

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL
on Monday July 29th at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room at the Plas**

PRESENT :

Cllr J Paige (Chair of the meeting), Cllr A MacGarry, Cllr J Honeybill, Cllr M. Atkins, Cllr N. McCarten, Cllr K. Bryan, Cllr A. Evans, Cllr G. Jones, Cllr Ll. Griffith. Cllr P. Jones, Cllr R. Hughes.

APOLOGIES : None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1 member of the press

11 members of the public.

Before getting on with the business of the day, Cllr J. Paige gave a statement on the sad passing of Cllr Michael Williams a Machynlleth stalwart and a councillor of over 50 years.

It is with great sadness that Machynlleth Town Council received the news that Cllr Michael Williams had passed away. Tributes were made at the Full Council Meeting on Monday 29th July. Mayor Jeremy Paige gave his tribute :

"There are many people better placed than myself to talk about Michael but having read the multitude of tributes over the past few days I feel my experience of working alongside him echoes the experience of those authors.

As a new Councillor he was kind and supportive to me, he never pulled rank or ever thought that his vote was worth more than anyone else's, he just helped. We didn't always agree but arguments were left in the chamber and nothing ever became personal or awkward. I accompanied him to many events during my time as Mayor and the warmth with which he was received everywhere was very special.

It is said that no one can please all of the people all of the time but Michael's charm and skill meant he came very, very close. Reading the tributes it should not be forgotten how resilient he was. There were tough calls to make across those 40 plus years and he made them with good grace and vigour, he was a superb orator and goodness me...what a voice! I read a comment in one tribute that he never needed a microphone and how true that was... he really made the most of his special gift.

It is easy to look busy these days with the use of social media but Michael really was busy, quietly and modestly attending hundreds if not thousands of meetings, relentlessly supporting the town and countless organisations, teams, societies and local people.

I am pleased he got to see the new bridge built, for which he had campaigned for so long, but there are a multitude of smaller projects that happened simply because he was there and he made things happen.

He was wise and kind and had a vision for the future but he also had a special respect for those who came before him and it is incumbent on us to continue his legacy.

However.... I can hear him now telling me 'Get on with it man!' so I shall simply say 'Thank you Michael', it is the end of an era, you will be missed but you will not be forgotten.'

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES : See list above.

2. DECLARATION of INTERESTS : None

3. Public Participation :

3.1 : Cllr S.Cox of Powys County Council to give us an overview of developments and provisions of a Day Care Service in Machynlleth.

4. Mayor's report :

Mayor thanked everyone, who participated in the Victorian festivities for the 150th anniversary of the building of the Clock Tower, especially staff at the Library who put on an exhibition on the clock and activities on their front lawn.

Mayor also gave thanks to Dr Adam Coward who spoke on the impact the Londonderry family had on Machynlleth at a tea party held on July 11th at 3pm in the café at the Plas.

Mayor opened the Dyfi Ride on 13th July 2024.

5. Minutes of the last meeting :

5.1 : The minutes of the Ordinary Full Council meeting held on 24/6/2024 were agreed as a true record.

Unanimous.

5.2 : The minutes of the Extra ordinary council meeting held on 1/7/2024 were agreed as a true record.

Unanimous.

5.3 : The minutes of the Finance meeting held on 15/7/2024 were agreed as true record.

Unanimous.

5.4 : The minutes of the Facilities meeting held on 15/7/2024 were agreed as true record with 2 added paragraphs :

4.4 : Two petitions regarding Celtica Car Park were accepted (172 signatures across the two) which broadly oppose the use of the car park for camping.

*4.5 : Back carpark (Old Celtica carpark) This issue is causing controversy amongst members of the public. The fact remains that this very under used area of the Plas grounds needs improving and be used in an efficient way to return some revenue. A proper survey to define parking spaces of various usage and a landscaping program will need to be undertaken. Funding will need to be identified to carry out the various aspects of this project. **It is recommended that this issue requires the gathering of information from a wide range of sources before any decision is taken and that all documents come before Full Council no sooner than September.***

Unanimous.

6. Matters arising :

6.1 : New access ramp in to the Hall will be built whilst work is ongoing at the front of the building. It will be a permanent one to be of better use to hirers of the hall with equipment needing to be wheeled in. Also a new door will be put in. This extra work will cost £14104.90 + VAT. Work (front and back of the building) will start on 2nd September. **Unanimous.**

6.2 : 2 quotes for the Ecology report to be carried out on the Allotments #GYP at the back of the Leisure Centre were presented. Councillors chose on the quote presented by Cambrian Ecology to do the report. **Unanimous.**

6.3 : A call was made by councillors that of the 3 quotes to refurbish the public conveniences by the main town carpark, councillors chose for the works to be carried out by Medhi Enterprises. **Unanimous.**

6.4 : 3 quotes for the project of installing solar panels on the roof at the Hall will be further discussed at the September meeting. It was felt that more information was needed before a final decision. **Unanimous.**

6.5 : Quotes to have secondary glazing on the Plas windows were discussed. Councillors voted for Strom Windows Ltd to carry out the project. This project will be revisited and be further discussed nearer the autumn whilst funding is being sought. **Unanimous.**

6.6 : Old Celtica carpark : A proposal for better usage of this area was put forward. Further factual information is needed and this will be discussed at the September meeting. **Unanimous.**

7: Report from County Councillor :

With the passing of County Councillor M.Williams, there is no report this month.

