that if the full funding was not available other systems including internet based cameras could be considered.

Members again reiterated their support for CCTV in Brecon and confirmed that a sum of £14,000 had been set aside in the Precept for this purpose. Councillor Dorrance advised that it was his understanding that Members had agreed that the balance would be utilised from reserves if necessary to ensure that the system was put in place as quickly as possible.

Members did raise concerns in relation to the monitoring of the system and also what would the consequences be if Inspector Scrase were to leave his post as Town Inspector. Members felt they needed assurances that the system would be monitored 24 hours a day, and if not 24 hours, how many hours realistically would it be monitored and that this would continue should Inspector Scrase vacate his post. They would then consider the matter further.

Inspector Scrase thanked Members for their support to-date and said that he would obtain further information and a feasibility study and report back to the next Meeting of the Full Council.

#### **429/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E A Pritchard, J Deveney Mrs M Phillips, P Ashton and A M Morgan

#### **430/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors D Meredith and M Dorrance declared personal but not prejudicial interests in the Agenda items relating to Powys County Council inasmuch as they are Powys County Councillors. Councillor I Williams declared an interest in Appendix C(N) inasmuch as he is an elected

member of the Board of Trustees of PAVO. The Town Clerk declared an interest on behalf of herself and Mrs Alison Jones in Agenda item 26.

#### **431/14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised Members that he had not prepared his list of engagements in readiness for the meeting and would circulate the same at the meeting of the next Full Council.

#### **432/14 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk requested that when Members were declaring an interest that they complete the appropriate form at the meeting.

#### **SECTION A**

#### **433/14 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2014 (pages 126 to 134) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

#### **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT**

**The Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on the 24 November 2014 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence

#### **434/14 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 5 JANUARY 2015**

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 January 2015 (pages 137 to 140) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

#### **RESOLVED**

**THAT, the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 5 January 2015 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.**

#### **435/14 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 5 JANUARY 2015**

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on 5 January 2015 (pages 143 to 148) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

### **Arising from the Minutes**

#### **436/14 BRECKNOCK YFC – REQUEST TO ATTEND MEETINGS**

Members enquired whether a reply had been received from Brecknock YFC in relation to their request to attend future meetings.

**THE Town Clerk advised that she had sent a letter but no reply had been received to-date.**

#### **RESOLVED**

**THAT, the Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on the 5 January 2015 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.**

#### **437/14 DYFED-POWYS POLICE COMMISSIONER – CCTV REPORT**

Submitted the report from the Dyfed-Powys Police Commissioner in relation to publicly funded CCTV – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(B)**

Councillor Dorrance stated that he believed the Commissioner was elected to represent community views and this matter was beyond the remit of the Commissioner. It was his opinion that matters such as CCTV should be left to the local police and communities.

Following further discussion

#### **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT**

**THE Town Clerk write to the Police Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police advising that this Council does not support the findings of the Report and that Brecon Town Council has set aside funds towards the provision of CCTV in Brecon Town.**

#### **438/14 GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR LOCAL COUNCILS IN WALES**

Submitted amended Chapters of the Governance and Accountability for Local Council in Wales – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(C)**

**THIS document was received**

**439/14 PRECEPT – 2015 – 2016**

Submitted the final Precept 2015 – 2016 for approval – a copy of which had previously been circulated - **Appendix C(D)**

The Chair of Finance thanked the Town Clerk for her work in putting the precept together.

Members noted that the precept could not be in approved in full until a discussion had taken place regarding the provision of public toilets and the funds that would be required for this. It was agreed to discuss Agenda Item 16 in relation to future provision of public toilets at this point of the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that a meeting of the Working Group and representatives of Powys County Council had taken place prior to Christmas and further information in relation to the costings surrounding a service level type agreement were awaited.

She further advised that she had met with a private contractor and had visited the two proposed public toilets to obtain a quotation for the running of these toilets. She reported that there were major works that would need to be carried out at the toilets at the Promenade to bring them up to standard.

Members discussed the figures quoted by the private contractor and agreed that the coin operated system would generate income for the Council. It was requested that the contractor attend a meeting of the Full Council so that Members could put their questions to them.

Members were disappointed that the data requested from Powys County Council had not been forthcoming.

Members were in full agreement that public toilet provision is essential to Brecon Town and still wished to support this but further consideration needed to be given to the matter as to how this should be undertaken.

