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

**on Monday May 30th 2022 at 6.30pm**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr J Paige (Mayor), Cllr M Williams, Cllr A MacGarry, Cllr J Honeybill, Cllr M.Atkins, Cllr P.Jones, Cllr Ll.Griffith, Cllr K.Bryan, Cllr N.McCarten, Cllr R.Hughes

**APOLOGIES :**

Cllr A.Evans, Cllr G.Jones

**NOT PRESENT** :

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nicole Beaumont (Finance Officer & Minutes taker)

1 member of the press, 5 members of the public **.**

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

**2 / DECLARATION of INTERESTS** : Councillors filled their sheet and only 9 forms were returned of which 1 with no name.

**3/ Public Participation :**

3.1/ A presentation was made by Mr Charlie Falzon over the progress on the project to renovate the Kennels/Hen Stablau. The project will be for accommodation for tourists in a form of bunkhouse/youth hostel style with ancillary services. Architectural Heritage Fund, Powys Conservation Officer and CADW were behind the project to happy outcome. As per item 12 of the minutes of the meeting held on 25/4/2022, negociations are ongoing to have a better deal with Powys County Council in order to raise funds and further on the project. Applications for funding to many bodies, of which CADW and the Lottery Heritage fund, have been made.

Cllr K.Bryan raised the question as to why more accommodation for tourists was being sought with this project rather than affordable housing which is severely needed in the town. The assembly was told that various housing associations had been approached but none wanted to take on such a large project on a listed grade II building.

3.2/ A presentation was made by Mr Phil Wheeler to make a better entrance to the Community Hall with a ‘plaza’ type entrance. To remodel the wheelchair ramp in one sweep and to make the entrance more inviting and visible to the public than it is at the present as well as adding a ‘Neuadd Y Plas’ sign on the wall outside facing the carpark. This would also mean that the inside is slightly remodelled. Councillors were invited to come on board the project to push it forward. Cllr MacGarry and Cllr N.McCarten will be joining Mr P.Wheeler to push on and help with the project.

Cllr M.Williams thanked the persons that came to report on these projects.

**4/ Mayor’s report :**

Nil to report as Cllr J.Paige has just been newly elected as Mayor.

**5/ Minutes of the last meeting :**

5.1/ The minutes of the AGM Meeting held on 16/5/2022 were a true record of what transpired. Proposer Cllr M.Williams, seconder Cllr J.Honeybill. Agreed.

5.2/ The minutes of the meeting held on 25/4/2022 were a true record of what transpired. Proposer Cllr A.MacGarry, seconder Cllr J.Honeybill. Agreed.

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

**7/ Report from Cllr M.Williams - County Councillor**  : nil to report as time was taken up with the Local Councils Elections. Cllr M.Williams will forward any information available to all councillors from his meetings with Powys County Council.

**8/ Planning :**

No objection to planning application 22/0779/HH. Cllr A.MacGarry proposed and Cllr Ll.Griffith seconded, all agreed.

**9/ Finance :**

9.1/ It was agreed that the following be paid. Cllr M.Williams proposed and Cllr A.MacGarry seconded, all agreed.



9.2/ Trees surveys quotes were discussed. A map is to be circulated to mark which trees are a danger to the public. It was resolved to accept quote No2. Cllr A.MacGarry proposed and Cllr K.Bryan seconded, all agreed.

**10 / Members items :**

Councillors were told that for admin purposes any business they wish to be discussed at the next council meeting, must be with the town clerk no less than a week before the meeting for it to appear on the agenda.

10.1/ Cllr P.Jones raised various matters of anti social behaviour and speeding in the town. Cllr Ll.Griffith had already raised the matter of speeding in a previous meeting but had no satisfactory answers as yet. Mayor is to write to the Trunk Road Agency and the Police. Cllr M.Williams proposed and Cllr P.Jones seconded, all agreed.

10.2/ Cllr K.Bryan will speak at the next meeting on the various ways that could be implemented to engage with the youngsters in order to reduce repeated vandalism around the town and within the Plas Grounds. Cllr M.Williams proposed and Cllr P.Jones seconded, all agreed.

