

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL

on Monday June 27th 2022 at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES :

Cllr G.Jones, Cllr M.Atkins and Cllr K.Bryan.

NOT PRESENT :

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicole Beaumont (Finance Officer & Minutes taker)

Dewi Jones (Town Clerk)

1 member of the press, no members of the public.

1/ ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES : See list above.

2 / DECLARATION of INTERESTS : None. Councillors who didn't give back their forms at the last meeting were reminded to do so and give them to the town clerk. Only 9 forms were returned at the May meeting of which 1 with no name !

3/ Public Participation :

None

4/ Mayor's report :

Cllr Paige, at the invitation of Camad, attended a Refugee Day, in the Gerddi garden at the Plas, to learn of the challenges facing refugees and welcomers alike.

5/ Minutes of the last meeting :

5.1/ The minutes of the meeting held on 30/5/2022 were a true record of what transpired. Proposer Cllr M.Williams, seconder Cllr N.McCarten. Agreed.

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

7/ Report from Cllr M.Williams - County Councillor : Cllr M.Williams informed the council of the new team at Powys County Council lead by Cllr J.Gibson-Watt (Lib-Dem). He reported too that despite a backlog of maintenance on all school buildings in Powys, it should not hinder the progress of the new school hub at Bro Hyddgen in Machynlleth as the project is directly financed by the Senedd. Soon a decision will be taken on the various tenders to start building.

8/ Planning :

No objection raised to planning application 22/0932/HH. Cllr A.MacGarry proposed and Cllr A.Evans seconded, agreed.

9/ Finance :

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

9.2/ An update was given on the backlog of unaudited accounts.

Accounts for FY2019-20 and 2020-21 are now fully audited and will be published on the town's website.

The auditing of accounts for FY2021-22 is still pending though should be ready by the next council meeting.

9.3/ 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 J.Paige proposed and Cllr P.Jones seconded, agreed.

