

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL  
on Monday September 30th 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 N.McCarten, Cllr K.Bryan (remote), Cllr A.Evans, Cllr G.Jones, Cllr Ll.Griffith, Cllr P.Jones, Cllr R.Hughes, County Cllr Elwyn Vaughan.

**APOLOGIES :** Cllr M.Atkins.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nicole Beaumont (Town clerk - Minutes taker)  
1 member of the press  
10 members of the public.

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

**2. DECLARATION of INTERESTS :** Cllr G.Jones declared interest in item 16.

**3. Public Participation :**

3.1 : Zoe Matthews, prospective candidate County Councillor for the Machynlleth ward, gave a short presentation of herself.  
3.2 : Chris Higgins of EcoDyfi gave a proposal for a market garden to be set up on MTC's land currently leased to Dr N.Fenwick of Llynloedd Farm. More consultation is to be carried out between all parties.

**4. Mayor's report :**

Mayor reminded the assembly of the forthcoming elections and for everyone to vote according to their conscience.

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

5.1 : The minutes of the Ordinary Full Council meeting held on 29/7/2024 were agreed as a true record.  
**Unanimous.**  
5.2 : The minutes of the Market panel meeting held on 4/9/2024 were given as information as the meeting was not quorate.

**6. Matters arising :**

6.1 : Motion raised by Cllr J.Paige, concerning the area at the back of Plas Machynlleth, locally known as Old Celtica carpark :

*To prohibit overnight parking without a full year permit in 'Celtica' car park. Vehicles to be unoccupied overnight. A daily charge to be made of £3 payable at Y Plas reception. Signage to be attached to existing Celtica signs. Space/s to be kept free of charge for cemetery visitors. Funeral directors to reserve spaces for funerals at no cost. Blue badge holders to park for free. Designated disabled spaces to be arranged at nearest point to Y Plas.*

The motion was approved by a majority vote 8 - 2

6.2 : Motion raised by Cllr A.MacGarry, concerning the area at the back of Plas Machynlleth, locally known as Old Celtica carpark :

*Parking motion : In response to its responsibility to minimise the tax burden on Machynlleth residents, the council will set up a parking charge system for all the parking areas (or 'areas of tarmac') that MTC controls in the Plas area. The system will take into account the needs of people who attend funerals, staff, the welfare of the residents in the area and the requirements of special events at the Plas. The charges will be set by the council and will include long term parking permits.*

The motion was amended to read :

The system will take into account the needs of staff, tenants, the welfare of the residents at Cwrt David Williams and the requirements of special events at the Plas. The charges will be set by the council and will include long term parking permits.

The motion was approved by majority vote 8 - 2

6.3 : Cllr N.McCarten reported on finance/capital grants available for passing places.

### **7: Report from County Councillor :**

County Cllr Elwyn Vaughan from the neighbouring Glantwymyn & Cadfarch ward gave a summary of meetings attended at county level that could/would affect Machynlleth.

He advised MTC to invite the Planning Officer for a future meeting, to speak to Council regarding solar panels on listed building regulations.

Also that the planning for the new school at Bro Hyddgen will be in committee on 31/10/2024.

### **8: Planning :**

8.1 : Application 24/1117/FUL. Engineering work at Gasworks Lane, Machynlleth SY20 8BY.

8.2 : Application 24/1110/FUL. Proposed new ramp for disability access at The Plas Community Hall, Aberystwyth Road, Machynlleth SY20 8ER.

8.3 : Application 24/1111/LBC. Proposed new ramp for disability access at The Plas Community Hall, Aberystwyth Road, Machynlleth SY20 8ER.

The above applications were sent to each councillor for their opinion as the consultation period ended prior to this Full Council meeting. Councillors had no objections to any of the above.

### **9: Finance :**

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

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

10.1 : Cllr R.Hughes reported on the progress of works at the Plas Kennels/CIC Hen Stablau. A stall was on the street on market day to show people the progress made, bilingual leaflets were distributed and the various funders are still on board with the project. Also that Dr S.Morpeth had resigned as Chair of the CIC Hen Stablau, Cllr J.Paige is holding the post temporarily until a new Chair is appointed.

10.2 : Cllr A.MacGarry reported on the Local Development Plan in Powys, a stall was held on market day for locals to have their say. Information gathered will be sent back to Powys County Council (PCC). Cllr G.Jones proposed that the local library be a branch of PCC for their diverse range of advice they give put to the public on top of the normal duties of a library.

Cllr A.MacGarry said the next One Voice Wales AGM meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup> October. She gave her apologies for not attending it as she will be away for a few days and asked if another councillor could attend the meeting instead.

10.3: Cllr N.McCarten reported from the Patients Forum. Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of care packages for the elderly to return home after being hospitalised therefore aggravating the problem of 'bed blocking'. Also concerns were expressed regarding the facility for an Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist to no longer be available in Machynlleth.

