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

**on Monday March 25th 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 G.Jones, Cllr P.Jones and Cllr Ll.Griffith.

**APOLOGIES :** Cllr K.Bryan, Cllr A.Evans and Cllr M.Atkins.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

1 member of the press remotely.

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

**2 / DECLARATION of INTERESTS** :

Cllr R.Hughes declared an interest in item 8.1

3 **/ Public Participation :**

The invited guest had to cancel at the last minute. The invitation will be taken to a future agenda.

**4/ Mayor’s report :**

Nothing to report.

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

5.1/ The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 29/1/2024 were agreed as a true record**.**

**Majority vote.**

5.2/ The minutes of the Market Panel Panel meeting held on 6/3/2024 were agreed as a true record.

**Majority vote.**

5.3/ The minutes of the Climate Action Panel meeting held on 11/3/2024 were agreed as true record.

**Majority vote**.

**6/ Matters arising** :

With reference to item 5.3 above :

Item 4 : Cllr McCarten reported that the residents at Y Dalar all received leaflets and wild flower seeds. They reported that this was a good idea.

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

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

Cllr R.Hughes also reported that Year 6 pupils will now be included in the list for free school meals.

**8/ Planning :**

8.1/ Application reference : 24/0134/FUL Demolition of former bakehouse at the rear of No 14 Maengwyn Street, Machynlleth.

**No objection. Unanimous.**

8.2/ Application reference : 24/0326/LBC Internal and external alterations, with upgrade and installation of various items at the Owain Glyndwr Centre, 69 Maengwyn Street, Machynlleth.

**Council supports application. Majority vote.**

**9/ Finance :**

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

9.2 / agreed to be paid 1 invoice from Arwyddion Caernarfon Signs Ltd £2593.68. It came just after the list was closed but deemed urgent as it is part of an ongoing grant application to Powys Nature Partnership, project lead by Cllr N.McCarten. Majority vote.

9.3 / agreed to be paid 1 invoice from Sutcliffe Play for their ROSPA report carried out at the Playground. This will be paid out of the fund left to MTC by the Playgroup association. Unanimous.

9.4 / Several quotes were sought for the yearly safety of trees in the Plas parkland. Only 1 quote came back from Wilson Tree Surveys who charge us £950+VAT. The quote was accepted. Unanimous.

Cllr G.Jones left the meeting at this point.

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

10.1/ Cllr McCarten reported from last week's Patients Forum meeting concerns that while efforts to support the use of the new Health and Wellbeing Centre Rooms for the Community are being undertaken by Members and Community, no positive outcomes are made known from Estates or PtHB officers. Cllr McCarten proposed that MTC is to write to Estates and PtHB asking for update and outcomes. Council supported the motion.

**11/ Clerk’s Report :**

11.1 / Allotment grant :

A big thank you is due to the Facilities Manager for her hard work on getting us some funding from the Heritage Fund to help with much needed repairs on the Plas Allotments. Once all the work has been done before March 2025, the total grant awarded will amount to over £109K. This is to fund, amongst various other items, installation of new accessible paths, rainwater harvesting systems, composting facilities, raised beds, wildlife nesting boxes and habitats, picnic benches, timber framed shelters and many more items.

11.2 / Update on the Hall/Plas Entrance :

Phil Wheeler (Mach Fringe) was also successful in getting a grant towards the Plas Entrance Hall project. The National Lottery Community Fund will provide £16150 towards the project. We are still awaiting a response from other sources of funding.

11.3 / Internal audit :

WJ Matthews of Caernarvon who carried out our internal audit last year, will return to do the same for this FY ending on 31st March 2024.

Already Audit Wales (external auditors) have sent their list of requested documents for a basic audit of FY ending on 31st March 2024, but have given no news on the FULL audit they were carrying out of FY ending 31st March 2023. ALL our paperwork concerning that FY was delivered to them as requested last June 2023, and to this day we still have no news of it, despite several emails from the Town Clerk to find out.

11.4/ Upcoming events :

As per this list of booked events, it will mean that the Plas Entrance Hall works cannot fully start until September 2024 at the earliest. See above item 11.2.