LIST OF EXPENSES JUNE 2022							
Supplier Name	Amounts due	NET	VAT	Description	Department		Due date
BNP PARIBAS (leasing)	£ 221.83	£ 184.86	£ 36.97	leasing of coffee machine in café (21/6>20/7/2022)	Café	Direct Debit	21/06/2022
Rijo	£ 979.74	£ 973.85	£ 5.89	supplies for coffee machine	Café	Direct Debit	25/05/2022
Rijo	£ 208.92	£ 207.62	£ 1.30	supplies for coffee machine	Café	Direct Debit	13/07/2022
Castell Howell	£ 3,266.98	£ 3,146.22	£ 120.76	food beverages supplies to cafe	Café	Direct Debit	25/06/2022
Powys County Council	£ 310.00			FY2022-23 PCC rates for Café Y Plas	Café	Direct Debit	05/07/2022
Nisbets	£ 352.76	£ 293.98	£ 58.78	equipment for café	Café	Direct Debit	15/06/2022
Gwynedd Cash Registers	£ 270.00	£ 225.00	£ 45.00	till rental up to September 2022	Café		28/06/2022
The Black Lion Inn	£ 377.00			for management of the cafe	Café		01/06/2022
The Black Lion Inn	£ 208.00			for management of the cafe	Café		01/06/2022
The Black Lion Inn	£ 91.00			for management of the cafe	Café		14/06/2022
Las Recycling	£ 390.84	£ 325.68	£ 65.16	refuse collection	Y Plas	Direct Debit	28/06/2022
Gazprom	£ 2,044.55	£ 1,703.79	£ 340.76	April 2022 gas usage	Y Plas	Direct Debit	03/06/2022
Powys County Council	£ 62.00			FY2022-23 PCC rates for Registrar room	Y Plas	Direct Debit	05/07/2022
Powys County Council	£ 776.00			FY2022-23 PCC rates for Community Hall & Vortex	Y Plas	Direct Debit	05/07/2022
Powys County Council	£ 278.00			FY2022-23 PCC rates for John Edwards & Vane Te	Y Plas	Direct Debit	05/07/2022
SSE Southern Electric	£ 1,239.57	£ 1,032.98	£ 206.59	Electricity for the Plas (May2022)	Y Plas	Direct Debit	25/06/2022
Belvidere Lifts	£ 1,321.15	£ 1,100.96	£ 220.19	repairs to the lift	Y Plas		28/06/2022
Dyfi Skip hire	£ 576.00	£ 480.00	£ 96.00	skip hire (Plas Allotment)	Y Plas		28/06/2022
Kerrymeg Nurseries	£ 281.50			flowers for Plas grounds tubs	Y Plas		28/06/2022
Initial	£ 463.49	£ 386.24	£ 77.25	Plas janitorial supplies	Y Plas		28/06/2022
The Store (IG Owen)	£ 157.59	£ 131.62	£ 26.26	various for maintenance	Y Plas		28/06/2022
Initial	£ 144.70	£ 120.58	£ 24.12	Carpark loos janitorial supplies	Toilet		28/06/2022
ENGIE	£ 661.46	£ 629.96	£ 31.50	electricity usage in car park loos (May 2022)	Toilets	Direct Debit	30/06/2022
Total Energies	£ 31.09	£ 29.61	£ 1.48	electricity at the Clock Tower	Town clock	Direct Debit	28/06/2022
Croner	£ 296.61	£ 249.49	£ 47.12	HR advice as per policy 88059	Town Council	Direct Debit	11/06/2022
Powys County Council	£ 364.00			FY2022-23 PCC rates for Plas Kennels	Town Council	Direct Debit	05/07/2022
Powys County Council	£ 115.00			FY2022-23 PCC rates for MTC Admin office	Town Council	Direct Debit	05/07/2022
Powys County Council	£ 58.00			FY2022-23 PCC rates for Plas staff room	Town Council	Direct Debit	05/07/2022
Sage & Xero	£ 37.20	£ 31.00	£ 6.20	accounting software and technical support	Town Council	Direct Debit	01/06/2022
Sage & Xero	£ 20.40	£ 17.00	£ 3.40	accounting software and technical support	Town Council	Direct Debit	15/06/2022
Amazon (Jubilee day event)	£ 64.95	£ 54.10	£ 10.85	Merchandising items for Jubilee event	Town Council		01/06/2022
Top cat Big Tops	£ 1,800.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 300.00	Tents for Jubilee event	Town Council		01/06/2022
Julieanne Evans Glitter & Paint	£ 250.00			facepaint event for Jubilee day	Town Council		14/06/2022
Amazon (Hybrid meetings items installation)	£ 599.99	£ 499.99	£ 100.00	Items to install hybrid meetings	Town Council		13/06/2022
BT	£ 300.00	£ 250.00	£ 50.00	Internet Services	Town Council		28/06/2022
Total Energies	£ 28.17			electricity at the Plas Kennels	Town Council		14/06/2022
Charlie Falzon	£ 3,000.00			Stage 1 of Old Stables/Plas Kennels development	Town Council		28/06/2022
Siemens	£ 82.80	£ 69.00	£ 13.80	lease rental on franking machine	Town Council	Direct Debit	21/06/2022
Cymuned Consulting	£ 557.70			town clerk locum	Town Council		28/06/2022
JUNE Wages/NIC/PAYE/Pensions	£ 23,209.50				Town Council		30/06/2022
	£ 45,498.49	£ 13,643.53	£ 1,889.38				
Balance at Barclays Bank on 20/6/2022	£ 120,779.46						

10 / Motion – Cllr McCarten :

A motion was put by Cllr McCarten to be able to carry on assisting Cllr M.Atkins in their involvement as the Community and Patients Forum representatives at Ysbyty Bro Dyfi (Old Chest Hospital). To discuss various matters such as wellness and therapeutic aspects of the building and gardens, transport to and from the area, parking for mobility reduced visitors and places for electric vehicles. A site visit is to be organised and someone from the hospital hub to come to speak at a council meeting to present the progress on the project. Councillors agreed.

11/ Powys Local development plan :

A consultation had been carried out to gauge aspiration from town councils in Powys. A report was circulated at the meeting on the feedback of this consultation. Cllr J.Honeybill is pushing to have a community bank in Machynlleth. Cllr M.Williams proposed that as well as submitting councillors individual replies the council as a body should submit a response. Council resolved for Clerk to organise a meeting and formulate a response to put before July meeting.

