



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL
on MONDAY JULY 26TH 2021 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT

Cllr A Jones
Cllr J Paige
Cllr M Williams
Cllr G Davies
Cllr A MacGarry
Cllr J Honeybill
Cllr L Griffith
Cllr G Jones

APOLOGIES

Cllr R Gaskell
Cllr M Rowlands
Cllr N Elliott
Cllr M Atkins

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Gwilym Rippon (locum clerk) Julie Humphreys (Minute Taker)

There were no members of the public present.

Agenda
item

1. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

See list above.

Mayor **Cllr T Jones** welcomed **Cllr L Griffith** and congratulated her on her appointment.

PRESENTATION

Broadway Partners

Bringing ultrafast broadband to Machynlleth and surrounding communities.

Steve Ellis & Reece Simmons

While some parts of Machynlleth still suffer from poor quality broadband, the situation in many surrounding rural communities is even worse. A local community group from Melinbyrhedin is working with Broadway Partners, an alternative fibre network provider, to develop a Community Project to bring ultrafast full fibre broadband to the town and the surrounding rural communities of Cadfarch and Glantwymym.

Making use of the UK Government's Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme, the project will upgrade and futureproof internet connectivity in the area bringing broadband speeds of up to 1000Mbps to hundreds of homes and businesses. Installation is free and the monthly cost of the basic 100 Mbps service is £19.99. Speeds up to 1,000 Mbps will also be available.

Bringing good quality reliable broadband to our rural communities is important not only for farms and other businesses, but also for anyone with school-age children, anyone trying to work at home and anyone trying to keep in touch with friends and families who don't live nearby.

This project will upgrade and futureproof the connectivity of communities in this part of Powys. The digital divide has never been so stark as over the past eighteen months, and Broadway is committed to help reach the 'final 5%' of communities with poor internet connectivity.

This project is currently in the planning stage and we are seeking the support of Machynlleth Town Council to help promote the scheme and its benefits to all residents in the community. We propose initial communication in Welsh and English using relevant local social media, followed up as necessary with a letter to each household. The communication would state that the project has the support of the local Town and Community Councils, as well as the support of the County Councillors for the area.

Representatives from the community group and Broadway would welcome an opportunity to present the details of the project to the Town Council.

About Broadway

Broadway is building full fibre networks in Monmouthshire and Pembrokeshire, with projects for a large number of communities in Powys, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Denbighshire at an advanced planning stage.

We are hoping to gain support from Machynlleth Town Council for the project.

Cllr M Williams – Is there any monetary cost to Machynlleth Town Council
Steve Ellis – Zero cost, we are just looking for support

Cllr A MacGarry – Is it zero cost to householders? Steve Ellis – zero cost just a commitment to a 12-month contract and then a monthly cost of £20.

Cllr G Jones – is installation for all households or those that have no connection? Steve Ellis – Every house will have the opportunity to get futureproof technology. **Cllr J Honeybill** – I understand you are working in Monmouthshire, are the local authorities backing you? Steve Ellis – Yes.

Cllr M Williams proposes that Machynlleth Town Council supports **Cllr G Davies** seconds. **All Agreed.**

Alistair Macaulay

Alistair Macaulay introduced himself as a qualified youth worker, and explained that there is a desperate need for a Youth Club here in Machynlleth, recently the youth have found themselves in bother as there is a lack of provision for them. A meeting had been held at Gerddi Bro Dyfi where a lot of people attended and it was identified that a youth venue is needed for the area. He went on to say that there is a worrying high number of low moods

amongst the youth and a club is needed that is accessible to them. He asks if Machynlleth Town Council have premises that could be used to host them. If so he would volunteer his professional services for 6 months free of charge.

Cllr T Jones – Machynlleth Town Council backs supporting young people.

Cllr A MacGarry – are you here on behalf of the group of young people, an organisation needs to be set up. Alistair Macaulay – if we come back to you with a proposal and an organisation behind us would Machynlleth Town Council support us?

Cllr M Williams – a Youth Club will do nothing but good. The group needs to make overtures to Powys County Council to upcoming vacant buildings such as the current Primary School campus, The library and the Leisure Centre. He congratulates Alistair on taking a strong lead.

Cllr A MacGarry – we must emphasise that Machynlleth Town Council has no spare money. We set our budget every year and we must start asking the people of Machynlleth what they want us to spend money on.

Cllr G Jones – We are all supportive of what you are looking to do, Youth Services is the responsibility of Powys County Council, the idea is wonderful, we need a Youth Club but the place to start is Powys County Council.

Cllr L Griffith – in last month’s Full Council Meeting there was a presentation from PAVO, maybe you should get in touch with them.

Cllr J Paige passes the contact details for PAVO on.

