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

**on MONDAY February 28th at 6.30pm at Y Plas Machynlleth**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr J Paige (Chair of the meeting)

Cllr M Williams

Cllr A MacGarry

Cllr J Honeybill

Cllr G Davies

Cllr G Jones

Cllr L Griffith

Cllr N Elliott

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllrs: M Atkins, T Jones

**NOT PRESENT**:

Cllr M Rowlands, Cllr Gaskell.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Julie Humphreys (Facilities Manager and Minute Taker)

Phil Wheeler – Mach Fringe

Jenny Hall – Machynlleth Street Trees Project

There were no other members of the public or members of the press.

**Agenda item**

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

**2/ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :**

**Cllr L Griffith** Nursery (MCCP)

**Cllr M Williams** Nursery (MCCP)

**Cllr G Jones** Item 21 - Staffing

**3 / MACH FRINGE**:

Phil Wheeler presented members with a proposed idea of developing the entrance to the hall area of Y Plas, the area needs a complete redesign. The proposed design would level up the area and include a raised platform that can be used as an eating or performance area it would be connected to the hall with new doors and the area would become a usable space. It will probably cost around £70,000; plans have been done by George and Tomos free of charge and a project manager has been appointed who is giving time freely. Mach Fringe have promises of £10,000 and would like permission off Machynlleth Town Council to start a crowd funding page and also would Machynlleth Town Council consider putting some of the cost onto precept as they have done the Town Clock. **Cllr M Williams** supports the scheme in principle as it would make a big improvement to the entrance. **Cllr G Jones** approves of the proposal but in 3 months’ time we have a General Election we may not be here in the Council Chamber as Councillors to set the 23/24 budget. Phil Wheeler asks if the endowment fund could be accessed for the improvements. **Cllr M Williams** the interest of the endowment fund can be spent on the maintenance and upkeep of Y Plas house and grounds. **Cllr A MacGarry** points out that the old bar area is the most energy inefficient area of Y Plas and would the improvements include this area? Phil Wheeler – Our plans currently are only for the improvement of the outside area. **Cllr A MacGarry** proposes that the proposal is raised after the General Election and that Mach Fringe can go ahead and seek planning permission in the mean time **Cllr G Jones** seconds. **ALL AGREED.**

**MACHYNLLETH STREET TREES PROJECT**

NMWTRA (North Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency) have carried out an assessment of the trees on Maengwyn Street and carried out emergency works. Jenny is the point of contact working with the design team as an advocate. NMWTRA have pencilled in a date for a 12-week consultation on the trees, hopefully beginning on March 30 2022.NMWTRA will be responsible for the maintenance of the trees.

**Following review of the last minutes:**

**Full Council Meeting** 31/01/2022 – **Cllr J Paige** states that the minutes are accurate but needs to draw councillors’ attention to item 15.3, a tricky situation as the minutes are true reflection of the meeting but Plas Manager did not have a preference as was quoted by **Cllr A MacGarry**. **Cllr G Jones** states that he was unaware that the statement regarding the preference was not true, he had read it in the Cambrian News, there is also a quote from **Cllr A MacGarry** that Machynlleth Town Council should have fought harder to keep the youth club, this is incorrect Councillors that are no longer with us fought tooth and nail to try and save the Youth Club what has been what has been reported is Incorrect. **Cllr A MacGarry** apologised as she did not know any of this. **Cllr G Jones** asks that the apology regarding Youth Club makes its way to the press. **Cllr M Williams** seconds. **7 AGREED 1 ABSTAINED.** A lengthy discussion took place regarding the inaccuracy of the information in the minutes. It was decided that they would not be altered as they are accurate as to what was said. To move things forward **Cllr M Williams** proposes that **Cllr A MacGarry** formally apologises to Plas Manager, **Cllr J Paige** seconds. 7 **AGREED** 1 **ABSTAINED.** Following a review of the minutes it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 31/01/2022 were a true record of what transpired **Cllr M Williams** propose to accept **Cllr J Paige** seconds **7 AGREED 1 ABSTAINED**