Following further detailed discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT**

**THE Precept be approved with the matter of funding the public toilet provision remaining open for discussion.**

**The Town Clerk to write to Powys County Council again seeking the further information requested and advising of the Council's disappointment that this data has not yet been provided. The Working Group to arrange another meeting in attempt to move the matter forward. That the private contractor be invited to a meeting of the Full Council to give a presentation.**

#### **440/14 DEVOLVEMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

Further to a meeting of the Environment Committee on 5 January 2015 (Minute 404/14) Members were invited to discuss the possible formation of a working group to consider the proposed devolvement of outdoor recreational facilities and to consider whether a member of Powys County Council should be invited to attend a meeting to obtain further information at this stage.

Members noted that there were a number of outdoor recreational facilities in the Town these and this would require significant investment from the Town Council if they were to be devolved.

Following further discussion

#### **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT**

**ANY Member interested in being on the working group to let the Town Clerk know as soon as possible. It was also agreed to have the first meeting of the working group before contacting any representatives of Powys County Council for more information.**

#### **441/14 MOUNTSTREET INFANT SCH00L – NOMINATION OF GOVERNOR**

Members were invited to nominate a new Town Council Representative to the Board of Governors at Mount Street Infant School.

#### **RESOLVED**

**THAT Councillor K Wilbud be appointed to represent the Town Council on the Board of Governors at Mount Street Infant School.**

#### **442/14 NATIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

Submitted – notification of the consultation on a new National Transport plan - a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(E)**

Members discussed the importance of the transport system to the economy in rural areas and the need for outlying areas to access the towns and villages and these views should be made known during the consultation process.

Councillor Meredith suggested that it may be beneficial for Members to meet with Mr John Forsey of Powys County Council to discuss with him the County Council's viewpoint on the National Transport Plan to see whether the Town Council could offer their support.

### **RESOLVED**

**THAT the Town Clerk write to Mr Forsey and invite him to attend the next meeting of the Full Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February to discuss the proposed National Transport Plan and consider a response to the Welsh Government.**

#### **443/14 BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – WORKSHOP – SUNDAY BUS SERVICES**

Submitted an invitation from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for Members to attend a workshop to look at the level of interest in re-introducing a bus service on Sundays throughout the summer – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(F)**

Following further discussion

### **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT**

**Councillors K Wilbud, Mrs R Evans and N Sandford would attend if they were available on behalf of Brecon Town Council.**

#### **444/14 SUNDAY BUS SERVICES**

Submitted email in relation a feasibility study for a Sunday Bus Service – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(G)**

**THIS email was received.**

#### **445/14 ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

Submitted a letter from Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum advising that this year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of

Abraham Lincoln and attaching a copy of the original letter of condolence sent from the Council's predecessors in 1865. The Council were invited to send a letter setting out how the legacy of Abraham Lincoln has affected the Town and its citizens.

After discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**THAT the Mayor prepare a suitable letter for forwarding to the Museum.**

**446/14 SALINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION.**

Submitted a Report by the Town Clerk detailing the latest position in relation to the disbandment of the previous Committee – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(I)**. Councillor Dorrance expressed concerns regarding the terms of the constitution and the minutes surrounding any disbandment of the Committee. The Town Clerk confirmed that she was in possession of the hand written minutes.

Members discussed the recommendations made by the Town Clerk concerning the existing bank account and were keen to lead the establishment of a new Committee to ensure the continuance of the Twinning Association with Saline.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT Councillor Mrs R Evans would do a Members Report for Council and would speak to the previous Members of the Saline Twinning Committee to find out the level of interest for the establishment of a new Committee. The existing Bank Account to remain in abeyance pending the formation of any new Committee.**

**447/14 BRECON NEPALESE COMMUNITY**

Members had before them the notes of a meeting attended by the Mayor in relation to the Nepalese Community Service Needs and Provisions The Mayor advised that it was a most informative meeting and the aim was to explore the service needs of the Nepalese Community in Brecon .

