

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL

Held via Zoom on Monday 22 February 2021 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs: A Jones;; J Honeybill; A MacGarry; M Atkins; J M Williams;
R Gaskell; N Elliott;

Also present: Julie Humphreys – Facilities Manager (Minute Taker)

1.Presentation

Andy Rowlands – Resource Efficiency Report for Y Plas and progress with Climate Action Process. A comprehensive powerpoint presentation was delivered.

Cllr A Macgarry declared an interest

3 Things To Mention Tonight.

Resource efficiency report for Y Plas, from sustainable Wales. Recommends actions to reduce use of energy and possible uses of renewable energy sources.

The annual energy spend at Y Plas is £24,165, most is used for heating and lighting. The biggest cost saving is likely to be from installing secondary glazing, followed by roof insulation and boiler and heating controls also worthwhile. Some significant cost savings do not require money to be invested, but are to do with how well we all use the building – energy policies. Many measures cost less than £500. Recommends exploring sola electricity (PV) and heat pumps.

Y Plas Solar PV feasibility study, also from Sustainable Communities Wales.

The first part of a report that will go on to consider Electric Vehicle Charging Points and battery storage.

Electricity consumption contributes 26 tons of CO2 per year – the equivalent of 20 vehicles each driving 10,000 km/year. The feasibility study recommends installing a 28kw PV system on the flat roof of the community hall, saving 5 tons of CO2 and £3.2k each year. Costs in the region of £27k providing a payback of under 8 years. The current grid connection is strong enough to allow what is not used in the building to be exported. It is possible to fit a larger array providing 44kw, costing £42,500 but the payback period is longer. This can be achieved through a combination of grant applications with zero interest loans.

Climate Action Plan for Machynlleth, developed by Machynlleth Climate Action Volunteers in connection with the Council's declaration. Draft plan was provided in July 2019. Actions have been prioritised since then. Some suggest action by the Town Council.

Electric car charging points, some community owned
Electric car share club – Montgomeryshire low carbon travel project
Develop cycling culture – maintenance, safety training, shared electric bike scheme
Safe route between top of town and secondary/new school campus
Consult on 20mph speed limit through town

Safe routes not only through town but linking to villages and Aberystwyth. Community conversations through Trywydd Iach.

Composting for soil creation, including use of grass clippings, cardboard, paper towels and shredded paper from businesses and institutions.

Reduce energy consumption at Y Plas

Energy information and coaching service for householders, including use of thermal camera to detect heat loss

PV on Hall roof at Y Plas

Get Machynlleth Energy Local supply club up and running then expand it

Enhance our 'Bee Friendly Machynlleth' status; habitat management plan for penrallt common; increase tree and shrub cover including edibles in public places; manage verges with wildflowers in mind

Continue to develop our Facebook page @NaturDyfi

Next steps – suggestions

Y Plas Committee to progress energy saving measures at Y Plas and to explore using renewable energy. The two reports provided will need to be considered in detail.

Establish a Climate Committee, consisting of councillors and Machynlleth Climate Action steering group members. Review and progress prioritised items in the Action Plan that are of particular relevance to the council. Committee to meet up every two months.

Cllr R Gaskell thanked Andy Rowlands for an excellent presentation, Machynlleth Town Council will have to look at our finances and budget. **Cllr A Jones** states that Y Plas is a Grade 2* listed building, with regards to the Solar Panels has the age of the building been taken into consideration. **Andy Rowlands** advises that the Solar Panels would be on the hall roof which is the newer part of the building, **Cllr N Elliott** asks if planning permission is needed **Andy Rowlands** – Preliminary discussions with Powys County Council have taken place and they are content in principle. **Cllr J M Williams** - In principle is very much in favour of what he has heard, he would like firm costing so we know what grant aid and interest free loans are needed. Machynlleth Town Council can not fund the project. It is the way forward and we need to go ahead in a rational way and fully costed. **Andy Rowlands** suggests that moving forward he arranges meetings. **All Agreed** that Andy Rowland arranges meetings and Cllr A Macgarry attend these meetings on behalf of Machynlleth Town Council.

Cllr A Jones Thanks Andy Rowlands for the presentation.

Apologies Cllrs G Jenkins; G Davies

Minutes Minutes of a meeting of Council held on November 30 2020

- Cllr R Gaskell proposed to accept the minutes as true record Cllr A MacGarry seconded. **All Agreed.**

Minutes of a meeting of Council held on January 25 2021

- Cllr J Honeybill proposed to accept the minutes as a true record Cllr A MacGarry seconded. **All Agreed.**

Matters Arising

None

Planning Matters

None

Correspondence.

