

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLETH TOWN COUNCIL  
on Monday October 28th at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room at the Plas**

**PRESENT :**

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

**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 in the matters to be discussed :** None declared

**3. Public Participation :**

3.1 : Chris Higgins from Gardd Lledfair, gave a presentation on the market garden proposal to be set up on part of the land currently leased Dr N.Fenwick of Llynllloedd Farm. A Memorandum of Understanding is to be set up to be circulated at the next meeting.

**4. Mayor's report :**

Cllr J.Paige, Mayor, was invited by the Library to present awards to children who had achieved reading targets during their summer holidays. Many congratulations to each for this achievement.

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

5.1 : The minutes of the Ordinary Full Council meeting held on 30/9/2024 were agreed as a true record, *with the following being corrected :*

- at item 10.2 of these minutes : Cllr G.Jones proposed that the local library be a branch of PCC for their diverse range of advice they give out to the public on top of the normal duties of a library. *A letter will be sent to PCC requesting that the library be re-designated as a branch of County Council office with signage at the Library to reflect this fact as well as an external display to advise to the town's residents of the services that could be provided under this new status by the library.*

- at item 10.3 of these minutes : ... concerns were expressed regarding the facility for an Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist to no longer be available in Machynlleth. *A letter is to be sent to Powys Teaching Health Board to have an assurance that is not the case and that they still will be remain available full time at Ysbyty Bro Dyfi.*

- at item 11.7 of these minutes :

Christmas celebrations : MTC's Christmas tree will be lit on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Facilities Manager has the preparations well in hand. *Advertising to be produce for late night shopping on the day and any other event around the lighting of the tree.*

- at item 11.9 of these minutes :

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. *Also that a comment made by Cllr J.Honeybill was deemed offensive.* A letter of complaint will be sent to the organisers of the event.

- at item 12.1 of these minutes : the matter reported by Cllr G.Jones in Tregarth is now resolved

- at item 12.2 of these minutes : the matter reported by Cllr P.Jones though seen to is still not satisfactorily resolved as only a barrier has been installed around the defective man hole cover.

### **Unanimous.**

5.2 : The minutes of the Finance meeting held on 17/10/2024 were agreed as a true record. Cllr G.Jones gave thanks to the various people involved in clearing the backlog of Audits not done during the years around the Covid pandemic. **Unanimous.**

5.3 : At the Facilities meeting held on 17/10/2024, quote No1 was recommended to service the 'Service Air Handling Unit' (the black floor-standing warm air blowers in the hall). This was accepted and the minutes were agreed as a true record. **Unanimous.**

## **6. Matters arising :**

6.1 : Motion raised by Cllr J.Paige, with regards to the creation of Gardd Lledfair : To formulate Heads of Terms and move forwards drawing up a formal lease to bring to the next meeting. **Unanimous.**

Heads of Terms/Memorandum of Understanding to include suitable livestock proof fencing with extra care taken in its visual aspect alongside the cemetery.

6.2 : The program of tidying up the old Celtica carpark was approved and will be carried out this winter. Details of the signage will be given at the next meeting. **Majority vote.**

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

Cllr A.Evans reported on his meeting as County Councillor which took place on 17/11/2024 in County Hall, Llandrindod Wells. The meeting discussed the results of a consultation on the Single Transferable Vote. Information is on the website.

## **8: Planning :**

8.1 : Application 24/0710/FUL : Demolition of existing secondary school, construction of a new build, dual stream through school, 3G sports pitches, athletics facilities, outdoor performance space, play areas, plant and M&E, MUGA, pick up and drop off area, construction of a new access, vehicle and cycle parking and associated works at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Heol Pentrehedyn, Machynlleth SY20 8DR.

### **Councillors raised the following points :**

8.1.1 : Whilst the works are going on, the area presently used by children for sporting activities will be severely curtailed by the construction of the new build. Cllrs asked where will the children carry out their sporting activities as required by the school curriculum ? Has the school management made provision or engaged with the local sporting facilities such as the Rugby & Football clubs to use their facilities ?

8.1.2 : Councillors want the crossing to be positioned on the North side (Clock Tower side) of the new roundabout to be constructed, referring to site plans with Planning Application 21/0306/FUL reference : YBH-CTF-XX-ZZ-DR-L-10000 dated 15/11/2023, therefore directly opposite the Leisure Centre entrance which is also where the footpath/cycle path envisaged ends (see item 8.1.4 below).

8.1.3 : Councillors want this crossing to be a proper crossing with traffic lights and traffic calming measures for the children's safety.

8.1.4 : At the Full Council meeting held on 27/2/2024, a representative came from 'Transforming Education PCC' showing maps of work to be done in conjunction with the building of the new Bro Hyddgen school complex that will affect Plas Machynlleth and all within its curtilage. Nothing further from that meeting was heard, especially on provisions for a footpath/cycle path through from the Plas

gates on Maengwyn Street up to the junction of this path by the A487 road and the entrance to the Leisure centre and the new pedestrian crossing envisaged.

8.1.5 : Councillors also raised the matter of good nutrition for the pupils and want the new kitchens to provide good freshly cooked locally sourced food at each of the children's meals.