There is a vacancy for his role and further information on the process of electing a new Councillor and County Councillor will be disclosed in due time.

8: Planning :

8.1 : Application 24/0076/HH. Demolition of rear existing extension and erection of a replacement single storey extension at Bryn Awel, Heol Maengwyn, Machynlleth. **No objection raised. Unanimous.**

8.2 : Application 24/0891/HH. Erection of an oak cantilevering car charging shelter with solar panel roof at Llettygwyn, Aberystwyth Road, Machynlleth. **No objection raised. Unanimous.**

8.3 : Application 24/0913/HH. Installation of a free standing monobloc air source heat pump at 59 Maengwyn Street, Machynlleth. **No objection raised. Unanimous.**

8.4 : Application 24/0955/TRE. Work to trees within a conservation area at St Peter's Church Machynlleth. **No objection raised. Unanimous.**

8.5 : Application 24/1016/LBC. Listed Building Consent for infill of existing external walls with storage building and installation of solar PV at rear of the White Lion pub, Machynlleth **No objection raised. Unanimous.**

8.6 : Application 24/0979/FUL. Storage timber structure with installation of solar PV at rear of the White Lion pub, Machynlleth. **No objection raised. Unanimous.**

9: Finance :

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

9.2 : As there will not be a meeting during August, Council **voted unanimously** that Clerk be permitted to carry on paying bills during the month of August. At the September meeting a list of these will be produced with the invoices to be paid in September.

10: Reports from nominated representatives on outside bodies :

10.1 : Cllr A.MacGarry reported on a meeting she attended for the Local Development Plan also will report on Cost of Living meeting.

10.2 : Cllr N.McCarten reported on the latest Machynlleth Patient Forum she attended. See report for information.

11: Clerk's Report :

11.1 : Clock Festivities :

Big thank you to everyone at the Library for helping with the day.

Thank you also to Mrs Paige with helping to put up buntings around the town, also helping in the café on the day Dr Coward gave a very informative talk on the impact that the Londonderrys had on the town. Thank you to him also. This talk was well attended and more dates could have been organised.

11.2 : More thanks owed to the Monday Morning Craft group led by Mrs Caroline Goodband, who gave a very generous donation of £600 towards the Clock Tower repair fund appeal.

11.3 : A message of strong disgust was sent to the Cadfarch ward that they help the owner of the property which had been daubed with deplorable graffiti.

11.4 : A further ecology report is to be done on the back wall of the Allotments at the Plas. A survey was carried out as to the state of the back wall. 3 stages to the project. Facilities Manager has sent for quotes for Stage 1 and as yet none have come back.

11.5 : Kathleen Mattocks Memorial bench. The bench will be situated between the 2 existing benches on the left bank of the Remembrance Garden.

11.6 : Sawna project is gathering quotes and various documents needed in order to progress. These will be available at the next meeting in September.

11.7 : Audit Wales have caught up with their backlog of audit cases and we are now in their hand for the Full audit on FY2022-23. So far all going well.

11.8 : Another audit being carried out is by Dr I.Gardner to look at all the various aspect of MTC in ways of policies, regulations, a general health check on MTC's governance is also progressing.

12: Members items :

12.1 : Cllr K.Bryan regarding proposals by Powys County Council for a sustainable PCC as advertised in the press.

12.2 : Cllr A.Evans put a motion that the reporting from the Cambrian News does not give the correct picture for the matters discussed. It always seems to be negative, one sided where as a journalist should be neutral in reporting to the public.

13: Correspondence :

13.1 : Guide to participate in the review process to the 2026 review of the Senedd constituencies. See the guide attached to these minutes.

13.3 : Email from Lucy Cockram, Dyfi Valley Health Practice Manager on proposals to re-organise health provisions in Powys. Glantwymyn Community Council is holding a meeting on this subject on 22/8/2024 at 7.30pm at their community centre.

14: Items for the next agenda :

14.1 : Old 'Celtica' carpark

14.2 : Sawna Project

THE NEXT MEETINGS in September :

All meetings will be held at Y Plas in the Vane Tempest room :

Market committee meeting on Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 2pm.

Full Council meeting on Monday 30th September 2024 at 6.30pm.