Disclosing & Barring Service – email Lyn Gardenchild – No Response **All Agreed**

Car Park Toilets – email – lengthy discussion took place. **Cllr J M Williams** proposed toilet doors are repaired and toilets are opened as practically possible and a letter to be sent to complainant. **Cllr R Gaskell** Seconded. **All Agreed**

Cllr S Morpeth resignation – email. **All Agreed** a letter of thanks be sent to Simon Morpeth thanking him for her services to Machynlleth Town Council

Local Development Plan – email – No comments

Made Permanent Traffic Order - A489 Machynlleth, Powys (40 mph Speed Limit) Order 2021 (PO 001-2020) – email

Proposed Cemetery Heads of Terms – email – A lengthy discussion took place with regards to Powys County Council stating that Machynlleth Town Council paid their own legal fees. Cllrs felt strongly that Powys County Council were having the land for no cost and should be prepared to cover Machynlleth Town Council legal costs. **Cllr J M Williams** agrees that no legal fees to Machynlleth Town Council but this matter has to be progressed. We have not set aside money for legal costs as we did not anticipate having costs. We also don't know what these costs are. This matter needs to be concluded for the benefit of the people of Machynlleth. **All Agreed** that a letter be sent to Powys County Council stating no Legal fees.

Letter of support for Mach Maethlon – email Katie Hastings and Matt Swan **All Agreed** a letter of support be sent to Mach Maethlon

Request to present Census to full council – email Gareth Davies Cllrs A Macgarry, T Jones and M Williams attended a meeting with Gareth Davies and gave an update
Draft Guidance on Code of Conduct – email One Voice Wales – **All Agreed** to wait for the final guidance and review Machynlleth Town Council code of conduct at AGM in May

News Bulletin – email One Voice Wales – disqualification Rule for Non-Attendance of Meetings – **Cllr T Jones** clarified that whilst meetings are held remotely the 6 month rule for attending meetings still stands. **All Agreed** that this is noted

Non Councillor Members of Committee – email Anne Macgarry – A lengthy discussion took place. **All Agreed** at least one Councillor be on each Sub Committee. Discussion regarding S Morpeth request to carry on with kennels project **All Agreed.**

Cllr R Gaskell join the Sub Committee for the Kennels Project.

Review of Remuneration Framework for Community & Town Councils – email – **All Agreed** that this will be reviewed at AGM in May.

Accounts To Be Paid

A list of accounts to be paid had ben circulated electronically. **Cllr J M Williams** proposed that the accounts are paid **Cllr A MacGarry** seconded – **All Agreed**

Cllr A MacGarry raised the issue with the urgent Felling of Trees that was identified in the recent Tree Survey. **All Agreed** to obtain quotes and follow guidelines from Tree Surgeon.

Cllr R Gaskell asks about the tree outside Red Lion. **Cllr M Atkins** states that she has been asking for over 7 months to have the tree sorted. **Cllr R Gaskell** proposed **Cllr M Atkins** Seconded to obtain quotes for the required works. **All Agreed.**

Plas Kennels

An email off Cllr G Jenkins was read out. Discussions took place and **All Agreed** that the kennels project is to continue

Garsiwn Allotment Wall

Cllr M Williams reminded Councillors that he had asked for the wall to be inspected prior to taking Y Garsiwn Allotments over. **Cllr A MacGarry** had been to take a look at the wall and didn't think it looked immediately dangerous. **Cllr J M Williams** proposed that we get an expert to look at the wall **Cllr A Jones** seconded **All Agreed**

Nursery Lease

Cllr J M Williams declared an Interest
Heads of terms for the nursery were discussed **Cllr A MacGarry** proposed to accept heads of term **Cllr R Gaskell** Seconded **All Agreed**

Climate Committee Motion

Cllr A MacGarry requests that at least one Councillor sits on each committee. The Committees being Energy at Y Plas and Climate Committee. **Cllr J M Williams** proposed that **Cllr R Gaskell** sit on Energy at Y Plas and **Cllr A MacGarry** sit on Climate Committee. **Cllr A Jones** seconded. **All Agreed**

Report from County Councillors

Cllr J A Honeybill congratulates the success of the mass vaccination centre in Newtown

Cllr A Jones gives thanks to the Welfare Calls he receives from Powys County Council

Reports from Nominated Representatives on Outside Bodies

Nothing to report

Managing rental of Transforming Towns Equipment

Cllr A MacGarry informed Councillors that we had received the equipment via Transforming Towns grant we have had 6 Gazebos, 6 Tables and 12 chairs. The

cost to Machynlleth Town Council was £72.86 for each Gazebo and £20.94 for each set of 1 Table and 2 chairs. **Cllr A MacGarry** proposed that Machynlleth Town Council charge £15 to hire a gazebo a day and £5 to hire a set of 1 table and 2 chairs **Cllr R Gaskell** seconded. **All Agreed**

Notice of Election

Councillors noted that the poll date is 28th March 2021

In Committee

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1980 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of staffing issues