

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL
on Monday January 27th 2025 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 M.Atkins. Cllr R.Hughes, Cllr G.Jones, Cllr K.Bryan (on line), Cllr G.Phillips.

APOLOGIES : Cllr A.Evans.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicole Beaumont (Clerk & Minutes taker)

1 member of the press

7 members of the public.

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES : See list above.

2. DECLARATION of INTERESTS in the matters to be discussed :

Cllr R.Hughes with reference to item 8.3 & 8.4

Cllr G.Jones with reference to item 18 (staffing meeting in committee)

Cllr J.Paige with reference to item 8.1 & 8.2

3. Public Participation :

3.1 : A speaker from Machynlleth Pride group came and gave a talk on what their group represents and their forthcoming Pride Day festival on 17th May 2025.

4. Mayor's report :

4.1 : Cllr J.Paige attended the funeral service to Carwen Lloyd Williams at St Peter's Church, Machynlleth.

Carwen was a very much loved person in her own right, dearly missed by her family especially her husband Will who, in the late 1990s/early 2000s, was a Councillor and Mayor of Machynlleth.

Councillors extend their condolences to Will and his family.

5. Minutes of the last meeting :

5.1 : Minutes of the Ordinary Full council meeting held on 16/12/2024. Correction to be made : *Cllr Ll.Griffith and Cllr P.Jones had sent apologies but it was not recorded on the minutes.* Minutes agreed **unanimous.**

5.2 : Minutes of the Finance meeting held on 16/1/2025. Minutes agreed **unanimous.**

5.3 : Minutes of the Facilities meeting held on 16/1/2025. Minutes agreed **unanimous.**

6. Matters arising :

With reference to item 5.2 above :

Within these minutes at item 3.2 Cllr A.MacGarry proposed that a volunteer day be organised amongst Cllrs to help with the clearing of brambles and overgrowth of vegetation.

Item 3.4 (of item 5.2 above) : The opening of the public conveniences by the main carpark on Maengwyn Street is somewhat delayed due to a couple of items needed that have yet to arrive. Clerk and Facilities Manager are following the matter.

7: Report from County Councillor : Cllr A.Evans couldn't attend and sent his apologies, he asked Clerk to tell the Council of the following items :

7.1 : Fallen trees that were carried down the river in the latest sets of flood and that got stuck on the upstream side of Old Dyfi Bridge, have now been removed.

7.2 : Cllr A.Evans received complaints concerning the traffic warden. He sent an email to the relevant authorities and is waiting for a response.

7.3 : Cllr A.Evans, as County Councillor, is organising drop-in sessions at Y Plas, every 1st Wednesday of each month, from 10am to 2pm, for residents to come and address their concerns to him.

7.4 : Cllr G.Jones told the meeting that the pavement in various areas of the town seems to have lifted especially near where PCC planted new trees. Outside the Spar is a particular example. In other area the repeated parking of heavy vehicles on the pavement has caused the paving slabs to crack badly.

Clerk is to speak to Cllr A.Evans to ask that PCC comes and inspects all those areas. Also to enquire about some of those trees that have sadly died since being planted, some seem to have been uprooted and 'disappeared' and one tree seems to have been snapped in half.

8: Planning :

8.1 : 24/1784/REM : Variation on condition 2 of Planning 23/1919/FUL – Plas Stables (CIC Hen Stablau)

8.2 : 24/1854/REM : Variation on condition 2 of Planning 23/1920/FUL – Plas Stables (CIC Hen Stablau)

8.3 : 25/0058/CAC : Demolition of a former bake house at the rear of the Arvonja Bakery, Maengwyn Street, Machynlleth.

8.4 : 25/0052/FUL : Demolition of a former bake house at the rear of the Arvonja Bakery, Maengwyn Street, Machynlleth.

Councillors voted to support each of these applications. **Unanimous.**

9: Finance :

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

9.2 : Councillors questioned if the cost of leasing a franking machine was still necessary now that most mailing is done electronically. It is rarely used if only by one or two tenants when they need to send a large package. Finance Officer is to look at the contract.

10: Reports from nominated representatives on outside bodies :

10.1 : Cllr N.McCarten reported on her attending the Machynlleth Patients Forum meeting.

10.2 : Cllr A.MacGarry and Cllr K.Bryan attended a meeting in Newtown over the Sustainable Powys Plan.