12/ Motion by Cllr J.Paige :

Cllr J.Paige proposed that the bank mandate be updated as follow :

The Clerk - Dewi Wyn Jones,

The Finance officer - Nicole Beaumont

The Mayor - Councillor Jeremy Paige

Deputy Mayor - Councillor Ann McGarry

and Cllr Honeybill

Cllr M.Williams gave thanks to Mr T.Jones (ex-councillor) to have carried on as a signatory whilst the updating is being sorted.

13/ Members items :

13.1/ Cllr L.Griffith announced that the Xmas Fair had been withdrawn.

13.2/ Also that a few wheelie bins outside an empty house on Poplar Square are causing a hygiene hazard in that area of town as other people from other part of the town use them to dispose of their own waste. Council resolved for the Clerk to make enquiries with Powys County Council for the bins to be emptied and removed.

13.3/ Cllr N.McCarten drew the meeting's attention on the Food Bank. She would welcome other people to get involved with it other than the 'usual suspects' and that the town as a whole should rally behind the problem. She proposed a scheme along the line of 'My Pantry'. See online : yourlocalpantry.co.uk for more information on the scheme. Also to engage with food retailers in the town, as well as the schools, to give their 'end of day' surplus to this kind of scheme instead of sending it to a landfill. A public meeting is being called for to present the case to the town.

13.4/ Plas Entrance/new entrance for the community hall at the Plas. The project, headed by Phil Wheeler and the Mach Fringe, is eligible to get grants towards its costs. Further talks are ongoing with the Town Council.

13.5/ Cllr A.MacGarry (for Cllr K.Bryan) put forward a proposal for a youth council/liaison group/forum with the Town Council to engage youngsters and councillors. This would meet periodically. Cllr M.Williams supports the effort towards this project. Cllr J.Paige proposed, seconded by Cllr A.Evans. Agreed.

14/ Proper officer report :

14.1/ Café : Cllr J.Paige has invited the café manager to come and report at the next meeting.

14.2/ Plas Kennels/Hen Stablau : There is no progress on the restrictive clauses imposed by Powys County Council. A meeting with the architects and the project manager is being set up for July 1st.

14.3/ Community Venue Fund : sent out a questionnaire to demonstrate the benefit to MTC of having hybrid meetings and public participation.14.4/ B.O.B.B. (Behave Or Be Banned) Cllr J.Paige as Mayor will attend the next B.O.B.B. meeting. More needs to be done to encourage more retailers on the scheme.

14.5/ Community Hall Rates Appeal : The Plas Manager has made a request to PCC that the Hall qualifies for rates relief as many other community halls in Powys do benefit. This year 2022-23 there is a Council Tax Rate demand of £7757.50 which cancels out all revenue generated by booking the hall to people in the community. The revenue generated in 2021-22 came to £7538. This leaves no room for ongoing maintenance costs or pay for the utilities consumed. Russell George, M.S for Montgomeryshire, supports our efforts. Cllr M.Williams thanked the Plas Manager to have got so far with the problem and encourages to carry on until a good outcome.

14.6/ Newtown Road speeding : The mayor is to push on with the matter.

14.7/ Cllr J.Paige is standing down a volunteer Proper Officer on July 1st as Dewi Jones, the new Town Clerk, will take his post.

15/ Reports from Nominated Representatives on Outside Bodies:

Cllr A.MacGarry attended a meeting organised by One Voice Wales and reported on a contribution from the PCC Community broadband officer, she also and recommended a useful, interesting read for all assembled : Good Councillor's Guide.

Also asked about the defibrillators for funding to help update them and general maintenance. This was in hand with the Plas Manager.

16/ Correspondence :

2023 Vintage Laura Ashley Festival will be invited to speak at the next council meeting.

17/ Information from members :

None brought to the meeting's attention.

18/ Items for next agenda :

The Eisteddfod is coming to Machynlleth in 2024 and organising it should start ASAP.

Cllr A.Evans brought up the subject of a disgruntled town shopkeeper who would like a market stall holder to move out as they are in competition with each other for selling the same stock items.

Cllr L.Griffith asked for an update on the Clock Tower. The Mayor informed the councillors that MTC was waiting for a schedule of work from the firm that will carry out the repair work.

Cllr N.McCarten asked for a bus stop by the railway station. This was already raised in a previous town council meeting.

See following extract of the minutes of the full council meeting held on 31/1/2022 :

- 15.1 : Bus stop/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.

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 25th July 2022 at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room at the Plas.

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