

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL
on Monday 31st March 2025 at 6.30pm in the Vane Tempest room at the Plas**

PRESENT :

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

APOLOGIES : Cllr J Paige, Cllr G.Jones, Cllr M.Atkins,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicole Beaumont (Clerk) & Catrin Willetts (Minutes taker)

No member of the press

5 members of the public

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES :

See list above.

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

None

3. Public Participation :

None

4. Mayor's report :

None

5. Minutes of the last meeting :

5.1 : Minutes of the Ordinary Full council meeting held on 24th February 2025 agreed **unanimously**.

6. Matters arising :

6.1 : The Climate Change panel reported a decision made to set up 3 sub-committees, Bee Friendly, Supporting People, and Develop a Place plan. Warm Wales attended their meeting. Minutes of the meeting were agreed.

7: Report from County Councillor :

7.1 : County Cllr A.Evans informed council that :

- £7million is being distributed to education in Powys.
- A motion was passed to save Bronglais Stroke unit.
- Tender has gone out for the building of the new school.

Councillor Evans holds a drop-in session at Y Plas every 1st Wednesday of the month, from 10am to 2pm which is reports is well attended.

8: Planning :

8.1 : 24-1305-LBC : Approved unanimously.

8.2 : 25-0367-HH : Various concerns discussed, including solid groundworks and relation to possible water drainage issues, possibility of permeable surface to be used and parking difficulty. No objections providing the issues above are considered and no cost to be incurred by MTC.

8.3 : 25-0195-FUL : Approved unanimously.

8.4: 25-0311-ADV : Approved providing that bilingual signage will be used.

8.5 : 25-0341-HH : Concerns raised by neighbours of the property, including boundary dispute. Also need of a 4 car garage for 1 house. Objected on those grounds.

9: Finance :

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

Discussed were drainage maintenance costs for public toilets. Warranty is not valid as problem was underground, outside of building. Councillors were informed that the underground sewage pipes will likely need cleaning annually so the cost must be budgeted for next year.

Clerk to look into phones system contract to check if a system overhaul would be financially beneficial. Gas costs have been reduced due to a more efficient central heating boiler.

10: Reports from nominated representatives on outside bodies :

10.1 : Cllr N.McCarten reported on the Machynlleth Patients Forum meeting, held on 18th March 2025, stating there was a lack of information provided by the freedom of information request. This information has been forwarded to MP Steve Witherden. The Langley report containing the relationship between Bronglais and Machynlleth has been put forward to Llais Wales, and Jeremy Miles (Cabinet Secretary) will be making a decision in May. Number of attendees to the meeting was small. Cllr McCarten to invite Llais Wales to next council meeting.

10.3 : Cllr A. McGarry reported that One Voice Wales was having difficulty getting enough attendees, and is arranging an Emergency General Meeting to look for volunteers.

11: Clerk's Report :

11.1 : Car park loos are now open though a few things still need to be monitored : mainly the drainage and the paint on the walls.

On this subject of public lavatories, a reporter from HTV Wales is wanting to do a small filmed report for broadcasting next week on how MTC has bucked the trend as in all councils are closing down their facilities but MTC has managed to keep these opened. They would like a couple of people to help with this report.

Cllr K. Bryan and Cllr N. McCarten agreed to speak on behalf of the council, with Cllr G. Phillips on stand-by as a Welsh speaker.

11.2 : Plas Hall entrance is nearly finished. It certainly improved the area to get into the Hall. Clerk has called on the architect/project manager to have a more substantial barrier in place that the newly reseeded area and all the newly planted areas be protected from the crowd coming to visit the various venues at the Plas during Comedy Fest.

11.3 : Plas Allotment project is also finished. There was a small celebration last Saturday (29th March) to thank everyone that has helped to get this project of the ground.

11.4 : CIC Hen Stablau is requesting the use of the little lavatory building by the Remembrance Gardens to affix publicity panels and art work. The CIC's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is also up for review and this will be discussed at the full council meeting on 28/4/2025.

