

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

289/14 PRESENT

Councillor D Meredith (Deputy Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor I Williams
Councillor A M Morgan
Councillor K Wilbud
Councillor C T Walsh
Councillor Mrs R Evans
Councillor J Deveney
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor Mrs M Phillips

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

290/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Lewis, N Sandford, P Ashton and Mrs E A Pritchard , A M C Weale and Mrs C M E Griffiths

291/14 PRESENTATION – MR ALASTAIR KNOX POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – PUBLIC TOILETS

The Chair welcomed Mr Alastair Knox of Powys County Council to the meeting.

Mr Knox commenced by stating that the Head of Services passed on his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. Mr Knox reported that due to the savings that Powys County Council had to make they had to offer the running of public toilets to Town and Community Councils as well as independent third parties in an attempt to keep as many open as possible. Powys County Council were offering an annual grant towards the running costs which he envisaged would be available for a period of three years but he could not provide any firm commitment at this stage.

He advised that councils who took over the running of public toilets would have the opportunity to either purchase or lease the buildings. Members also had before them the current costs which had been provided by Powys County Council for the running of all the toilets - **Appendix C(B)**.

Mr Knox then advised of the likely grant that would be awarded to the Town Council if they agreed to take over the provision of the toilets – he further advised that Powys County Council were obligated to keep the toilets at the

bus interchange open due to previous grant funding, but the amount available to The Town Council would be increased if the Council agreed to the running of these toilets also.

Members then had the opportunity to put their questions and observations to Mr Knox. They asked how the figures that would be available by way of a grant were arrived at as it was considerably less than the cost of running the toilets.

Members reiterated all the previous concerns that had been discussed in various Council meetings and all agreed that the toilets were a necessity in the town and any closure would have a severe detrimental effect on business and tourism.

Members discussed the amount of staff training that would be involved and the extra costs that would be needed to fund a vehicle, insurances, pensions etc they were to consider running public toilets.

The question was raised as to the possibility of paying a sum to Powys County Council from the Town Council precept to keep the toilets open as Powys already had the trained staff, use of vehicles etc, in the same way as the Town Council contribute a sum to Powys County Council to fund a School Crossing Patrol.

Mr Knox concluded by advising that an expression of interest would probably be required by January and the final decision would have to be made prior to the end of the Council's financial year which would be March 2015. He said that if he could provide any further information he would be happy to do so.

Members agreed that a working group should be set and meet as soon as possible, consisting of Councillors M Dorrance, M Morgan, Mrs R Evans, C Wilbud, C Walsh and the Town Clerk to discuss the proposals in more detail and look at the best options available for the residents of Brecon.

The Chair thanked Mr Knox for his attendance.

292/14 DYFED POWYS POLICE

Inspector M Scrase was in attendance. He commenced by inviting members to email him with any points they wished to raise prior to meetings and he would then endeavour to answer their queries at the meeting.

Inspector Scrase gave a detailed report on the overall crime rate for the the various categories for Brecon Town. He advised that incidents of reported anti-social behaviour had dramatically reduced but he did stress that if members of the public were having problems he would encourage them to the report the matter to the police. He also advised that they had been successful in reducing car crime.

Inspector Scrase outlined various operations that would come into affect in the run up to and over the Christmas period.

He reported that he had met with a member of Powys County Council to discuss the CCTV in Brecon which had fallen into disrepair. He advised that if he could show that there was local support from the Town Council he may be able to obtain some match funding to get the CCTV up and running again.

Members then had the opportunity to put their questions and observations to Inspector Scrase. One major point of concern was inappropriate parking. Members also advised Inspector Scrase of recent incidents of cold calling on elderly residents and road safety of youngsters riding scooters on the roads.

At this point of the meeting the Chair brought to the attention of Inspector Skrase a letter which had been received by the Council by the head teacher of Llanfaes Primary School concerning an incident that had occurred at the Skatepark – **Appendix C(D)**. Inspector Skrase advised that the head teacher needed to liaise with the Police and he advised that this matter had been reported on the day.

The Chair thanked Inspector Skrase for his attendance,

293/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

294/14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the Mayor was not in attendance, there were no Mayor's Announcements.

295/14 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk advised that there was a visiting party from Gouesnou and they had requested that they be permitted to lay a Wreath at the Remembrance Service on the 9th November 2014.

SECTION A

296/14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22nd September 2014 (pages 73 to 82) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

Arising from the Minutes

297/14 ROSPA PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORTS (MINUTE NO 219/14)

Members enquired whether any progress had been made in relation to possibly getting an inspector from ROSPA to attend a meeting with Council to talk about their reports.

The Town Clerk advised that she had initially had a response to say that it may be possible for an inspector to attend but there would be costs involved. She had now however received a further reply stating that the inspector was of the opinion that the reports should be clear, and the maintenance issues, when read in conjunction with the notes, should be self-explanatory.

298/14 IMPROVING AVAILABILITY OF ALLOTMENTS (MINUTE 224/14)

The Town Clerk advised that she had written to Powys County Council in relation to the land at Fennifach being made available for allotments again and she was awaiting a response.

299/14 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY (MINUTE 231/14)

Councillor I Williams reported that he had applied on line to register to become a 'dementia friend' and had since been inundated with emails providing him with application forms.

300/14 REPORT

Subject to the foregoing

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on the 22nd September 2014 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence

301/14 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 OCTOBER 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 October 2014 (pages 86 to 89) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

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

302/14 CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 OCTOBER 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Civic Committee held on 6 October 2014 (pages 92 to 94) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

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

303/14 SMALL ARMS SCHOOL CORP – REQUEST FOR HONORARY CITIZENSHIP OF THE TOWN

Further to a meeting of the Civic Committee held on the 6th October 2014 (Minute 265/14) Members were invited to discuss a request received from the Small Arms School Corp to be granted the Honorary Citizenship of Brecon Town.

After consideration

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

The Town Clerk respond to the Small Arms School Corps advising that whilst their presence was most welcome the Town Council were not mindful at this stage to bestow this honour.

304/14 PUBLIC CONVENIENCE PROVISION

Submitted – further correspondence from Powys County Council – copies of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(C)**

Members noted that this agenda item had been fully discussed at Minute No. 290/14 and that a working group had now been formed to take the matter further and report back to the next meeting of the Full Council.

305/14 BRECON CULTURAL HUB STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Members were invited to nominate a representative of the Town Council to be on the Brecon Cultural Hub Stakeholder Group.

RESOLVED

THAT Councillor Ieuan Williams be named as the Town Council Representative but if he was unable to attend a meeting Councillor Chris Walsh would deputise for him.

306/14 BANDSTAND – THE PROMENADE

Members had before them a short report from the Town Clerk advising that all works to the bandstand had now been completed all cost had been paid in full. The total cost for the project was £89,814.00.

The Town Clerk advised that promotional work would commence in early spring to ensure that the bandstand was used to its full capacity for a series of events through the spring and summer. Members discussed whether hire charges should be considered and it was agreed that commercial organisation from outside the area should pay a hire charge but all local organisations should be able to use the open space facility free of charge.

307/14 SALINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Members were invited to discuss the regeneration of the Saline Twinning Association following the resignation of previous Committee members.

Councillor Dorrance noted that there was no motion put forward to consider the formation of new Committee and suggested that this be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Full Council for discussion.

RESOLVED

THAT a motion to consider the formation of a new committee to regenerate the Saline Twinning Association be placed on the Agenda for the meeting of the next Full Council for discussion.

308/14 SECTION 106 AGREEMENT – LOVELLS

Members had before them an update from the Town Clerk in relation to the Section 106 Agreement following a meeting of the St David's Ward Members on the 30th September 2014. The Town Clerk advised that she had now received clarification that the monies could be used within the church for the setting up of a meeting area.

Councillor Mrs R Evans expressed concerns that not all residents were church goers and suggested asking the residents how they would like the funding to be used.

Members expressed the view that the Ward Members for St Davids should now be allowed to move this matter forward and a letter should be sent to the Vicar of St Davids Church informing him that the funds could now be utilised within the church itself for the creation of a community meeting area and requesting his proposals and costings for the works envisaged.

Councillor Meredith requested that the Minutes record that he had been made aware of some untrue statements concerning this matter which had caused him some concern and he hoped that all ward members could now show a united front to progress this matter.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk write to the Reverend T Williams advising him that the funds could be used to create a community meeting facility within the Church and requesting him to provide a detailed project forecast for consideration. The matter would revert to back to Full Council for further discussion.

309/14 BRECON JAZZ – 2015

Members had before them a letter from Orchard, organisers of the Brecon Jazz Festival, requesting the Council's continued financial assistance for the 2015 Festival to provide funds for street entertainment and the waiving of hire charges for the use of the Guildhall.

After discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT a Financial Application Form be forwarded to Orchard for completion and consideration as a whole by the Finance Committee at their next meeting.

310/14 SUNDAY BUS SERVICES

At this point of the meeting, the Chair declared an interest in that he is a member of the Brecon Beacons Bus and vacated the Chair and left the Chamber. Councillor I Williams assumed the Chair. It was noted that the meeting was not now quorate so no discussion could take place.

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT this item be placed on the Agenda for the Full Council in November for full discussion.

311/14 RESTRUCTURING OF COMMITTEES

Members had before them a detailed report on the observations made by those Members who had responded to the Committee restructuring questionnaire. The replies were discussed and Councillors commented on the importance of having the Committees functioning effectively as it was clear that the Town Council was evolving. There were some comments that it was felt needed to be discussed by each Committee individually.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

Each Committee as it met over the forthcoming couple of months would discuss the three points which needed clarification. The responses would then be considered by the Working Group and

the matter would come back before Full Council in February for full discussion and implementation prior to the next civic year.

MEMBERS REPORTS

There were no Reports by Members.