

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.00 P.M.

260/20 PRESENT

Councillor C Walsh (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor J Powell
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor I Williams
Councillor T Davies
Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor M Perry
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor A Mathias
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor A M C Weale (left at 8:15pm)
Councillor S Morgans (left at 8:03pm)

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

Not in attendance: Councillor G Ham

All persons noted above were present by video link except for Councillors Davies and Morgans who were present by audio link.

261/20 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

262/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Walsh, Dorrance and Thomas declared an interest in the grant application made by the Swansea and Brecon Council for Social Responsibility relating to the St Johns Family Centre at agenda item 7b. Councillor Weale declared an interest in agenda item 11, relating to St David's Church section 106 monies.

263/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that he had attended training sessions provided by One Voice Wales virtually, the service of Remembrance at the Cathedral, accompanied by the Mayoress, the Sustainability Grants Committee, had attended a meeting with BCA members virtually where he had answered questions that members raised, and finally had judged the

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Christmas window competition with the Mayoress and Dawn McIntosh from the Chamber of Trade and Tourism.

SECTION A

264/20 MINUTES

Members were informed by the Administrative Officer that the minutes that had been submitted for approval were from the September meeting and not the October meeting, therefore the minutes from the October meeting would be submitted at the next Full Council meeting due to be held in January 2021.

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

265/20 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 2 November 2020 (pages 69 – 71) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 2 November 2020 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

266/20 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 2 November 2020 (Pages 75 – 77) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 2 November 2020 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

267/20 ENVIRONMENT AND EVENTS COMMITTEE – 3 NOVEMBER 2020

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The Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 3 November 2020 (Pages 79 – 82) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 3 November 2020 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

268/20 REPORT FROM GUILDHALL SURVEYOR – ISSUES WITH THE FRONT WALL

Submitted **C(A)** a report prepared by the Guildhall surveyor concerning issues with the front wall. Councillor Rijnenberg explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members with assistance from the Town Clerk. They mentioned that in the report there are substantial issues with the front wall of the Guildhall and the Town Clerk informed Members that the budget for the Guildhall repairs for 2021/22 had been increased by an estimated amount for this work to go ahead and recommended that quotes be obtained for the works along with potentially redecorating the front of the Guildhall at the same time. The Town Clerk recommended that a specification for the works is obtained, to include redecoration of the front of the Guildhall and to seek quotes as appropriate and to go ahead in the interim period to make good any immediate leak.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted and that the Town Clerk obtains a specification and quotes for the works as suggested.

269/20 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Submitted - Schedule of applications received for financial assistance (copies of which had been previously circulated – **Attachment C(B)**).

Having considered the financial aspects and other details of all the applications received at attachment **C(C)** it was –

RESOLVED

THAT the undermentioned applications for financial assistance be dealt with as follows:

SWANSEA AND BRECON COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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As Councillors Dorrance, Walsh and Thomas declared an interest in this agenda item, they left the meeting and took no part in discussion.

Councillor Powell, Deputy Mayor, took the Chair in the absence of the Mayor.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a grant of £5,000 be awarded to Swansea and Brecon for Social Responsibility.

Councillors Dorrance, Walsh and Thomas returned to the meeting.

BRECON CORRIES AFC

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a grant of £6,270.48 be awarded to Brecon Corries AFC with this sum to be added to the precept for 2021/22 and for payment in early April 2021.

Y GAER MUSEUM, ART GALLERY LIBRARY

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a grant of £377.72 be awarded to Y Gaer Museum, Art Gallery Library with a virement of £377.72 from the s137 budget.

270/20 TOWN GRANT – DRAFT APPLICATION

Submitted **C(D)** draft application for the town grant scheme. Councillors Dorrance and Rijnenberg explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members in detail. The Town Clerk clarified the figures contained in the grant application and noted that in particular the contribution by Brecon Town Council is estimated to be £8,000 and reminded Members of the £5,000 allocated by the Environment and Events Committee and suggested that the £3,000 balance will effectively be coming out of reserves held. The Town Clerk also explained to Members the arrangements with regards to the insurance liability and risk of the items that are proposed to be purchased and that these risks will be undertaken by the business community and that Councillor Perry and the Town Clerk were presently working on a suitable legal agreement in this regard. Members discussed this item in detail and after discussion it was

RESOLVED

THAT the draft application be approved and submitted and that the financial contribution be approved and noted.

271/20 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE – PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE OF PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

Submitted **C(E)** a Consultation Document concerning Draft Statutory Guidance for the Performance and Governance of Principal Councils. Members discussed this in detail and following discussion it was

RESOLVED

THAT as the date for a response on the consultation does not expire until February 2021, that Members consider the documentation and feed in responses to the Town Clerk for submission ahead of the consultation response deadline.

272/20 S106 MONIES – ST DAVID’S CHURCH

Councillor Weale left the meeting at this point and did not return.

The Town Clerk gave an overview of this agenda item and reminded Members of the deadline for spending the funds and the current position. Lengthy discussions took place, and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a meeting be held with the Town Clerk and the three Members of St David’s Ward, and representatives from the Parochial Church Council, to ascertain the present position and to report back to the next meeting of this Council.

273/20 MAENDU WELL DEVELOPERS PROPOSAL

Submitted **C(F)** an email from Powys County Council concerning a proposal from the Maendu field developers. The Town Clerk advised Members that enquiries would need to be made with the conservation officer at Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to enquire whether there were any consents needed, though this was not anticipated to be the case. Members discussed this in detail and following discussion it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

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THAT the offer from Hale Construction to add a new path towards the Maendu Well site be accepted.

274/20 LETTER FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – BROADBAND

Submitted **C(G)** a letter received from Powys County Council concerning broadband. Members discussed this agenda item in detail and it was queried whether the issues with service apply in Brecon. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT this matter be held for now until further information may be available in this regard.

275/20 MEMBERS REPORT – CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

Councillor Davies provided a verbal report concerning the meeting of the Powys Climate Network that he attended in October 2020. There were 30 participants and discussions and ideas to network the voice for various groups took place. There is a further meeting this week to look at the visions going forward. Councillor Davies gave a detailed overview of the current position and enquired whether Brecon Town Council wished to continue to liaise with this group or, as an alternative, whether direct engagement with Powys County Council in relation to their climate emergency actions is preferred.

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

276/20 DRAFT PRECEPT/BUDGET 2021/22

Submitted **C(H)** the draft precept/budget for 2021/22. Councillor Perry explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members along with assistance from the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk informed Members that an increase of £5,000 had been added to the s.137 budget for the proposed Welfare Fund, and that the grant for Brecon Corries AFC, and for bank charges had been included in this draft. Members discussed this item in detail and during discussion it was suggested to increase the s.137 budget for the proposed Welfare Fund to £10,000. The Town Clerk reminded members about the limitations on spend for s.137/Power of Wellbeing expenditures and noted that this will need to be taken into consideration in regard to the financial support proposed for Y Gaer. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

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THAT subject to the increases as discussed that the draft precept and budget be approved as the final version for 2021/22.

277/20 LIST OF DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

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

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

278/20 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

Grant Aid / Maendu Well Development

279/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk gave an update with regards to the funding in this year's budget for Y Gaer and the expression of interest that was submitted and that a further update would follow in January.

280/20 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 excluded and that they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.