**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL**

**on MONDAY January 31st 2022 at 6.30pm**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr T.Jones (Mayor), Cllr J Paige, Cllr M Williams, Cllr A MacGarry, Cllr J Honeybill, Cllr G Davies , Cllr R.Gaskell

**APOLOGIES :**

Cllr Ll.Griffiths, Cllr M.Atkins, Cllr N.Elliott

**NOT PRESENT** :

Cllr M Rowlands, Cllr G.Jones

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nicole Beaumont (Finance Officer & Minutes taker)

1 member of the press and 3 members of the public

**1/ ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES :** See list above.

**2 / DECLARATION of INTERESTS** : None declared

**3/ Public Participation :**

3.1/ Norma McCarten from Self Build Wales came to give an informative talk on the Self Build Wales scheme that has been established by the Welsh Government to help remove some of the barriers and uncertainty preventing people/households with a limited budget, to build their own homes. This scheme identifies underdeveloped or underused area of land to transform into suitable plots for new self-build and custom-build homes. The scheme is looking at seeking suitable plots of land within the Machynlleth area. Powys as a whole is poorly served as the only such known site is in Churchstoke.

3.2/ Representatives of the Machynlleth Rotary Club came to tell us about their fundraising walk across Wales from Machynlleth to Montgomery, to be held on 18th June 2022. The funds raised will benefit local charities. Everyone is welcome to participate and further information is available from their social media pages or on the website <https://rotaryacrosswaleswalk.org/>

3.2.1/ They also talked of the spiralling costs of raising money towards more Xmas lights for the town as well as insurances needed to organise such events. To that end they would welcome participation/cooperation from the Town Council and other organisations in the town.

3.2.2/ and they also asked that events for the next ‘Xmas switching on of the lights’ be more coordinated with the Town Council’s plans for that same event. This would need some serious thought starting as early as in June.

**4/ Following review of the last minutes :**

4.1/ That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20/12/2021 are a true record. Proposer Cllr M.Williams, seconder Cllr G.Davies. Agreed.

4.2/ The minutes of the meeting of the Kennel Panel held on 17/12/2021 were a true record. Proposer Cllr J.Paige, seconder Cllr A. MacGarry. Agreed.

**5/ Matters arising** :

5.1/ Charlie Falzon Associates have been appointed as project manager for the redevelopment of the Plas Kennels. A contract is to be drawn by Dr S.Morpeth with Cllr A.MacGarry amendments. Cllr J.Paige proposed and Cllr M.Williams seconded. Agreed.

5.2/ Security fencing is to be put around the site until work starts and to be paid by the Town Council. Cllr J.Honeybill proposed and Cllr R.Gaskell seconded. Agreed.

**6/ MAYOR’s Report :**

6.1/ The Mayor announced that for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June, a ‘Picnic in the Park’ will be organised to be held on the front lawn at the Plas on Sunday 5th June.

ALL local organisations are invited to participate to put on children’s events, stalls, etc … for everyone in Machynlleth.

As well as the Mayor’s Fund to be used for this purpose, a grant is being applied for to help with costs. Cllr M.Williams proposed, Cllr J.Paige seconded. Agreed.

Cllr R.Gaskell proposed to join the chain of ‘Platinum Jubilee Beacons’ by building one up on the Wylfa. Further thoughts to be given on this.

More information is available on this website : https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend

**7/ Correspondence :**

7.1/ Woodland stage : Issues were raised with the proposed plans regarding the structure being too low on the ground inviting rodents to hide under the structure, which is not a safe situation within the proximity of the children’s nursery and the rugby club. Cllr M.Williams raised the fact that a planning application will have to be made to allow the structure to be built. Cllr R.Gaskell and Cllr A.MacGarry suggested a letter be sent to the organisers to stipulate that the application will be for a 6 months duration (April to September) and that who puts it up will have to take down. Cllr J.Paige proposed and Cllr R.Gaskell seconded. Agreed.

7.2/ Swift Boxes : A proposition came to the council for installing swift boxes on and around the Plas as the population of swifts (Gwennol Ddu) is in general decline. Some of the proposal was to fix a few boxes on the Plas structure but as a Grade II listed building, this is not an option unless planning is being applied for, though MTC would like to promote the idea. Cllr J.Honeybill proposed, Cllr J.Paige seconded. Agreed.

7.3/ Rotary Walk on Saturday 18th June (see above at paragraph 3.2) It is to start from Machynlleth and the Council will support the walk and advertise it on the MTC web page.

7.4/ Street Trees : Jenny Hall of Crafted Space Ltd, is appointed Community Liaison for Powys County Council with Machynlleth and will come to the next Town Council meeting to talk on how best to plant trees in Machynlleth, to allow them to thrive and enhance the high street. Any decision to participate will need an urgent decision as deadline for the project is end of March 2022.

7.5/ Trees from the 700th anniversary Market Charter in 1991-92 : A member of the public has sent in a mail to ask if a survey/inspection could be carried out on the 700 saplings that were planted in 1991-92 to celebrate the granting in 1291 of a market charter to Machynlleth. 30 years on, it would be beneficial to know if some clearing of diseased trees is needed as well as improve with more planting in conjunction with one of the many Platinum Jubilee event in 2022, that of planting a ‘green canopy’ as per this website https://queensgreencanopy.org It was agreed to conduct an inspection.

