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

**on Monday January 29th at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room at the Plas**

**PRESENT :**

Cllr J Paige (Mayor and Chair of the meeting), Cllr A MacGarry, Cllr R.Hughes, Cllr J Honeybill, Cllr N.McCarten, Cllr M.Williams, Cllr P.Jones, Cllr K.Bryan and Cllr A.Evans.

**APOLOGIES :** Cllr M.Atkins. Cllr Ll.Griffith and Cllr G.Jones.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nicole Beaumont (Town clerk/Finance Officer - Minutes taker)

2 members of the public, 1 of the press.

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

**2 / DECLARATION of INTERESTS** :

Cllr R.Hughes declared an interest in item 8

3 **/ Public Participation :**

Sawna Dyfi – Machynlleth’s community Sauna : Sawna Dyfi gave a presentation on wanting to create a community sauna space in Machynlleth to promote wellbeing and community interaction.

**4/ Mayor’s report :**

Cllr Paige was invited to the 40th anniversary of Cartref Dyfi and was very impressed with the facilities available to the seniors at Cartref Dyfi.

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

5.1/ The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 18/12/2023 were agreed as a true record**.**

**Unanimous.**

5.2/ The minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on 15/1/2024 were agreed as a true record.

**Unanimous.**

Note that Councillor Honeybill left the meeting at this point

**6/ Matters arising** :

6.1/ Update on Item 3.5 of the Facilities Committee (see above at 5.2) Councillors agreed that Fergus Scott can benefit of another 6 months free pitch for being the market stall-holders representative with Machynlleth Town Council.

6.2/ Update on Item 3.5 of the Facilities Committee (see above at 5.2) Councillors were informed of the potential cost (£108K quoted so far) for secondary glazing at the Plas. Funding is to be looked at in order that the project might progress.

**7/ Report from Cllr M.Williams - County Councillor**  :

Cllr M.Williams presented his monthly report and invited questions.

**8/ Planning :**

8.1/ Application reference : 23/1926/FUL Demolition of buildings and change of use – Lloyds Coaches Yard.

**No objection. Unanimous**

**9/ Finance :**

**Council resolved to pay invoices as per list presented. Unanimous**.

**10/ Appointment of RFO :**

The role of RFO has been transferred to Nicole Beaumont. Cllr J.Paige and Julie Humphreys have been co-opted to act in place at times of absence. **Unanimous**.

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

11.1/ Cllr N.McCarten reported on the latest Patient Forum meeting. Councillors mentioned that the inclusion of the outlying communities of Pennal, Dinas Mawddwy, Aberangell ought to be included on the panel as for some people of these communities Machynlleth is the nearest surgery which they attend.

11.2/ Cllr M.Williams reported on his attending the North Wales & Cambrian Transport Liaison Committee on 12th January 2024.

**12/ Clerk Report :**

The Clerk reported that :

12.1/ Very pleased that the Clock Tower is at last in full working order. No damage was incurred from the actions of the person/s who climbed up the scaffolding and interfered with the clock hands.

12.2/ An extensive audit of our council policies and staff policies is being undertaken. Later in the spring Dr I.Gardner (Ennerdale Consulting) will be undertaking a ‘health check’ to ensure we comply with good governance.

12.3/ Three big projects are lined up :

- Plas Kennels (Hen Stablau) : Charlie Falzon, project manager, is seeking funding for the next phase of the project. Tenders are now out and are being examined.

- Plas Entrance : a project to enhance the access to the Hall by the public is being looked at. Phil Wheeler (MachFringe) had a meeting with Cllr J.Paige and Town Clerk to discuss the various funding sources being pursued. All being well, the project should start in the Autumn once the El Sueno festival has taken place. This will allow time to organise a safe access for the public to use the hall during the works.

- Parapets above the Stiwdio/Gallery area and the Café are in serious need of repairs. Geraint Roberts, who managed the Clock Tower repairs project, will be undertaking the project and will give us a schedule of work. It is hoped that the repairs will be done before the Comedy Festival weekend.

12.4/ Guy Edwards from Mid Wales Tourism is launching a project with Machynlleth, and 6 other towns in Powys, as a pilot scheme to improve the tourist footfall in these places. It is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. More information is available from the Town Clerk.

**13/ Members items :**

13.1/ Cllr N.McCarten showed the design of signs that will be installed in and around Machynlleth advertising the areas of biodiversity to an agreed plan.

13.2/ Cllr A.MacGarry queried the use of Hen Siop in Bryn y Gog. Various community organisations would like to use it but seemed to have had their access denied. A letter will be sent to Powys County Council relevant department to request that the building be made accessible to more local organisations.

13.3/ Cllr R.Hughes requested that the signage on the A487 coming from the Aberystwyth direction, be of a more suitable size by the Clock Tower. The present sign is far too large and is obliterating the view on the lower part of the Clock Tower and the street view from people sitting by the Clock Tower.

13.4/ Cllr K.Bryan proposed an app and map for Machynlleth on which all information available on shops opened where and when, touristic attractions etc… would be gathered. It is stated that there will be no financial or commercial gain from this app, it will be for community use.

13.5/ Cllr K.Bryan proposed that during Pride week in June, the town council supports it with regards to the LGBTQ+ community that lives in Machynlleth.

**EMERGENCY MOTION**:

Cllr J.Paige, Chair of the meeting, asked that the meeting suspends the Standing Orders, in order to allow Cllr M.Williams to report on the proposed removal of some bus services. If the meeting agrees that there is sufficient urgency in this matter to discuss it now (rather than wait until next month) we will be able to decide on a response. Motion carried **Unanimous**.

Cllr M.Williams, alerted by correspondence from one of his constituents, reported that changes on some bus routes, in particular X29 run by Lloyds Coaches, will be detrimental to the users on that line. It is well used by pupils in Pennal and surrounding areas attending school in Machynlleth as well as people coming to work in Machynlleth. It is being withdrawn due to the month’s long closure of the A493 (Old Dovey bridge to Aberdovey/Tywyn via Pennal) for road works associated with the new Dyfi bridge. Fears are that it will not be re-instated once the works are finished.

Councillors resolved to send a letter of concern is to Gwynedd County Council to find out their reason for this and if the decision is reversible. **Unanimous**.

**14/ Correspondance :**

14.1/ El Sueno have requested that they hold their festival here again, especially to be able to use the carpark areas at the back of the Plas (Old Celtica).

14.2/ Also a letter from Rotary Club was received wanting to use the Plas as the starting point for their “Rotary Across Wales Walk” event on 22nd June 2024.

Councillors approved both **unanimously**.

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

Prepare events for the 150th anniversary of the building of the Clock Tower (proposed by Cllr Paige)

Xmas events ( proposed by Cllr Hughes)

**16/ Staffing matters :**

**The Chairperson proposed that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items as it is likely that exempt information, as defined in part 4, Schedule 12A, local government Act 1972, be coming to the fore. Unanimous.**

Staffing matters

**THE NEXT MEETING of the FULL COUNCIL will take place on MONDAY 26/2/2024 at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room at the Plas.**