Other than the above points made, Councillors **unanimously** fully **support** this development.

## **9: Finance :**

9.1 : Council received the reports on the various audits carried out by Audit Wales on FY2022-23 and FY2023-24. Cllr G.Jones gave thanks to the Finance Officer, the Clerk and Cllrs for tackling this backlog of audits. **Unanimous.**

9.2 : Council received the report from the Finance Committee (held on 17/10/24) on the last half year of FY2024-25 with recommendations over the forthcoming meeting to discuss the budget for FY2025-26. This meeting to be held on 11/11/2024. **Unanimous.**

9.3 : Council approved the list of invoices to pay as presented. **Unanimous.**

9.4 : Councillors voted on quote No 2 for a new photocopier as and when the present contract ends in February 2025. **Unanimous.**

9.5 : Councillors voted on quote No 1 for lighting upgrade at the Plas concentrating on the communal areas and rooms with excessive lighting and obsolete fittings. **Unanimous.**

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

10.1 : Cllr N.McCarten reported from the Patients Forum. Also gave an invitation for a meeting with Powys Health Teaching Board, Sian Cox cabinet minister, RHS24 care, to re-open the day care centre on Nov.1<sup>st</sup> 2024 at 1.30pm at the Old Cottage Hospital on Forge Road, Machynlleth. Cllr J.Paige will attend.

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

11.1 : A warm welcome to Cllr Gwenan Phillips who was elected as the new councillor to join Machynlleth Town Council. Hopefully she will find it rewarding and will have plenty to contribute.

11.2 : Mrs Hancock requested that the bench in memory of her husband, be moved out of the Gerddi garden and be placed to the right side of the Plas drive opposite the Rugby Club House overlooking the playing fields and the hills beyond.

11.3 : The Rotary Club has booked again their day in 2025 to start their 'Walk across Wales' event from Machynlleth. It is proposed that it becomes an annual event.

11.4 : Info from Transport for Wales with reference to the closure of the A470 at Talerddig to repair the road that had collapsed.

Since writing this agenda, the events of last week on the railway line in that same area of Talerddig, supersede this. Ken Skates, the cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, has paused the roadworks until January 2025. Lloyds Coaches has advertised widely the new table for buses and school schedules and the traffic lights will remain in operation until further notice.

Council will join me to give a thought to each person involved in this accident, especially to the family of the deceased person.

11.5 : MTC's website needs updating in every way possible, complaints heard range from it being too old fashioned, not user friendly as well as not secure. Quotes are being sought to be available for the next meeting. Consideration towards it, will be given in the next finance meeting to discuss the budget. The Hall will have its new entrance soon. It will need new carpeting in that entrance area, as well as

new chairs and tables. Chairs and tables also need to be replaced in the JE & VT rooms. The Facilities Manager will draw up a list of urgent replacements to be done and this will be discussed at the next Finance meeting discussing the budget.

11.6 : #GYP's Plas allotments project is going well. The minutes from their last meeting are in the pack. The first tranche of funding for the project so far, is due to come mid-November.

11.7 : Rural Housing Action guide Wales given for info.

11.8 : The Sawna project seems to be on hold for the moment. Need to find out from the organisers what do they intend to do. A petition was received raising some concerns which will be passed on to the organisers. Cllrs asked that the text be shown at the next meeting but the names of the signees be redacted.

## **12: Members items :**

12.1 : Cllr LI.Griffith has invited Andrea Blayney from Llais to come in person at our next meeting in November 2024.

12.2 : Cllr LI.Griffith reminded the assembly that Remembrance Sunday will be on 10th November. Councillors warmly invited to a service at 10am at St Peter's Church, then around 10.45am to the ceremony at the War Memorial for the laying of wreaths.

12.3 : Cllr J.Honeybill on the old Travis Perkins site. The site is still not being developed by its owner(s) who had earmarked it for housing much needed in town. The site is in a much abandoned state. Cllr J.Honeybill urge the Council that a letter be sent to ask why is it still not being used, when will the work start ?

12.4 : Car park loos working group reported on the progress for the refurbishment of the carpark loos, various items were discussed to be ready before the opening, with hope towards mid to end of November, certainly before Christmas. A letter was circulated to let local businesses know of progress, to invite them at a meeting to be held on 31/10/2024 in the VT room at 6pm.

Cllr A.Evans raised the issue that this letter had not been made available to the Council before it went out to the local businesses in town.

12.5 : Cllr R.Hughes drew attention to the fact that on social media, was a posting by the contractor advertising for sale the old bathroom items from the carpark loos. Councillors objected to this as nothing should have been for sale without the consent of the council. The post was taken down immediately as the contractor was informed of the objection. The working group explained that it was a genuine mistake made in order to cut down the cost of hiring a skip to dispose of these items.

## **13: Correspondence :**

13.1 :

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

14.1 : Gardd Lledfair Memorandum of Understanding.

## **THE NEXT MEETINGS in NOVEMBER :**

### **All meetings will be held at Y Plas :**

Finance committee meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6.30pm (John Edwards room).

Climate Change Panel meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm (John Edwards room).

Full Council meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6.30pm (Vane Tempest room)