

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD
REMOTELY VIA GOTOMEETING ON FRIDAY 1 MAY 2020 AT 6.00 P.M.**

717/19 PRESENT

Councillor A Mathias (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor J Powell
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor C Walsh
Councillor E Trailor
Councillor I Williams
Councillor T Davies
Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor G Ham
Councillor A M C Weale
Councillor M Perry

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)

All persons noted above were present by video link with the exception of Councillor Mark Perry who was present at the meeting by telephone link only.

718/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Meredith and Morgans

719/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

720/19 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that under the delegated decisions, a flag to support key workers had been purchased and it would be flown from the Guildhall. The Mayor also informed Members that she had sent cards to various people on behalf of Brecon Town Council who had celebrated birthdays, were unwell or had suffered bereavements.

SECTION A

721/19 MINUTES

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The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23 March 2020 (Pages 184 to 193) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

722/19 ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

CANCELLATION OF ALL MEETINGS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AGM (MINUTE NO. 684/19)

The Mayor informed Members that a shortened agenda had been agreed between the Town Clerk, herself and the Mayor Elect for the AGM this year and this would be emailed to Members shortly.

FINANCIAL ADVICE – FSCS PROTECTION (MINUTE NO. 685/19)

The Mayor informed Members that a new account has been opened with NatWest in this respect and the application is in process.

FORMAL CLOSURE OF VISIT BRECON OFFICE (MINUTE NO. 687/19)

The Mayor informed members that the Information Assistant and Volunteer Co-ordinator was in contact with the volunteers regularly.

Subject to the forgoing

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 23 March 2020 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

723/19 ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS

Submitted **C(A)** a report prepared by the Town Clerk outlining arrangements for meetings during the lockdown period. Members discussed this and it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT, subject to replacing the platform with Goto Meeting for Zoom in the report, that the arrangements for meetings and proposals for the AGM be approved as drafted.

724/19 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Submitted **C(B)** a report concerning Committee Membership prepared by the Town Clerk. The Mayor informed Members that Councillor Ham would

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like to re-join the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee and remain on the Environment and Events Committee. The Mayor informed Members that she only sits on the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee and is happy to replace Councillor Ham on the Finance and Commissioning of Contacts Committee. Members discussed this in detail and it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Committee Membership be approved as discussed.

725/19 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Submitted **C(C)** a report concerning appointments to outside bodies prepared by the Town Clerk. Councillor Williams raised a point about the Brecon Cultural Hub Stakeholder Group and suggested that this be put on hold presently.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

SUBJECT to Councillor Williams' point that there be no amendments to appointments to Outside Bodies.

726/19 HARDSHIP FUND

Submitted **C(D)** a report prepared by the Town Clerk setting out options for financial support for Coronavirus issues by way of a hardship fund and the powers available in this regard. The Town Clerk explained that all three options require that spend is included within the capped amounts imposed by the s.137/wellbeing limits and therefore careful consideration needs to be given to this as the budget for the current financial year proposes that this limit is reached already, prior to any spend relating to a hardship fund. Therefore, any spend will impact on other budgeted plans which will need to be reduced accordingly. The Town Clerk explained that there are funds available in the Brecknock Welfare Trust presently and therefore it would be sensible to direct applications to this source funds until a clearer picture is available to Members about the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic may have in relation to other grant support. Members discussed this agenda item in detail and it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the information within the report be taken as received and noted.

727/19 RESTOCKING OF DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSERS

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The Town Clerk explained that she had sought guidance from One Voice Wales in relation to whether the dog bag dispensers should be classed as park equipment and to seek advice about whether this service should be provided safely during the current pandemic. The Town Clerk explained that the risks need to be considered are risks to the public in touching the dispensers, the risks to the member of staff who will be re-filling the dispensers, balanced against the risk of not providing the dog bags and what risk this may produce. The advice received is that if the service is to be provided, adequate PPE needs to be provided for the member of staff who is re-filling the facility and signage should be put up reminding members of the public that if they are using the facility they should do so in accordance with current advice from the Government and Public Health Wales. Members considered whether employees and members of the public would be put at risk by provision of this service and following lengthy discussion it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the dispensers be re-filled and that disposable masks, gloves, aprons and sanitiser be provided to the Park Keeper and that the signs be created as suggested.

728/19 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

No items.

729/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Matthews informed Members that she was intending to contribute to the Cry for Peace on Friday and she plans to record it from home and posting it on social media pages. Councillor Williams said that he found it difficult to follow the format of the meeting as he didn't have a physical copy of the agenda.

730/19 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

SECTION B

RESOLVED

THAT in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted whereby matters of a possible personal nature might be discussed in relation to the finances or staff of the Council, and matters of a sensitive nature, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily

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excluded and that they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.