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

**on Monday April 25th 2022 at 6.30pm**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr T.Jones (Mayor), Cllr J Paige, Cllr M Williams, Cllr A MacGarry, Cllr J Honeybill, Cllr M.Atkins, Cllr N.Elliott, Cllr G.Jones, Cllr G Davies

**APOLOGIES :**

Cllr Ll.Griffiths, Cllr R.Gaskell

**NOT PRESENT** :

Cllr M Rowlands,

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nicole Beaumont (Finance Officer & Minutes taker)

1 member of the press, 1 member of the public **.**

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

**2 / DECLARATION of INTERESTS** : Cllr G.Jones with regards to point 14 of the agenda.

**3/ Public Participation :**

None

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

4.1/ The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28/3/2022 were a true record of what transpired. Proposer Cllr M.Williams, seconder Cllr J.Paige. Agreed.

Matter arising over an incorrect comment made by Cllr A.MacGarry at a meeting on 31/1/2022. Cllr N.Elliott asked if Cllr A.MacGarry had contacted the press to apologise over a comment she made that the youth centre had not been fought over enough to keep it open which is not so as many a councillor, some no longer with the Council, did fight hard to retain it. Cllr G.Jones suggested that it would be good manners to apologise for the comment made, with regards to the family of these departed councillors in their memories. Cllr A.MacGarry replied she was not aware that she had to take this step. Cllr M.Williams thanked these previous councillors : Cllr S.Rowlands, Cllr D.Wyn Davies, Cllr D.Speake, for their hard work over the youth centre. Proposer Cllr N.Elliott, seconder Cllr J.Paige. Agreed.

4.2/ The minutes of the meeting held on 25/4/2022, for the Jubilee day ‘Picnic in the Park’. Purchase of merchandising items of over £250 were discussed, as well as the commission of a Jubilee themed big cake for 250 persons. Cllr G.Jones proposed and Cllr N.Elliott seconded. Agreed.

4.3/ The minutes of the Market Panel meeting held on 20/4/2022. The representative of the market stall holders, Mr F.Scott, suggested that the Council could advertise the Market more widely on social media platforms, possibly road signs at the entrances of the town showing that Machynlleth has held a weekly market since 1292 on a Wednesday. He remarked that this market was one of the best ones in Wales. Market traders in general are finding that their costs of attending such markets, are rising sharply due to a nationwide rise in fuel prices for their transport. He otherwise commented that the fee charged for the day was fair. Also the FY2021-22 figures for the Market were sent to Powys County Council and a levy of £2292.81, representing 12.5% of the receipts, was to be paid to PCC. Proposer Cllr M.Atkins, seconder Cllr N.Elliott. Agreed.

**5/ Matters arising** : were discussed and reported above in each section.

**6/ Accounts :**

It was agreed that the following be paid.



Cllr A.Jones and Cllr M.Atkins propsed and seconded. Agreed. Cllr G.Jones thanked Cllr J.Paige as Proper Officer/Responsible Finance Officer and the Finance Officer for their hard work with regards to a backlog of several statutory audits not carried out in a timely manner. Most years not audited are now done, this last financial year 2021-22 is a ‘work in progress’. Both RFO & FO are awaiting the final auditors report.

**8/ Mayor’s report :**

Cllr T.Jones Mayor, in his last speech as Mayor, thanked all those who helped him and supported him during the year. It had been a privilege to work with them, and recommended that they unite behind whom ever they choose to be Mayor for the coming year. He also thanked the entire staff team at the Plas for their hard work to keep it running through some difficult times these last few years. He wished 3 councillors, Cllr R.Gaskell, Cllr M.Rowlands and especially to Cllr G.Davies who had been a Machynlleth councillor for 18years and rarely missed a meeting, all the best for their future. They will not represent themselves in the forthcoming election on May 5th. He also thanked Cllr J.Paige (Deputy Mayor) to have stepped in as Proper Officer and took the opportunity to present Mr Dewi Jones, the new Machynlleth town clerk, and to wish him all the best when he takes his functions in June/July 2022. Cllr G.Davies said how much he enjoyed working with the many councillors during his 18 years of service and wished everyone good luck at the forthcoming elections. Cllr J.Honeybill wished him good luck.

**9/ Report from Cllr M.Williams - County Councillor**  : as per info given in the Councillors packs prior to the meeting.

**10 / Planning matters :**

All applications were accepted as presented. Cllr J.Paige proposed, Cllr M.Atkins seconded. Agreed

**11/ Plas Caffi update** : At the last minute Dafydd from the Black Lion Derwenlas who is helping the Plas with regenerating the café couldn’t come to do his presentation to the councillors. Cllr J.Paige passed on his info to the assembly and thanked him for the great job done so far. It is hoped that the Café should do a good trade this coming Maybank holiday weekend as the Machynlleth Comedy Festival is back in town and in full preparation after a couple of years absence.

**12/ Report update on the Plas Kennels :**

Cllr J.Paige reported that as things are now, the project to renovate the Plas Kennels could not go ahead. A caveat exists that Powys County Council has a hold of 90% on any proceeds of an eventual sale of the building if it ever came to a sale. The remaining 10% would be for the Machynlleth Town Council. Project manager Charlie Falzon of ‘Charlie Falzon Associates’ advised that funding of any kind could not be had under these conditions to make the project go further. He is in communication with PCC and hopefully a better deal would be struck between PCC and MTC.

**13/ Proper Officer’s report** :

13.1/ Plas parapet : During a recent storm a large piece of masonry fell from roof height onto the grounds outside the studio/gallery area of the Plas. Fortunately no one was injured as the area was empty of public at the time. It has been quickly made secure with scaffolding. Alex Evans Chartered Structural Engineer of ‘Grace & Howe Consulting Engineers’ did a thorough report on this area of the roof and recommended that the entire building be surveyed to assess any further damage possible.

13.2/ Market report : see item 4.3 above.

13.3/ Correspondence : nil

13.4/ Community First Fund : Apparently an amount of £800 was held some many years back by MTC for CFF who would like it back. Despite searches for any paperwork proving the fact, it is difficult to go ahead on this particular point.

13.5/ Allotments : At the last meeting, due to the fact that there is a general order to keep poultry inside regarding a current nationwide outbreak of avian flu, a consultation was to be carried out on keeping poultry and rabbits on the allotment plots to propose to take out the clause in the rental agreement on keeping poultry and rabbits on allotment plots. This can not be done as it is a ‘set in stone’ agreement that allotment holders are allowed to keep poultry and rabbits on their plots if they so wish.

**14/ Exclusion of Press and Public :**

The chairman proposed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion on the following items as it is likely that exempt information will be disclose, as defined in Part 4, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

**15/ Decisions taken:**

See separate list from Proper Officer.

**16/ The next full council meeting is on 16th May 2022 for the Town Council AGM at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room at the Plas.**