**8/ PLANNING MATTERS :**

8.1/ Applications put to the council need a 21 days time response. As the council meetings are every 4 or 5 weeks, it is often the case that the council is inadvertently holding back the process. For small changes to a house it is proposed to just allow to go ahead, whilst more involved projects will need to be delayed to the next meeting available for consideration. A proposition made, is for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to call a meeting as soon as a new application/proposal comes to be discussed if the proposal affects the town as a whole. Cllr R.Gaskell proposed, Cllr A.MacGarry seconded. Agreed.

8.2/ Application Ref 21/2351/HH. OK to proceed. Cllr G.Davies proposed, Cllr A.MacGarry seconded. Agreed.

8.3/ Application Ref 22/0105/HH never came to the Council’s attention.

**9/ Accounts to paid/account information** : Agreed for bills to be paid as presented.



**10/ Report from the County councillor**  : as per info given in the Councillors packs prior to the meeting.

**11/ Reports from nominated representatives from outside bodies :**

One Voice Wales suggested that MTC publishes on its website an annual report of events and decisions that MTC have achieved for the town. Proper Officer is to produce a draft for the next meeting.

**12/ Report from Proper Office/RFO :**

12.1/ Town clerk position has been widely advertised and as yet still no applicants. Deadline for all applications is on Monday 7th February.

12.2/ Proper Officer made a visit to the Garswin allotments to see progress on work done on the wall. All seems to be progressing well.

**13/ Llandrindod Wells Bullying of Clerks support request :**

All assembled agree to support. Cllr J.Paige proposed, Cllr G.Davies seconded.

**14/ Review of meetings calendar :**

Plas Panel is to be renamed Facilities Panel to include the Clock Tower. Cllr G.Davies proposed, Cllr A.MacGarry seconded. Agreed.

Climate action panel : Cllr R.Gaskell, Cllr M.Williams the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are to be on the panel.

**15/ Members items :**

15.1/ Bus stop and/or shelter by the bus depot near the Texaco garage on the Dolgellau road. The matter will need to be referred to PCC as a plan is in elaboration for a transport hub in that area of town to link with the railway station. Many issues have been raised of landownerships, rights of ways and actual physical space to allow a structure.

15.2/ Home energy audit. Funding is available to recruit volunteers to survey needs in homes to keep them insulated and drive energy costs down. The council is to approve and support the scheme.

15.3/ Benches : a scheme to put a bench/benches and a structure for youngsters to meet in the Plas grounds was discussed. A grant of £7500 was received towards the costs. Objections were raised on grounds of safety to the general public as the place where it is to be installed is not lit at night. Cllr A.MacGarry stated that this was the Plas Manager’s preferred place to install said structures. Cllr R.Gaskell proposed, Cllr M.Williams seconded, 2 against the scheme.

At this point Cllr R.Gaskell left the meeting, giving his apologies.

15.4/ Car Park charging : The possibility of charging drivers for carparking in the spaces owned by the Plas (old Celtica carpark next to the kennels) More details to be available at the next meeting on the best way to implement the scheme without too much cost.

15.5/ Transparency for MTC : Discussion taken as to publishing for public view in a formal way, the attendance of councillors. Such Councillors attendance record is only made public at County Council level. In MTC’s case attendance is recorded in the minutes of each monthly meeting. A move to record how each councillor voted on major decision could be made public if requested at that meeting.

**16/ Information from members :**

Enterprise forum to be arranged for community planning. PCC to help MTC with possibility of funding a consultant.

Work on the old Chest Hospital is going well and advancing at quite a pace.

**17/ Items for the next agenda :**

* A talk from Jenny Hall of Crafted Space Ltd on how to best plant and look after trees in urban environments
* A way to have a ‘community insurance’ to cover all participating organisations when putting on an event for the community.
* Car parking charging

**18/ Decisions taken:**

By law within 7 days of this meeting the following have to be made public:

* Plas kennels appointment of manager and security around the site.
* Minutes of Full Council 20/12/21 and Kennels Panel 17/1/21 accepted as a true record
* Kennels Project manager appointed – Charlie Falzon Associates
* Letter to be written to Dr Morpeth to issue the contract with agreed amendments
* Purchase of security fencing for Kennels approved
* Plans for Queens Jubilee picnic approved
* Plans for Woodland stage – letter to be written asking applicants to request planning permission
* Plans for erection of swift boxes on Y Plas – letter to be written asking applicants to request planning permission
* Non specialist inspection of ‘market charter anniversary’ trees to be undertaken
* Decision taken to allow Mayor and Deputy Mayor to call Extra Ordinary meeting for planning applications which fall between meetings if in the wide interest of the Town to do so
* Letters to written stating no objection to planning applications 21/2351/HH and 22/0105/HH
* Accounts to be paid accepted
* Support to be given to Llandrindod Wells campaign against the bullying of clerks
* Plas Panel to be re-named Facilities Panel
* Letter of support to be sent to Home Energy Audit Project
* Plan for location of bench and shelter agreed.

**19 / Staffing :**

Nothing to be discussed.

**20/ The next meeting will be held on 28th February 2022 at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room at the Plas.**