

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

467/13 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 N Sandford
Councillor A M C Weale
Councillor Mrs M Phillips
Councillor Mrs E A Pritchard
Councillor J Deveney
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor C T Walsh
Councillor P Ashton

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

468/13 DYFED-POWYS POLICE

Police Inspector Matt Skrase was present at the meeting and gave a detailed report of current performance and crime statistics in Brecon.

Inspector Skrase advised that changes were being brought in next year in relation to how crime is detected and recorded. He acknowledged that there were some problem areas in Brecon and advised that covert operations were in place and extra funding was being provided for more policing in these high risk areas. He advised that the police were working closely with community organisations and neighbourhood watch and a 'business watch scheme' was being set up in and around the Ffrwdgrech Industrial Estate.

Councillors were invited to put their questions/comments to Inspector Skrase.

Members raised concerns over speeding traffic despite the presence of speed warning devices in place. They also raised the issue of inappropriate parking on pavements at various locations around the town which was obstructing use by disabled persons.

The ongoing problem of anti-social behaviour was raised and the lack of a PCSO presence especially in the evenings when the majority of the anti-social behaviour occurs.

The issue of dog fouling was also discussed and Inspector Skrase advised members that the Police were working with the Local Authority to try and alleviate the problem and prosecute where necessary.

Councillor I Williams advised Inspector Skrase that following his concerns he was now in regular contact with the PCSO for his ward and had also been visited by Sgt Adele Pitt and the matter had been resolved satisfactorily.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Skrase for his attendance.

469/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs C M E Griffiths

470/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

471/13 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Before the Mayor made his announcements Councillor David Meredith wished to thank members for their kind thoughts following his recent surgery.

The Mayor then announced his list of engagements which he had carried out since the last meeting of the Council and these were as follows:

1st March judging photo competition at Specsavers Opticians; 3rd March hosted Women Festival Reception; 14th March Voluntary Organisation at the Guildhall; 14th March Christ College Instrumentalist of the year; 18th March Games Trust Meeting at the Guildhall; 21st March Christ College Singer of the Year.

472/13 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements by the Town Clerk.

SECTION A

473/13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 February 2014 (Pages 142 to 146) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

Arising from the Minutes

474/13 SALINE TWINNING COMMITTEE – (MINUTE 421/14)

The Town Clerk advised Members that she had received some of the requested paperwork from the Saline Twinning Committee but was still waiting for the finance papers.

CORRESPONDENCE

475/13 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Submitted further correspondence and actions regarding speeding on the A40 in response to Council meeting of 24th February 2014 (Minute No. 428/13) – copies of which had previously been circulated - **Appendix C(A)(1)**.

THIS correspondence was received and noted.

476/13 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 3 MARCH 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3 March 2014 (pages 151 to 153) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

Arising from the Minutes

477/13 ABSENTEE COUNCILLOR

The Mayor questioned the continued absence of a Councillor from the Planning Committee and suggested that a letter be sent to the Councillor concerned asking if they wished to remain on the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED

THAT the Chair of the Planning Committee write a letter to the Councillor concerned

478/13 REPORT

Subject to the foregoing it was resolved

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

479/13 FISHING COMMITTEE MEETING – 3 MARCH 2014

Submitted – Minutes of the Fishing Committee held on the 3 March 2014 (pages 155 to 158) (copies of which had been previously circulated).

Arising from the Minutes

480/13 NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

Councillor Mrs R Evans enquired whether a date had been provided for a representative of Natural Resources Wales to meet with the Fishing Committee and walk the stretch of river and advise on ways forward to stem the erosion of the bank.

THE Town Clerk advised that she had contacted the person in charge of Rivers and was waiting for her to come back with suggested dates.

Subject to the foregoing it was

RESOLVED

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

481/13 MAYOR – NOMINATION OF – 2014/2015 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Councillor Ieuan Williams proposed that Councillor N Sandford be elected Mayor for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year seconded by Councillor R Lewis it was carried unanimously –

RESOLVED

THAT Councillor N Sandford be elected to serve as Mayor for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

Councillor Sandford thanked the Council for the honour of being elected to serve as Mayor of Brecon.

482/13 DEPUTY MAYOR – NOMINATION OF 2014/2015 MUNICIPAL YEAR

At this stage of the meeting, Councillor Ieuan Williams requested permission to withdraw his nomination to become Deputy Mayor due to his increasing commitments on outside bodies. The Mayor congratulated Councillor Williams on his election as Vice Chair of the Brecon and Radnor Community Health Council and commented that he was sure he would do an excellent job.

On consideration of the remaining nominations for Deputy Mayor for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year and the matter having been put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

THAT Councillor David Meredith be nominated to serve as Deputy Mayor for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

Councillor Meredith thanked the Councillors and said he would do his best to be a good Deputy Mayor.

483/13 WELSH GOVERNMENT – HEALTHCARE IN MID WALES

Submitted a written statement from Mark Drakeford Minister for Health and Social Services in relation to Health Care in Mid Wales – a copy of which had previously been submitted – **Appendix C(B)**.

THIS written statement was received.

484/13 GOUESNOU TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Members were asked to consider a request from the Gouesnou Twinning Association to provide a contribution of 50% of the total cost of a sundial which would be presented to in Gouesnou on the next twinning visit later in the year.

After discussion it was:

RESOLVED unanimously that the requested contribution towards the sundial be given to the Gouesnou Winning Association.

485/13 REPORTS OF MEMBERS

486/13 Councillor C Walsh reported that he along with Councillors K Wilbud and I Williams had attended a very informative meeting on the 5th March in relation to Brecon Tourism. He advised that the Brecon Branding Scheme had a good deal of potential that both business and organisations could get involved in which would hopefully be of benefit to the area.

487/13 The interview sub-committee circulated a report outlining the latest position regarding the post of Town Clerk. It was noted that five persons had been invited for interview after the initial shortlisting process. Members agreed that a presentation to a special meeting of the full Council would be arranged by the remaining candidates following interview but that if one outstanding candidate emerged this would not be necessary and the successful candidate would give their presentation to the next scheduled meeting of the Council on the 28th April 2014.