**11/ Proper Officer Report** :

11.1/ A member of the public has approached the Mayor for a project to renovate the small toilet block by the Rose/Remembrance Garden into a small community radio station. A budget of £4000 had been ear marked for some kind of project to make that building, at the moment standing empty, more useful. For the time being all talks are at an informal stage.

11.2/ A grant of £4500 was received from the Lottery Fund to help with putting on the Jubilee ‘Picnic in the Park’ that will be held on Sunday 5/6/2022. Preparations are going well, all that is needed for its success is a sunny day.

11.3/ The Proper Officer called upon the member of the Press from the Cambrian News, to correct its editorial of past weeks being inaccurate with reference to accounts not being done. Auditing of the accounts is ongoing and together the council and the finance officer are awaiting on the auditors for their reports.

**12/ Community Venue fund :**

A motion to apply for a grant to install multi location meetings/zoom type equipment. Cllr M.Williams proposed and Cllr A.MacGarry seconded, all agreed.

**13/ Standing Orders** :

New standing orders as circulated with the agenda were discussed and adopted subject to the following changes.

3 r - Add "if at least two members request it then voting will be held by secret ballot" between **"against that question.**" and "Such a request". and change "such a request" to "such requests".

3 g - Change to 10 minutes.

Add a standing order 4e

"4e Committees shall not

i) raise money by way of loan or precept.

ii) approve matters in respect of which approval is requires by statute or to be given by Council.

iii) declare the major objections of Council or the major policies of Council.

iv) promote or oppose legislation.

v) make, alter or revoke any standing orders of Council.

vi) institute new services, discontinue or substantially alter the form, extent or quality of existing Council services."

9 b - Change to 5 clear days.

13 b - Replace "shall" with "should"

13 c - Remove "**[County Borough]** OR **[County Council]**" and replace with "**County Council**"

18 c iii - replace "and in" with "or in".

18 c v - removed and following point renumbered.

Proposed Cllr K.Bryan, Seconded Cllr P.Jones. (Unanimous)

**14/ Financial Regulations :**

New financial regulations as circulated with the agenda were discussed and adopted subject to the following changes.

Ensure gender neutral language throughout - for example change "Chairman" to "Chair" and "he" to "they".

11.1 b - Change footnote to read "Thresholds applicable in 2018 were: ..."

Proposed Cllr M.Williams, Seconded Cllr K.Bryan. (Unanimous)

**15/ Reports From nominated representatives on outside bodies:** none brought forward

**16/ Correspondence :**

16.1/ El Sueno festival : Old Celtica carpark to be used for parking with a fee and that LITTER BE REMOVED by the users of the carpark. Cllr J.Paige proposed and Cllr R.Hughes seconded, all agreed.

16.2/ Rotary Club : for their ‘Walk across Wales’ event will be able to use the conveniences within the Plas and the carpark loos with a key provided. Cllr J.Paige proposed and Cllr Ll.Griffith seconded, all agreed.

16.3/ A letter from Mr S.Beavan with reference to accounts not being published since 2018 and his request sent to the ‘Freedom of Information’ office to have the Council to publish these accounts. ‘FOI’ had forwarded the query to the Council. A letter had been sent back to the ‘FOI’ office for it to be forwarded to Mr S.Beavan, that all matters raised were already being seen to, most was already on the Town Council website and further auditing work was still ongoing before complete publication of these accounts.

16.4/ ‘Celf Able’ group sought to have some of their sculptures to be exhibited in the grounds of the Plas. It was accepted in principle with further discussions for security and safety matters around the exhibits and the public. Cllr K.Bryan proposed and Cllr P.Jones seconded. All agreed.

**17/ Information from members :**

17.1/ Coop was approached to reopen their entrance on the street side of their shop.

17.2/ An invitation was made that people on the ‘old hospital project’ come at a next meeting to discuss progress on their work.

**18/ Items for next agenda :**

**19/ Staffing issues :**

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.

**20/ The next full council meeting is on 27th June 2022 at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room at the Plas.**