Cllr T Jones thanks Alistair for coming and states the Machynlleth Town Council are fully supportive of what he is doing and wishes him every success.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name	Item	Personal	Prejudicial
Cllr L Griffith	MCCP	✓	
Cllr G Jones	Item 19 - staffing	✓	

3. **MINUTES**

Following review of the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 28th June were a true record of what transpired. **Cllr A MacGarry** asks that the reasons for objections to planning applications be added. **Cllr M Williams** proposes to accept **Cllr J Honeybill** seconds **ALL AGREED**

Following review of the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the General-Purpose Meeting on 5th July were a true record of what transpired. **Cllr G Davies** propose to accept **Cllr A Jones** seconds. **ALL AGREED**

4. **INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES**

No Comments

5. **MAYORS REPORT**

Nothing to report on last month’s activities. **Cllr J Paige** will chair September meeting, Over the last couple of weeks our local butcher William Lloyd Williams has announced his retirement.

Founded in 1959 by Wil's Grandfather, this family business has supplied meat and other produce to the people of the Dyfi Valley - and beyond - for over 40 years, in times which have seen Welsh agriculture undergo

remarkable changes. It has survived those changes - and the crises that have affected farmers and butchers alike - through a combination of determination, customer loyalty and the quality of the products sold. He has worked very hard to build a family run abattoir and shop in the town.

He has achieved so much with his involvement in the Welsh FA and will commence a 4-year term of office as and from 1 August 2021 as Vice President for the Football Association of Wales.

Will has played a huge part with Machynlleth Football Club and his beloved Hurricanes. He has put a huge amount of voluntary effort into the town which largely goes unnoticed but is greatly appreciated.

We must not forget that Will served as a councillor and was Mayor 1999-2000

In 2009 Will was awarded MBE for his services to the Meat Industry.

Will is a man with a pen forever behind his ear, he has served Machynlleth well, I wish him all the best in his retirement. **Cllr M Williams** thanks the mayor and states that the words expressed were exactly right and proper Will and family have been a huge benefit to the town, he was an absolute tower of strength when the snooker club was active, there will never be another William Lloyd Williams. **Cllr J Honeybill** – I endorse everything that has been said, during lockdown he remained open, I hope he has a wonderful retirement – Let the adventure begin. **Cllr G Jones** – to follow on from Cllr M Williams when the snooker club was struggling, we put an appeal out to local businesses to help and support. Will Lloyd was the only business that came forward he provided both financial and moral support. People like William Lloyd Williams are worth their weight in gold.

6. CLERKS REPORT

Locum Clerk Gwilym Rippon reports further vandalism at the Public Toilets in the Car Park – he asks if councillors would like him to seek quotes on purchasing CCTV. **6 AGREED 2 ABSTAINED.**

Locum Clerk Gwilym Rippon advises that we are still awaiting reports back on the timber in the Town Clock.

Cllr G Jones – several people wrote to Machynlleth Town Council regarding the accounts they have all received a generic reply from the clerk. Is the intention there to publish the accounts from December 2019 to date? Will this be resolved over the recess? **Locum Clerk Gwilym Rippon** – the accounts are currently with the auditors. **Cllr G Jones** – There have been no accounts in the packs since December 2019. **Locum Clerk Gwilym Rippon** – the accounts are currently with the auditors. **Cllr G Jones**- the financial information is somewhere. Councillors should have them monthly. **Locum Clerk Gwilym Rippon** - I understand your frustration you will have to bear with me. **Cllr A MacGarry** – We were given full financial information in our packs last month. **Cllr G Jones** -I need a more detailed breakdown of income and expenditure **Cllr J Paige** – I emailed Cllr G Jones all the figures on which the last budget was set. **Cllr G Jones** – the information we received last month is not what we used to have. **Locum Clerk Gwilym Rippon** – The accounts will be done when they are done

7. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr M Williams – This report is here primarily for your information. Any items that councillors would like to draw attention to?

Cllr J Honeybill – Item 5.2 – Chief Ambulance Officer has agreed to meet Powys County Council.