**General Purpose Panel** 07/02/2022 – No Agenda or minutes were provided from this meeting

**Plas Panel** 14/12/2021 - Following a review of the minutes it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Plas Panel Meeting on 14/12/2021 were a true record of what transpired **Cllr J Paige** propose to accept **Cllr M Williams** seconds **ALL AGREED**

**4/ Matters arising** :

4.1 Agreed to go ahead with the quote of £15,835.00 plus VAT for the new fire alarm system at Y Plas

**5/ MAYOR’s REPORT:**

Via Cllr J. Paige, chairing the meeting, Cllr A.Jones (Mayor) Updated Council on the plans for the Queens platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Machynlleth Town Council will be hosting a “PICNIC IN THE PARK” on Sunday June 5. Residents will be encouraged to bring their own picnic and entertainment will be provided. Quotes for a marquee are being sought and entertainers being approached. It is the intention to have a huge cake baked to mark the celebrations.

**6/ Quotes for Benches Project**

**Cllr J Paige** advised the meeting that £7500 in grant aid has been awarded and 3 quotes have come in 2 quotes are for £15,000 and 1 is for £4400. Cllrs asked **Cllr A MacGarry** what process was used with the tenders, she explained that 3 companies had been approached and had asked what they could deliver with a budget of £15,000 as this is the amount applied for, due to the uptake on the grant we were only awarded £7,500. **Cllr J Paige -** so with the amount that we have been awarded we are only in a position to accept the lower quote. **Cllr A Macgarry** states that our preferred quote was quote number 1, **Cllr L Griffith** – asks who is “OUR” as she believed that the decision should be made by councillors. **Cllr A MacGarry** – has been liaising with Powys Youth Workers and the contractor they preferred was Quote number 1 as they have experience in this kind of project. Cllrs stressed that they have serious reservations in the process that has been carried out.  **Cllr A MacGarry** states that she has applied for lots of grants over the years, she is concerned that if a decision is not made tonight the grant could be lost and the young people would be disappointed. Quote 1 is willing to downsize as per drawings that were emailed to the office and they can do this for £7500 **Cllr J Paige** – the auditors would have a field day with this we cannot accept the quotes in the current form **Cllr L Griffith** asks if the other two tendors were re-approached to requote when we only received half the grant, we had asked for **Cllr A MacGarry** was not sure, she thinks they were but would have to clarify. A lengthy heated discussion took place with regards to the process of the grant application as ultimately Machynlleth Town Council are responsible **Cllr J Paige** proposes that the 3 companies are approached again and they are all given specifics of what we require they should all be given the opportunity to quote on a level playing field **Cllr N Elliott** seconds 6 **AGREED 1 ABSTAINED 1 AGAINST**

**7/ COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT :**

**Cllr J Paige** advised council that Caffi Y Plas has received a 5 rating with some recommendations, one of those being that the flooring in the kitchen needs replacing. 3 quotes have come in and they have been anonymised. They have all been asked to quote for exactly the same thing. **Cllr J Honeybill** proposed to accept quote number 2 as the detail of work to be carried out is itemised **Cllr M Williams** seconds **7 AGREED 1 ABSTAINED**

**8/ To approve the maintenance costs of £840.96 ex VAT for Y Plas Lift**

**Cllr J Paige** proposed to accept quote **Cllr G Davies** seconds **7 AGREED 1 ABSTAINED**

**9/ COVID CLAIM**

**Cllr J Paige** informs councillors that back in May 2020 Machynlleth Town Council business interruption claim was refused as the insurers said that we had no confirmed COVID-19 case in the building, there was no testing at the time and the whole country was told to STAY AT HOME and the building was shut down. Since then there have been successful appeals to the high court. Covid Claims is a company that can investigate and advise us on the merits of our claim, there fee is calculated on the gross amount of the compensation in settlement of our claim. There total fee is 25% plus VAT of recoveries. Our staff are overloaded with work and do not have the time or the expertise to complete this task. **Cllr M Williams** proposed that we sign up to this company **Cllr J Paige** seconds **ALL AGREED**

**10/ Owain Glyndwr Trail**

All Members approve of the content.