10.3 : An online meeting is being arranged on 30/1/2025 to hear about the Local Development Plan concerning Machynlleth.

10.4 : Cllr A.MacGarry spoke of an online survey of services in Machynlleth and Dovey Valley. This survey was at the instigation of Aberystwyth University and One Voice Wales.

11: Clerk's Report :

11.1 : Machynlleth Community Children's Project (MCCP) The Nursery : A meeting was held in Clerk's Office on 21st January 2025 with Mandy Pilcher and Jacky Lambourne of MCCP. Also present was Cllr J.Paige, Facilities Manager and Clerk.

As you know the MCCP/Nursery building in the Plas Grounds suffered badly during Storm Darragh just before Christmas. MCCP is waiting for a structural report from its insurance provider to be able to assess

its next move. Until that has arrived, MTC can only support MCCP whichever way possible. Staff & children have settled well in their new 'homes' one of these being in the Gallery area of the Plas, whilst other children had to move to the Junior School at the top of town.

11.2 : CCTV policy to be approved and to be published on MTC's website. This policy needs to be in place soon as there is a set of CCTV by the Maengwyn Street carpark loos and soon an updated set around the Plas and the new Hall entrance. Councillors approved **unanimously**.

11.3 : Plas Hall Entrance map and particulars of the planting that will take place soon around the new plaza and the new entrance door. The scheme is to proceed as per the specs given to the project contractors.

11.4 : A consultation with Powys Local Bus Network to improve & shape the local Powys Bus network will be published on MTC's FB page. Please spread widely, the consultation ends on 13th Feb.2025.

Also a notice for feedback on Powys Sustainable Resource Strategy. This consultation ends on 4th April 2025.

11.5 : The electrical cupboard by the Clock Tower is in a very poor state, Facilities Manager has reported the matter to the Highways department and is following up on it.

11.6 : Though MTC has no jurisdiction over matters of burials, a survey of memorial headstones in all the cemeteries in Powys is being undertaken and has been widely advertised in the newspapers. It is to make safe all memorial stones as per PCC's new Memorial Safety policy which was approved in 2024. If you are at all concerned about your loved ones gravestones, please contact directly the Environmental Protection Department on 01597 827467 or by email at : environmental.protection@powys.gov.uk

11.7 : Many congratulations to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen on receiving a gold award for its A-level education, putting it in the top 25 per cent in the UK.

The gold award is presented by ALPS (A Level Performance System) to schools showing exceptional value added performance. The ALPS framework evaluates the school's ability to enhance the progress made by students.

This recognition marks the second consecutive year that the school has attained outstanding results, solidifying its status as a leader in academic excellence.

12: Members items :

12.1 : Cllr G.Jones raised the matter of lack of litter bins in the Tregarth area of town, also if some kind of traffic calming measures could be installed in that area and a one-way system to be redesigned. Traffic calming measures in Bryn y Gog too were called for.

12.2 : Cllr Ll.Griffith raised the matter of dog mess near Hen Sinema and other areas of town, requesting that PCC installs some signage to warn of fines to dog owners when they don't clean up their mess. Also if more 'dogbins' for the poop disposal could be installed. Complaint to be taken to Group Cynefin.

12.3 : Cllr G.Jones would like more of a police presence during the coming bank holiday weekend on May 3rd to 5th, not only during the day but also in the late evening and at night as that weekend Machynlleth will see a very large influx of visitors attending the celebrated Comedy Fest.

12.4 : Cllr R.Hughes raised the matter of the road sign at the junction of Newtown Road and Forge Road warning drivers that the road ahead is closed. This sign should only appear when the weather conditions are dire, to warn that the road to Dylife & Llanidloes is closed and impassable to all vehicles.

All these matters will be raised by Clerk with County Councillor Cllr A.Evans.

13: Correspondence :

14: Items for the next agenda :

14.1 : To adopt a Zero tolerance policy against discrimination towards the LGBT+Q community.

14.2 : To arrange for Deputy Mayor Cllr R.Hughes to cover for Cllr J.Paige who will be away on a month long break during March 2025.

15 : DATES of the Next Meetings :

15.1 : FULL Council meeting on 24th February 2025 at 6.30pm (Vane Tempest room)

15.2 : Cllr A.MacGarry is to arrange a Climate Change meeting on 27th February. More details later.

All meetings will be held at Y Plas.

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