11.5 / RAAC update :

We have had a survey done for RAAC (reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) and are pleased to report that none was found within the building. This same surveyor was also asked to ascertain if the hall roof was strong enough for a future project of installing solar panels on it. He reported that the roof is strong enough for the project but few caveats will need to be looked at regarding the fixings and connecting of these panels.

**12/ Dyfi Hotspot Community Sauna (DHCS) :**

Following a presentation from DHCS at a previous council meeting, several questions were raised due to concerns with setting up a pop-up sauna in the grounds of Y Plas.

Some of the concerns raised previously were answered and Council voted by Majority to support the enterprise in principle with further work to be done before a formal approval.

**13/ Members item** :

13.1/ Cllr J.Paige explained the reasons to hold in July 2024 celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Clock Tower. Celebrations will take place on Sat.13th July 2024 in the form of a Victorian day and local organisations are already asking to join in. More details coming soon.

13.2/ Cllr J.Paige told council that during the year several letters from members of the public and organisations, came to the office asking for help with funding on various projects. He explained that during the year a market stall is rented out for a small sum to whoever needs to promote a cause.

This financial year the amount raised was £170 and Council voted by Majority vote that it will be distributed between the following 3 applicants :

- Eisteddfod Yr Urdd Maldwyn Apel Bro Dyfi 2024 raising funds towards the Urdd Eisteddfod being in Montgomeryshire this year.

- Cor y Canolfan based at the Owain Glyndwr Centre raising funds towards the running costs of their Welsh language choir open to all Welsh speakers as well as those who are not Welsh speakers.

- Rhydian Mason of Machynlleth, is raising fund for Help for Heroes, by cycling over 400km from Normandy to Paris over the course of four days, retracing his grandfather footsteps, T Elwyn Mason, who made the same journey 80 years ago alongside thousands of other Allied soldiers taking part in the D-Day landings on 6th June 1944.

From 1st April 2024 anyone can apply by Email to town-clerk@machynlleth-tc.gov.uk for a small grant help towards their project. The council will favour applications from people or organisations from Machynlleth and immediate surroundings. The final outcome will be decided at the Full Council meeting in March 2025.

If anyone would like to book the charity stall on a market day (every Wednesday) they’ll need to book it with no less than 2 weeks in advance. Send an email for your request to the Facilities Manager on enquiries@machynlleth-tc.gov.uk stating the date(s) that you are requiring the stall and for which organisation you are requesting the stall.

**14/ Correspondance :**

14.1 / A letter came to Council’s office from the Deputy Lieutenant for Powys enquiring if MTC would like an official portrait of the HM King Charles III. Council kindly declined the offer by a majority vote.

14.2/ Council resolved that an invitation will be sent to Heritage Hub 4 Mid Wales seeking to present to Council and interested stakeholders an outline of the Laura Ashley Legacy Project proposals which they are running. Laura Ashley came to live in Machynlleth at Gwalia House and from there grew the seeds to her worldwide enterprise.

14.3/ Council voted unanimously to send a letter of support to Chris Magner who highlighted the importance that Machynlleth played in the Welsh railway preservation movement. Chris Magner proposed that a plaque be raised to the memory of Edwards Campbell Thomas, Machynlleth Station master during the 1940s, who prevented 2 locomotives from the Corris Railway to be destroyed when the company closed down.

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

15.1 / Cllr MacGarry is to invite someone from the Local Development Plan to come to present their work to Council.

15.2 / Cllr J.Honeybill is to enquire on the Travis Perkins site. It has been long abandoned and was at one time earmarked for housing. With Cllr A.MacGarry they will chase up the item and report.

15.3 / Cllr R.Hughes proposed that Council send a further invitation to Police Sergeant Dave Hawksworth to speak on the work of the police in the area.

**Any other business** :

Hen Stablau : After several meetings, Council decided by majority vote to award the contract for Phase I at the Hen Stablau to Davies & Evans Ltd. Work will commence as soon as possible on this latest phase.

**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 MEETINGS :**

**All meetings will be held at Y Plas either in the Vane Tempest room or the John Edwards room.**

FULL COUNCIL meeting MONDAY 29/4/2024 at 6.30pm

Finance meeting Monday 15/4/2024 at 6.30pm

Facilities meeting Monday 15/4/2024 at 7pm