11.5 : Gardd Lledfair is slowly progressing. Their MoU also needs to be reviewed and will come to the next agenda on 28/4/2025.

11.6 : Rotary Club "Walk across Wales will leave from the Plas on 21st June 2025 and end at Montgomery. It seems that in the future it will be a regular event in the Plas calendar. Any Cllr hardy (or foolish) enough to join them?...

11.7 : A Member of the Public (MoP) has approached MTC to have permission for a tree to be planted within the curtilage of the Plas, in remembrance of a relative. As to where the tree should be planted and what kind of tree it will be, is to be discussed with this MoP. For the moment that person would like to know in principle if this request would be allowed. Discussion was had around what tree it would be and what affect it would have in the future. Agreed that more information would be needed.

11.8 : The Rugby Club is asking MTC for a tree within the enclosure they lease from MTC, to be felled. A second opinion is being sought before a final decision is made on that tree. Councillors decided that more information is needed, such as does the tree have a protection order on it? It was decided that the expense should be incurred by the Rugby club, as per their lease.

12 : Members items :

12.1 : Cllr G. Phillips raised concerns over reporting streetlighting. The phone number on the lamp posts is an expensive number to call and not all residents would be able to report faults online. Cllr A. Evans to share the issue with Powys County Council(PCC).

Dog fouling is still a problem in the town. Call to PCC to request stickers and more designated bins to dispose of dog-bags.

12.2 : The leisure centre is currently in limbo. Cllr A. McGarry reported that only a small number of youngsters have filled in the questionnaire. Admin Assistant to forward the questionnaire to the school, asking them to share it with parents and pupils.

12.3 : Cllr G.Phillips reported the local development plan have identified 2 main sites for housing development, Garth Road and the old school. Councillors stressed the need for affordable housing, for local people. MTC will continue to be involved in future meetings, with possible suggestions for future projects.

12.4 : Cllr R. Hughes shared the sad news of the passing of Charlie Falzon, project manager at Yr Hen Stablau, and sent condolences to the family. His hard work and efforts on this project, and past projects was acknowledged and commended.

Tony Davies has now taken over as project manager. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be updated. Phase 1 is near completion, with some hold-ups to do with CADW.

CIC Hen Stabalu have asked permission to temporarily paint murals on boards to be installed on the walls of old toilet block by the Remembrance Gardens. This would be at no cost to MTC and was agreed subject to any planning permission needed.

12.5 : See 10.3

12.6 : Cllr K. Bryan asked for support in approaching other bodies, such as CWMPAS (Cllr LI. Griffiths to ask) in order to develop a professional strategic plan to attract more business. She suggested a review of assets would help develop a vision to be working towards. A proposal to follow.

12.7 : Cllr K. Bryan reported a successful fundraiser for Ty Bach Mach (carpark loos). A significant amount as yet unverified, with the help of local businesses donating raffle prizes. A crowdfunder page is still open. The town's effort to re-open the facilities was lauded in Parliament by Steve

Wetherden, MP for Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr constituency. Cllr K. Bryan thanked everyone for their support.

12.8 : Discussion was had around parking issues within Machynlleth and how expensive parking permits are. Suggested that it could be put to PCC to have cheaper permits for residents.

12.9 : Council asked that signs be put up if toilets are temporarily closed for any reason.

13: Correspondence:

13.1 : No correspondence.

14: Items for the next agenda :

14.1 : Yr Hen Stablau

15 : DATES of the Next Meetings :

15.1 : Finance meeting to be held on 17th April at 6.30pm, John Edwards room at Y Plas.

15.2 : Facilities meeting to be held on 17th April at 6.45pm, John Edwards room at Y Plas.

15.3 : FULL Council meeting to be held on 28th April 2025 at 6.30pm, Vane Tempest room at Y Plas.

***The Chairperson shall propose that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items as it is likely exempt information, as defined in part 4, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, will be revealed.**

Unanimous.

DRAFT