**RESOLVED**

**THAT this document be received and the comments noted.**



**448/14 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS – BRECKNOCK WELFARE TRUST, HARLEY THOMAS CHARITY AND ALDERMAN THOMAS WILLIAMS CHARITY**

Submitted the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 in respect of Brecknock Welfare Trust, Harley Thomas Charity and Alderman Thomas Williams Charity. – copies of which were circulated at the meeting – **Appendix C(L)**. After the Councillors had been given a brief overview by the Town Clerk, it was

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the Accounts be approved and accepted.**

**449/14 POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – COLLECTIVE ENERGY SWITCHING SCHEME**

Submitted email from Powys County Council in relation to Wales Together – the Collective Energy Switching Scheme for Wales – a copy of which was circulated at the meeting – **Appendix C(M)**.

Councillor Dorrance reported that he had seen this scheme in action and it was very positive and was making a difference to people who had taken advantage of it. He requested that the Council promote it via notice boards and the Website.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the details of the Scheme be placed on the Council's Website and in the notice boards for public information.**

**450/14 PAVO – PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP**

Submitted a report from the Town Clerk in relation to a PAVO event she had attended. Members were also invited to consider member of PAVO – a copy of which was circulated at the meeting – **Appendix C(N)**.

The Chair of Finance enquired whether there were any cost implications in joining and the Town Clerk confirmed that membership would be free.

**RESOLVED**

**THE report of Town Clerk be received and noted. The Town Council to become Members of Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO).**

## **REPORTS OF MEMBERS**

**451/14 Councillor I Williams** requested that Mr Allan Jones be nominated for the Council's proposed Good Citizen Award and that this matter be considered by the Civic Committee at their next meeting,

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor D Meredith passed on the condolences of Members to the Mayor and Mayoress on the death of the Mayoress' Mother.

## **452/14 MAYOR OF BRECON – CHARITY FUND BANK ACCOUNT**

Councillor Meredith requested the agreement of Members to set up a Mayor of Brecon Charity Fund Account and suggested that the Civic Committee pass a resolution to consider annually the opening of a Mayor of Brecon Charity Fund Account for all incoming Mayors.

### **RESOLVED**

**THAT Members were in full agreement that a Mayor of Brecon Charity Fund Account should be set up and considered annually by the Civic Committee.**

## **SECTION B**

### **Staff and Establishment**

#### **453/14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

##### **RESOLVED**

**THAT in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted whereby matters of a possible personal nature might be discussed in relation to the finances or staff of the Council, and matters of a sensitive nature, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and that they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.**

#### **454/14 COUNCIL MEETING – 24 NOVEMBER 2014**

Submitted - Minutes of the confidential part of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2014 (Pages 135 to 136) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

##### **RESOLVED**

**THAT the minutes of the confidential part of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.**

#### **455/14 PLANNING MEETING – 5 JANUARY 2015**

Submitted - Minutes of the confidential part of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 January 2015 (Pages 141 to 142) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

##### **RESOLVED**

**THAT the minutes of the confidential part of the Finance Committee held on 20 October 2014 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed**

#### **456/14 ENVIRONMENT MEETING – 5 JANUARY 2015**

Submitted - Minutes of the confidential part of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 January 2015 (Pages 149-150) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the minutes of the confidential part of the Environment Meeting held on 5 January 2015 be taken as read, approved as a true record and signed**

**457/14 NJC PAY INCREASES**

At this stage of the meeting the Town Clerk offered to leave the chamber with the Assistant Town Clerk during discussions which Members did not deem necessary.

Members had before them a report from the Town Clerk in relation to NJC pay increases and a non-consolidated (one-off) payment and were requested to approve the increase which would be back dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

Following a discussion it was

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the pay increase and one-off payment be agreed and back dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.**

**458/13 CLAIM – CHIMNEY REPAIRS AT GUILDHALL**

Submitted a letter from the Councillor's legal advisers setting out the latest position in relation to progress of the claim – a copy of which was circulated at the meeting – **Appendix C(O)** The Town Clerk explained that the legal adviser had requested a settlement figure be agreed prior to a round table meeting if possible.

Following consideration of the contents of the letter

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**THAT Members were happy to agree with the recommendations contained in the Solicitor's letter and that an offer of upwards of £5,000 plus legal costs could be accepted however wished for it to be stated that this would a goodwill gesture towards the local business concerned.**

**459/14 TERMINATION**

The meeting concluded at 9.05 p.m.

**MRS. FIONA WILLIAMS**  
**Town Clerk**

**Mayor .....Date:...**