

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD
REMOTELY VIA GOTOMEETING ON TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2020 AT 7.00 P.M.**

55/20 PRESENT

Councillor C Walsh (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor J Powell
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor M Matthews (arrived 7:03pm)
Councillor A Mathias
Councillor E Trailor
Councillor I Williams (withdrew from the meeting due to technical
issues being experienced 7:56pm)
Councillor T Davies
Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor S Morgans
Councillor G Ham (arrived 7:03pm) (left at 9:00pm)
Councillor M Perry
Councillor D Meredith

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

All persons noted above were present by video link.

Before the meeting began, the Mayor called for a minute's silence to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and in memory of George Floyd Junior.

56/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Weale.

57/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Davies and Rijnenberg declared an interest in agenda item 8b and the Town Clerk declared an interest in agenda item 24 of the confidential pages.

58/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that no official duties had been carried out due to the ongoing pandemic. The Mayor informed Members that his daughter was expecting her second child tomorrow and that the Mayoress had travelled to be with her.

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SECTION A

59/20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 May 2020 (Pages 4 to 9) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26 May 2020 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

60/20 CAPTAINS WALK PLAQUE

The Mayor read out the press release that had been sent out following the incident with the plaque on Captains Walk, and explained the history of this agenda item for the benefit of Members. The Mayor informed members that the Environment and Events Committee was due to review the plaque, but due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the review had not taken place, due to that Committee being unable to meet. Members discussed this item in detail including the recent events concerning the BLM movement and Members spoke about the various options available for replacement, removal etc including the possibility of display at Y Gaer. It was noted that public consultation is due to take place before a final decision is made. After further lengthy discussion it was

RESOLVED

THAT a working group be set up consisting of Councillors Walsh, Thomas, Morgans, Powell, Matthews, Ham, Dorrance and Davies to look at how this matter should be progressed, and that a public consultation be undertaken, and a recommendation be presented back to this Council for implementation. It was also agreed that a wider review of other memorials may be appropriate.

61/20 LETTER FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Submitted **C(A)** a letter received from Powys County Council concerning electric vehicle charging. Members welcomed the installation of electric vehicle charging points but noted that 'ultra-chargers' would be preferable as there are none in mid-Wales and queried whether the private sector could contribute in this regard. Councillor Ham offered to draft a response

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and a letter in regard to the private sector suggestion

RESOLVED

THAT Councillor Ham draft the letters as suggested and circulate it to Members before issue.

62/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

As Councillors Davies and Rijnenberg declared an interest in this agenda item, they left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

- (a) Submitted – Schedule of Planning Applications received from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (copies of which had been previously circulated - **C(B)**).
- (b) Submitted – planning appeal letter (copies of which had been previously circulated **C(B)(i)**)
- (c) Submitted – Schedule of Decisions of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (copies of which were circulated at the meeting – **C(C)**).

The Council considered the additional applications received as shown on the schedule.

RESOLVED

- (a) **THAT the Council has no observations in relation to the planning applications contained in the attached C(B) schedule application no's. 4319 to 4323.**
- (b) **THAT this Council continues to oppose the application subject to appeal at application 4183 and the appeal detailed in C(B)(i) and that Councillor Ham will review the submission to be sent to the planning inspectorate.**
- (c) **THAT the schedule contained in the attached C(C) be received and noted.**

Councillors Davies and Rijnenberg were contacted by the Administrative Officer at this point to re-join the meeting.

63/20 REPORT – VISIT BRECON SOCIAL MEDIA

Submitted **C(D)** report on the Visit Brecon social media. Members thanked the staff member from Visit Brecon for pulling the report together. Members discussed this agenda item and it was

RESOLVED

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THAT the report be taken as received and its content noted and that the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee looks into how to utilise social media to its full potential.

64/20 UPDATE – FISHING

Submitted **C(E)** a report prepared by the Town Clerk providing an update concerning matters previously discussed by the Environment and Events Committee.