**11/ Proper Officer Report**

11/1 Clock Update – Schedule of work is being prepared

11/2 AGM called for 16/05/2022 – **ALL AGREED**

11/3 Town Clerk Interview – Interview to be held at Y Plas at 11am on March 2, if an applicant is successful an Extra Ordinary Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on March 3rd

11/4 Event Insurance – it is not possible to have an events insurance policy for multiple events

11/5 Post Election meeting to vote in Proper Officer – **ALL AGREED** meeting to be held on May 9th

11/6 Allotment Works - Works are well under way and progress has been made.

11/7 CO-OP entrance closure - **Cllr M Williams** – concerns raised regarding the front entrance of CO OP still being closed. Its causing difficulties for people with disabilities – **Cllr J Paige** - We have emailed CO-OP and are awaiting a reply

11/8 Energy Review – IUA advice are looking at all our energy contracts to ensure we have been treated fairly

**12/ Correspondence :**

12./1 Nursery and Rugby Club re Woodland Stage – email from Jenny Hall It won’t be possible to build a robust stage and benches that need to be removed annually. There would be nowhere to store them and the scale of labour and materials would be too much.

If the town council were interested in a (semi) permanent solution, much in the way other infrastructure exists at Y Plas, then it would be worth exploring gaining planning permission for that

12/2 Diane Bailey re Gwyl Lenyddiaeth Machynlleth/Amdani Fachynlleth Welsh Literary Festival – Letter asking for support from Machynlleth Town Council – **Cllr J Paige** proposedto support **Cllr N Elliott** seconds. **ALL AGREED**

12/3 Hospital update – Councillors received a News Update

**13/ Planning:**

Application 22/0123/HH – **No Objections**

**14/ Accounts to be paid/account information:**

**Cllr M Williams** proposed to accept accounts **Cllr G Davies** seconds **7 AGREED 1 ABSTAINED**

**15/Report from County Councillor**

**Cllr M Williams -** This report is here primarily for your information.

**16/ Reports from Nominated representatives on Outside Bodies**

Nothing to report

**17/Members Items**

17/1 Travis Perkins Site – **Cllr J Honeybill –** The site is untidy and eye sore, nothing is happening what are the plans for that area. **Cllr J Paige** proposed that we try and find out who owns it and get in contact for an update **Cllr J Honeybill** seconds **ALL AGREED**

17/2 Election Nomination Papers - **Cllr G Jones –** It is not fair that current councillors can have a nomination pack. It is undemocratic that Town Councillors are favoured above other candidates. It is wrong that Machynlleth Town Council have to pay for nomination papers. **Cllr G Jones** proposed that we write to Sandra Matthews about the above points and express displeasure at the process **Cllr M Williams** seconds **7 AGREED 1 ABSTAINED**

17/3 Trees by Garth Road – **Cllr G Jones –** Understands that the landowner has been contacted. Highways could cut the branches back as they are overhanging their land. **Cllr J Paige** proposed that we go down an informal route **Cllr G Jones** seconds **ALL AGREED**

17/4 Dropped Kerbs – **Cllr G Jones –** Has brought this to council previously but, he has been approached by residents since giving them the response. There are cars parked on pavements throughout the town. He does not feel it is right that the onus is put on the most vulnerable people in town to contact the relevant authorities. **Cllr G Jones** proposed that a letter be sent to Police for them to be more pro-active **Cllr N Elliott** seconds **ALL AGREED**

17/5 Carer Provision – **Cllr L Griffith –** There is a shortage of carers in Machynlleth, agency carers from Cardiff, Essex and the West Midlands are being used. **Cllr L Griffith** proposed that a letter be sent to Alison Bulman director of Social Services expressing concern at the shortage. **Cllr M Williams** Seconds **ALL AGREED**

**18/ Information From Members**

**19/ Items for the Next Agenda**.

**20/ Decisions taken:**

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

Agreed to go ahead with the quote of £15,835.00 plus VAT for the new fire alarm system at Y Plas

Letter to be sent to Sandra Matthews regarding Nomination Papers

Letter to be sent to Police regarding parking on pavements and dropped kerbs

Letter to be sent to Alison Bulman regarding lack of carers

**21 / Staffing :**

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.

Cllr M.Williams proposed and Cllr J.Paige seconded. All Agreed

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