8. **FINANCE**
1. To Agree the invoices for payment
6 Agreed. 2 Abstained
Cllr L Griffith – We as Councillors are trustees of the Endowment Fund. Why are we not receiving the information I can see that back in 2019 this information was provided?
9. **PLANNING**
1. 21/1252/HH
Application for the demolition of conservatory and erection of new extension, Abercuawg 9 Trem-Yr -Orsedd Machynlleth SY20 8DE. **NO OBJECTIONS**
2. 21/1263/HH
Applications for the erection of an extension and alterations, 71 Maengwyn Street, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8EE. **NO OBJECTIONS**
Cllr J Paige – Would it be an advantage to have a planning panel who have executive decisions. **Cllr M Williams** we used to have a planning panel. I propose to bring back the planning panel **Cllr A MacGarry** seconds. **All Agreed.** Planning Panel to consist of **Cllrs A MacGarry, L Griffith, J Honeybill.**
10. **AMBULANCE SERVICE**
Locum Clerk G Rippon – No response received from Ambulance Service.
Cllr M Williams – Machynlleth Town Council notes the Motion on Powys County Council report regarding a meeting between Powys and Ambulance Service. We must press that a senior Ambulance Officer comes to talk to Machynlleth Town Council. **All Agreed**
11. **STANDING ORDERS**
Cllr J Paige – we are not yet in a position to agree to standing order still some work to be done on them. **Cllr T Jones** -in the most recent OVW meeting we have been advised that (1) All decisions taken have to be displayed on the website within 7 days. (2) Meetings held in public must also be available remotely. **Cllr J Paige** we need a policy on media/press and social media so that councillors know what they can and can not do, **All Agreed** that a media policy be brought to the next meeting.
A lengthy discussion took place with regards to standing orders **All Agreed** that the new version be brought to the next meeting.
12. **TOWN CLOCK**
Cllr T Jones – has met with Darren Hancock from Wilmott Dixon. He has said that they do not have funds available for the clock but they do have the expertise and manpower, he will get back to Machynlleth Town Council after discussions between Geraint Roberts (structural engineer), Smiths of Derby and Wilmott Dixon. **Cllr G Jones** – excellent this will be a great help to the end result, Visitors and locals alike are ashamed of the clock the works should have been budgeted for in the precept. **Cllr T Jones** – we can still add this cost to the precept we can have an interim budget, its unusual but it can be done. **Cllr G Jones** – I was not aware of that £20,000 divided by our community is not a lot of money. We need to decide fairly soon what we need to do. We should call an extraordinary meeting after we have had a meeting with Wilmott Dixon. **All Agreed.** **Locum Clerk Gwilym Rippon** you could also go for a PWLB.

13. YSGOL BRO HYDDGEN

No responses other than generic relies acknowledging receipt of emails.

14. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 1. Cllr G Jones** - is the Town Council going to enter into dialogue to stop the closure of businesses in Machynlleth. It is noticed how many businesses/empty shops there are on Maengwyn Street. **Cllr T Jones** – it would be beneficial to Machynlleth if we invited Cllr Davies from Cardigan to an open meeting with Councillors and residents. Cllr Davies put Cardigan on the Map. **All Agreed** that an invite be sent.
- 2. Cllr L Griffith** – What is the Town Council going to do about the problem caused by “boy racers” in Machynlleth. They are congregating in the rear car park of Y Plas and at the “D” as well as racing around town, **Cllr M Williams** proposes that a letter is sent to the Police asking the question of them as it is a Police matter not a Town Council matter. **Cllr J Honeybill** seconds. **All Agreed**

15. REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES ALSO MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr T Jones – Attended OVW meeting and the important information below came out of it

Alun Harries is in charge of all OVW area committees, he is also the Clerk of Carmarthen town Council.

Cllr Gareth Davies Castell Caereinion remains as Chairman

Cllr Michael Jones from Guilsfield remains as Vice Chairman

There is no mention of a conference in October this year only a Good Practice Conference on the 22nd of September 2021 online.

Many councils in the area had problems with HSBC, as we had trouble with having to travel a distance with Barclays, so they like us have gone to Unity Trust, they said the changeover had been done within 3 months, but would of done sooner because of the covid, but pleased they had changed banks.

Cllr Gareth Davies from Castell Caereinion said that he was very worried about school closures in many Community areas.

There were concerns from other councillors at the lack of Clerks in Powys. Alan Harries informed us that now a councillor could become a Clerk for 12 months unpaid, after 12 months that Clerk would then get the Clerks rate of pay, but the councillor would have to resign as a councillor to take on the job.

Alan Harries informed us that the Welsh Government have said that all Councils should encourage Clerks to have a qualification

Alan Harries informed all of us, the new Local Government and Wales Act that All decisions made by councillors at a council meeting, also resolutions, also Councillors present and Councillors that have apologised, all this has to be published on the website 7 days after the meeting.

Also, all councils have to provide all meetings for the public, they call it Hybrid Meetings, what it means councils have to provide all meetings either by video or audio, or both, this is decided by the council, suggestions were to have a microphone speaker.

There is a new Digital Officer at Powys who could assist us with this

16. CORRESPONDENCE

Operation London Bridge – Cllrs T Jones and J Paige to discuss arrangements with Facilities Manager.

Email received regarding lack of social distancing on Wednesdays but not signed and no name, Cllr G Jones – all correspondence should have a name and address on. **All Agreed** to reply asking for a name.

17. INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Nothing to report

18. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Standing Orders

Adopting Media Policy

What Policies are needed

Cllr M Williams formally moves that the press and public leave the meeting.

All Agreed

A motion was passed under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) to exclude members of the public during discussion of this agenda item due to the confidential nature of the business discussed.

Signed:

Date