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

65/20 RISK ASSESSMENT – DISABLED FISHING BAY AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Submitted **C(F)** a risk assessment concerning the disabled fishing bay. The Mayor suggested that this be considered under the delegated powers to progress.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the actions be progressed under delegated powers.

66/20 STANDING ORDERS REVIEW

Submitted **C(G)(i)** the current standing orders and **C(G)(ii)** the proposed standing orders. Councillor Thomas explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members and suggested that this item be deferred to a future meeting of the Council and that he is happy to work with other Members and the Town Clerk to progress this.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT this item be deferred to a future meeting of the Council in the Autumn of this year and that Councillor Thomas works with the Town Clerk to progress a further draft for consideration.

67/20 LIST OF DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

Submitted **C(H)** a list of decisions taken under delegated powers.

THIS information was taken as received and its content noted.

68/20 EMAIL RECEIVED FROM MR W PHILLIPS AND MR A PEEL

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Councillor Williams withdrew from the meeting at this point due to technical issues he was experiencing and did not return to the meeting.

Submitted **C(I)** an email received from Mr W Phillips and Mr A Peel concerning Brecon Living Streets. Councillor Powell explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. Members discussed this agenda item in detail and it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a letter is sent to Powys County Council supporting this Incentive, though with a caveat where re-usable plastic glasses are utilised.

69/20 EMAIL RECEIVED FROM CHRIST COLLEGE – BOUNDARY WALL

Submitted **C(J)** an email received from Christ College concerning the boundary wall. The Town Clerk explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members.

THIS information was taken as received and its content noted.

70/20 EMAIL RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR DORRANCE – DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSER

Submitted **C(K)** an email received from Councillor Dorrance concerning dog waste bag dispensers. Councillor Dorrance informed Members that he had received complaints from Members of his ward that there was dog fouling on the lane behind Pontwilym leading to Pendre Close. Councillor Meredith requested that another dispenser be placed on Dinas Road and that signs be erected about dog fouling. Councillor Ham informed Members that Dering Lines have requested a dispenser as well and that this should be welcomed as working with the MOD in this regard. The Town Clerk informed Members that the budget for this year had been spent and therefore, these items would necessitate an overspend on this particular budget head and the approximate amount was noted.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT three new dispensers and the requested signage be purchased as requested.

71/20 NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAMES OF COUNCILLORS DORRANCE, MEREDITH AND RIJNENBERG

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Submitted **C(L)** a Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors Dorrance, Meredith and Rijnenberg. Councillor Dorrance explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members and informed Members that Powys County Council will not consider options for pest control any further. The Mayor reminded Members that this had not been budgeted for, therefore, the funding of it would need to be considered along with the powers to carry out such a service and also reminded Members that if s.137 or the Power of Wellbeing was to be used, this would be subject to a per capita limit which would affect other planned financial support. Members discussed this agenda item in detail and it was

RESOLVED

- 1. THAT this Council adds its voice to calls for a County Council run Pest Control Service.**
- 2. THAT Councillors Dorrance, Meredith, Rijnenberg, Perry and Morgans form a working group in order to carry out the task and finish study of the problem.**
- 3. THAT this Council is committed in principle to look at the options for commissioning a pest control service subject to investigations surrounding funding powers etc.**

72/20 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

Pest control service / consultation for plaque / electric vehicle charging / living streets

73/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Dorrance informed Members that Powys County Council is looking at possible road closures in the Town Centre to enable social distancing to continue, and he asked if the street cleaning contract could be re-established with Powys County Council and suggested that a deep clean of the Town Centre could be done whilst the town centre is closed to vehicles. The Town Clerk was requested to liaise with Mr L Parry to establish an up-to-date position with regard to their ability to deliver the contracted services. It was also agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee, along with the Town Clerk, inspect the town centre to identify any problematic areas for prioritising. It was also noted that the Park Keeper could re-commence some of his street cleaning duties.

74/20 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

SECTION B

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

DRAFT