

An ordinary meeting of Machynlleth Council held on Monday 11th January 2021 via Zoom

Present Cllrs R Gaskell (Mayor) A Jones (Deputy Mayor) Ann MacGarry, Michael Williams,

Jim Honeybill, Simon Morpeth

Apologies Cllrs Noella Elliott, Monica Atkins, Glenda Jenkins, Geraint Davies

Meeting chaired by Tony Jones as Ritchie on sound only. Ritchie thanked all councillors for attending and apologised to any members of the public who couldn't be given fourteen days notice to speak. Tony welcomed councillors and the six members of public joining on Zoom. Proposed that the heading Personal References be deleted from future meetings. Passed unanimously. Corrected the previous minutes which may have led people to believe that the Council were going to install a barrier at West car park as the Council were at the investigation stage only.

Declaration of interests - none.

Planning matters. Cemetery. Ann informed meeting that Luke Jones had replied that no water table investigation had been undertaken at the proposed site.

Glyndwr Hotel proposal to build three dwellings on car park site. Mike stated need for more activity at that end of town so was supportive of proposal. All in agreement. Conversion of number 3 Hoel Maengwyn into two flats. No objections. Application for dwelling in Plas council depot yard. Concern expressed over access and need to preserve listed wall. Letters needed for this and check at what stage PCC are at with regard to the cemetery as only two plots left in the town cemetery. Mike queried who would be writing the letters. Tony suggested Julie could send out the letters.

Correspondence. Llinos Griffiths wrote to inform that a hard copy of the PCC consultation over language issues at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen could be obtained from PCC by phoning 01597826265.

Invitation to on line Teams meeting Wednesday 13th Jan 6.0pm of PCC and Town and Community councils. Mike mentioned at last meeting no representatives from Machynlleth.

One Voice Wales 'Your Town your future' survey of the future of Welsh towns looking at what has been successful in the town, what challenges there are and what are the priorities for the town. Mike suggested that the Enterprise Forum took this on.

Local elections postponed from March to end of April but fluid with no date set but candidate's names need to be sent to County Hall and election cards produced at our expense. Letter to Sandra Williams needed to check that ten local electors have asked for an election proposed by Mike. Also, if so is the election for two seats. Simon to follow this up as he has had discussion with Democratic Services about co-opting personnel onto council and/or someone to sit on a panel such as Grievance as we are at critical point of not having sufficient councillors to fulfil this duty. Simon informed council that we need to give fourteen working days notice by advert of a vacancy on the council and if ten people don't request an election, we can co-opt someone to take Andy's place. Proposed the council look at both options.

Welsh Census engagement officer wants discussion with council about how to reach disadvantaged residents for the next census. Mike proposed asking CAMAD to do this as they have most knowledge of vulnerable people.

Report from CAMAD on their activities during Covid. Ann and Mike expressed admiration for their inventive work. Mike stated that Linda from CAMAD wants all councillors to read the report. Mike mentioned that he had forwarded the report to Alex of the Cambrian News to cover. Mike also praised the Corona Virus support group and Food Bank for all their work.

Ann mentioned Transport for Wales consultation/survey for people with disabilities to get in touch with their views which closes on January 25th. Mike suggested CAMAD being informed as well as individuals filling in the survey.

Letter from PCC about golf club request for help with dog fouling. PCC stated that this is responsibility of the club as it is for any other private concern. They went on to state that there are no plans for new bins

(waste and dog excrement) to be installed in Powys as they are considering reducing the three thousand bins in use as they can't maintain them all. Mike reminded the council that the dog bins around the Plas had become unusable as people misused them and there is a worry that PCC may remove existing bins. Ritchie said if this happens we would have to fight to get them reinstated.

Accounts to be paid. Clock. Tony stated the company we engage for maintenance is unable to come out due to Covid restrictions. Ann stated that the structural timbers need replacing at estimated cost of twelve thousand pounds before the clock mechanism can be repaired. Ritchie stated that Julie has asked for quotes. Mike reminded council that large sum approx eighteen thousand pounds had been raised by Glenda for the structural refurbishment of the clock. Mike proposed that the council needs to put money aside for the clock upkeep. Simon suggested discussing the problem with Glenda who may consider putting together another grant application. Ann stated we need to progress the repairs urgently. Ritchie supported this. Proposed to pay costs from council funds.

Tree issues.

Tree survey quote from Dr Richard Wilson of 1,395. Voted to go ahead. Proposed by Ritchie and Mike declared interest. Tree planting project to plant fruit trees in the Plas grounds by the Tree Planting Group given the go ahead as they will plant and take care of the trees with tree guardians. Angela Paxton had wanted to give presentation prior to the planting but Elwyn Vaughan speaking at next meeting followed by Andy Rowlands then Angela Makaruk for the nursery at subsequent meetings.

Nursery lease. Angela Makaruk requesting 99 year lease at nominal rent. Mike stated football club given this as facilitates more successful grant applications. Ann mentioned that existing lease only one shed allowed on site and stipulates removal of building at end of lease. These conditions would need removing from new lease. Responsibility for trees on their site would need to be included in new lease. Ann stated that the current rent increases by fifty pounds each fifth year and is currently 600 pounds per annum. Ann proposed we keep these rates. Mike reinforced the point that the nursery is vital to the life of the valley. Mike declared his involvement in the steering committee of the nursery in his role as County Councillor. Proposal passed. Tony

mentioned that Angela wants a member of council to be on steering committee. Mike offered to be the designated councillor.

Council meeting arrangements. Elfyn Vaughan coming to next meeting followed by Andy Rowlands for Ecodyfi then Angela Makurak for the nursery at following meetings. Mike proposed that Mayor and Deputy Mayor arrange future meetings of the council with the help of Julie and Anna. Passed.

Report from County Councillor. Mike happy to reply to any issues generated in his report.

Railway report. Mike informed council that services in England are to be scaled down due to reduced passengers during the pandemic but no such plans by Transport for Wales. Network rail will be installing ports cabins in main car park whilst work at Dyfi Junction underway. Plans to lift the Dyfi estuary bridge to protect against flooding. Work starting this summer. Council thanked Mike for all his work. Mike spoke on behalf of Monica to inform that no meetings had been held of the Patients forum but Nicola Ruck still providing Community Health Council updates. Tony explained there had been no One Voice Wales meetings but there should have been on line events. Unfortunately, he is unable to have discussion with OVW as only the Mayor and Clerk are allowed to do this.

Covid matters. Vaccination currently underway for priority groups in the valley. Jim mentioned that plan is to have every over 70 vaccinated by end of February. Ann felt teachers and nursery staff should be priority. Proposed to write to Powys Health Authority to voice this and explore any plans they have for a vaccination centre nearer to Machynlleth as nearest is Newtown.

Tony discussed the fact that council staff are now furloughed but Julie, Chris and Geoff are working for twenty five percent of their time. Anna is still working her normal hours. Mike had walked round the market last week to make sure only permissible stalls present in his role as chair of the Market panel.

Enterprise Forum. Ann stated there had been three meetings exploring three topics. Buying local, Long term resilience and utilising local contractors. She went on to highlight the success of the calendar that was produced by the pupils of Bro Hyddgen in very quick time and enthusiastically taken up by the local businesses. They hoped to at least cover their costs. Mike stated how wonderful it was to have an example of community action.

Transforming Towns funding. Ann had taken this on at the eleventh hour and successfully applied for the ten thousand pound grant for local businesses to help cover the cost of Covid arrangements. The money will buy six gazebos and six tables. These will be hired out by the council. Eighty percent of the cost is covered by Welsh Gov grant therefore the council will pay the difference.