### **11: Clerk's Report :**

11.1 : Plas Allotments : Minutes of the meetings held in August and September regarding the upgrade on the Plas Allotments behind the leisure centre were available to Councillors.

11.2 : Plas Community Hall entrance : for information the cost for the extra ramp at the back of the building was produced. Work is progressing well and so far bookings in the hall have not been affected.

11.3 : Maengwyn Street carpark lavatories upgrade : Items for the refurbishment have been ordered, the contractor is awaiting their delivery. It is hope that by end of October the work will be done and hopefully the building will be opened to the public by mid-November, certainly before Christmas. Invoice of 10% deposit is in Item 9.

11.4 : Mails were exchanged between MTC and Barcud over the rebuilding of the wall on the road side by the Cwrt David Williams housing complex. The stone for this wall has been stored since earlier 2023 on MTC/Plas property making it unsightly. Barcud explained that they have yet to appoint a contractor to carry out the rebuild and will contact as soon as one is appointed.

11.5 : Surveys on the trees around the Plas park, were carried out. Request for quotes to carry out the work as advised in the surveys were sent out, only one quote came back. The work is pressing and will be carried out by Arbcore at £7040 + VAT. **Councillors approved Unanimously.** 1 MoP has sent his concern regarding trees near the fence line to the housing on Lon Llynloedd. The matter will be discussed with the tree surgeons on site.

11.6 : Councillors in their pack have the new rules for their attendance at meeting as set by One Voice Wales this last August 2024. Please heed the recommendations.

11.7 : Christmas celebrations : MTC's Christmas tree will be lit on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Facilities Manager has the preparations for the tree well in hand. Further information will be available nearer the time.

11.8 : An email was received by Powys for some maintenance work to be done by the Roman steps. The path will still be accessible by walkers, the contractors will make sure it is safe to do so.

11.9 : 2 complaints received from MoP with reference to the "Nid yea cymru ar werth" rally held at the Plas on 14/9/2024. Both reported that a member of the crowd at the event pulled down a Royal Welsh Fusiliers regimental standard in the belief that it was a Union Jack flag. A letter of complaint will be sent to the organisers of the event.

11.10 : Edible Mach Maethlon to have the shipping container in the Plas grounds for storage and also to look after the planters on Maengwyn opposite Coop and the planters by the Plas.

11.11 : Filming on the high street. Possibly around the Clock or any side street to Maengwyn or going down the Garsiwn. The producers will be careful to not disturb people in which ever street they use for their purposes.

11.12 : Email just received this evening before this meeting that Powys has decided to remove all card recycling banks in the county. Those situated in Machynlleth main carpark will be removed on 9/10/2024.

11.13 : The Bar in the Hall : MTC received legal advice on the matter. The contract for the bar in the hall is not for public scrutiny without the consent of the other party, being of a commercial nature. Review dates to this contract can only be done with the consent of the other party. It was

settled in good faith back in September 2010 and can only be terminated if the other party breaches any terms of said contract.

11.14 : On several occasions this summer, members of the public and keyboard warriors have seen fit to come in person and have abusive threatening behaviour towards employees of the Town Council as well as towards councillors, their families and friends, if not in person then behind a keyboard on social platforms to employ the choicest of language directed at the staff of the council.

Under any circumstances this will not be tolerated.

Employees are only here to do a job that Councillors have asked them to carry out and have no decisions making power in the workings of the council.

Councillors' families and friends are in no way involved in the workings of the council and must not to be harassed by members of the public.

If members of the public have a grievance, they should direct those grievances in a civil manner at their councillors either in person by speaking to them in a civil manner, or emailing them in a civil manner on their councillor's email address. An updated list will be available when the new councillor will be in place.

## **12: Members items :**

12.1 : Cllr G.Jones reported on defective street lighting in Tregarth. Despite the matter reported several times to Councillors, PCC and to the appropriate places, still nothing has been repaired. A mail has been sent to the Highway Depot in Llanidloes, awaiting response.

12.2 : Cllr P.Jones reported on a defective manhole cover just by the old Midland Bank on Penrallt Street. This was reported to the Trunk Road Agency Welsh Government.

12.3 : Cllr Ll.Griffith reported on Llais and concerns over the NHS provisions in the area, having a drop-in session at MOMA on 10/10/2024 4.30 to 6.30pm.

12.4 : Cllr N.McCarten on finance/grant available from the Senedd for passing places.

## **13: Correspondence :**

13.1 : Various items of correspondence regarding the Old Celtica carpark was for information.

## **14: Items for the next agenda :**

14.1 : Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday 10 November 2024.

## **THE NEXT MEETINGS in October :**

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

Finance committee meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6.30pm.

Facilities committee meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6.45pm.

Full Council meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6.30pm.

Climate Panel meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm.