

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

414/13 PRESENT

Councillor M Dorrance (Mayor – In the Chair)
Councillor R. Lewis
Councillor I Williams
Councillor Mrs R Evans
Councillor A M Morgan
Councillor K Wilbud
Councillor Mrs C M E Griffiths
Councillor N Sandford
Councillor A M C Weale
Councillor Mrs M Phillips

In Attendance: Mrs Gail Rofe (Town Clerk)
Mrs Alison Jones (Assistant Town Clerk)

415/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E A Pritchard, D Meredith, C T Walsh, P J Ashton and J Deveney

416/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

417/13 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor commenced by advising Members that Councillor David Meredith was in hospital following surgery and requested that a letter be sent with the best wishes from the Council for a speedy recovery.

The Mayor circulated a list of engagements he had carried out since the last meeting of the Council and these were as follows:

30th January 2014 – presentation of a Brecon Town Crest to the outgoing Brigadier, 30th January 2014 – presentation of a Bomber Command Clasp at the Guildhall, 22nd February 2014 – Rorkes Drift Annual Concert at the Theatre.

418/13 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements by the Town Clerk.

SECTION A

419/13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 January 2014 (Pages 119 to 126) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

Arising from the Minutes

420/13 DEMENTIA CHAMPION TRAINING AND DEMENTIA FRIENDS SESSIONS (MINUTE 366/13)

Members who attended this training session advised that it was an excellent and worthwhile evening.

421/13 SALINE TWINNING COMMITTEE – (MINUTE 371/13)

Councillor Mrs R Evans enquired whether notification had been received in relation to the disbanding of the Saline Twinning Committee. The Town Clerk advised that she had written to the Chairman requesting further information and was awaiting a response.

CORRESPONDENCE

422/13 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – PROPOSED CLOSURE

Submitted further information regarding the discussions and development of public toilets in Brecon – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(A)(1)**.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that a member of the public had called into the Guildhall to express his concerns at the closure of the toilets at Kensington. He reported that people were resorting to using the woods and little children were getting upset as there were no toilets close by and this was very distressing to residents and visitors.

RESOLVED

THAT the information contained in the correspondence be received and noted and that the concerns of the public in relation to distress caused due to the closure of the toilets in Kensington be brought to the attention of the local County Council member.

423/13 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 3 FEBRUARY 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3 February 2014 (pages 130 to 133) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

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

424/13 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – 3 FEBRUARY 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Finance Committee held on the 3 February 2014 (pages 135 to 140) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

RESOLVED

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

425/13 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL WELSH

Submitted a late application for financial assistance for the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh to allow opening at the weekends during the summer period – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(B)**.

The Town Clerk advised members that this application had been delayed due to the illness of the curator.

After discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the sum of £1,000 be awarded to the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh.

426/13 POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOOLS SERVICES – PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Submitted consultation documentation from Powys County Council Schools services – Powys County Council regarding the provision of Special Educational Needs – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(C)**.

Councillors discussed these proposals in great detail and had a number of concerns in relation to the loss/closure of the special educational needs facilities at Mount Street Infant School, Mount Street Junior School, and Llanfaes Community Primary School and were strongly opposed to any such closure.

Members commented that these units had been run very successfully over many years and pupils within the special needs units have the specialist care of trained and experienced teachers and teaching assistants. Councillors

were concerned that integration into mainstream classes could result in a loss of SENCO expertise, lead to an increase in the pupil teacher ratio and could affect the education of mainstream pupils due to the additional requirements for special educational needs pupils.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk respond to the consultation document on behalf of the Town Council outlining the concerns and objections of the Town Council to the loss/closure of special needs units.

427/13 REVALUATION – COUNCIL ASSETS AND MAYORAL REGALIA

Submitted a request from the Insurance Brokers to make arrangements for a revaluation of the Council's building assets and mayoral regalia – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(D)**.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk make arrangements for the revaluations to be carried out.

428/13 MAESCAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL – SPEEDING TRAFFIC

Submitted – a letter from Maescar Community Council in relation to a new initiative to combat nuisance speeding traffic – a copy of which had previously been circulated – **Appendix C(E)**.

Members agreed that speeding was a serious problem affecting all the Wards within Brecon and that any initiatives should be supported.

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk reply to Maescar Community Council advising of the Town Council's support for their initiative and requesting further details which would then be brought back to Council for discussion.

429/13 ONE VOICE WALES – MEMBERSHIP 2014/2015

Members were invited to consider membership of One Voice Wales for 2014/2015 at a 50% reduction for one year. Councillors considered whether this membership would be of assistance to the new Town Clerk once appointed. After a vote it was

RESOLVED by a majority that the Council take out membership for the year.

430/13 REPORTS OF MEMBERS

There were no Reports from Members . However, Councillor Weale wished to take the opportunity to thank Councillors for their kind wishes following the death of his mother.