

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD
REMOTELY VIA GOTOMEETING ON MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00
P.M.**

341/20 PRESENT

Councillor C Walsh (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor J Powell
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor I Williams
Councillor G Ham
Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor M Perry
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor A Mathias
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor A M C Weale (left at 9:08pm)
Councillor S Morgans

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

All persons noted above were present by video link except for Councillor Morgans who was present by audio link.

342/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor T Davies.

343/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Powell, Dorrance, and Thomas declared an interest in agenda item 8. Councillors Weale and Meredith declared an interest in agenda item 7.

344/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that he had been to present the winners of the Christmas window competition with their prizes, open the new Specsavers, and have a photo opportunity with Y Gaer staff and their Christmas bag project. The Mayor informed Members that he had also visited a lady on the occasion of her 100th birthday, attended Found gallery to present the Christmas Stocking winner with their prize, and had written Christmas messages to Brecon Surgery, Foodbank, Brecon Hospital, Morgannwg House, Trenwydd Care home, and Abbeyfield. The Mayor

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informed Members that on each of these occasion, social distancing measures were adhered to, and PPE was worn.

SECTION A

345/20 MINUTES – FULL COUNCIL – 26 OCTOBER 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on 26 October 2020 (Pages 62 – 66) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

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

346/20 MINUTES – FULL COUNCIL – 23 NOVEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on 23 November 2020 (Pages 85 – 91) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

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

347/20 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 4 JANUARY 2021

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 4 January 2021 (pages 95 – 98) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered and it was noted that a revised version had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the revised Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 4 January 2021 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

348/20 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 4 JANUARY 2021

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The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 4 January 2021 (Pages 100 – 102) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 4 January 2021 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

349/20 ENVIRONMENT AND EVENTS COMMITTEE – 5 JANUARY 2021

The Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 5 January 2021 (Pages 105 – 108) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

350/20 ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

PRESENT (MINUTE NUMBER 325/20)

Councillor Williams queried the position with regard to non-attendance of co-opted members of the public and asked for guidance in this regard. The Town Clerk confirmed that she would look at the code of conduct for co-opted members and confirm with Councillor Williams.

TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS EVENING IN LIGHT OF COVID RESTRICTIONS (MINUTE NUMBER 334/20)

The Mayor informed Members that he is happy to prepare a letter ahead of this year's event and queried what the arrangements would be going forward. Councillor Dorrance explained that the Working Group had met this morning, provided an overview of the proposals, and confirmed that a recommendation report would be presented to the next Full Council meeting in February.

Subject to the forgoing

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 5 January 2021 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

351/20 RATS AND PIGEONS

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Submitted **C(A)(i)** a report concerning rats and pigeons prepared by the Town Clerk, and **C(A)(ii)** an email received from Powys County Council. Councillor Perry explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members and discussion took place surrounding the issues of rats and pigeons. It was noted that the proposed actions have been approved under delegated powers and the report was presented for information purposes. It was agreed to press for a response in relation to enquires with local contractors. Following discussion, it was also

RESOLVED

TO revert to Powys County Council Highways Department about cleaning the areas with pigeon mess.

352/20 REPORT – S106 FUNDING – ST DAVID’S CHURCH UPDATE

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

Submitted **C(B)** an update report prepared by the Town Clerk concerning s106 funding for St David’s Church. The Town Clerk gave an overview of this agenda item for the benefit of Members.

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

Councillors Weale and Meredith returned to the meeting.

353/20 LETTER FROM LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL – DENTAL PROVISION POWYS

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

Submitted **C(C)** a letter received from Llandrindod Wells Town Council concerning dental provision in Powys. Members discussed this item in detail, and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT a letter of support be forwarded.

Councillors Powell, Dorrance, and Thomas returned to the meeting.

354/20 HIDDEN DISABILITIES SUNFLOWER SCHEME

Submitted **C(D)** information relating to the hidden disabilities sunflower

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scheme. The Town Clerk explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members and informed Members that the cost to join the scheme was £105+VAT. Members discussed this item in detail and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT this Council joins the hidden disabilities sunflower scheme at a cost of £105+VAT and that the Town Clerk enquires whether it would be possible to invite representatives of business organisations to attend the training course as well.

355/20 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Submitted **C(E)(i)** Financial Regulations, and **C(E)(ii)** a report concerning a review of the Financial Regulations, Bank Charges, payments by BACS, and Bank Mandates prepared by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members as detailed in her report. Members discussed this item in detail and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

- 1. THE references within the Financial Regulations be changed to Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee throughout**
- 2. THAT the limitations remain in the existing version of the Financial Regulations.**
- 3. TO amend provision 6.6 to provide that cheques are signed during the working week and not at meetings**
- 4. TO pay by BACS/CHAPS where appropriate to save bank charges, subject to setting up a suitable authority system**
- 5. TO amend 6.11 to store information as suggested.**

356/20 SAFEGUARDING POLICY REVIEW

Submitted **C(F)** safeguarding policy for review purposed. Members suggested that the policy needed strengthening in regard to vulnerable adults, and it was suggested that any observations or requests for additions be submitted to the Town Clerk in preparation for re-drafting and re-presenting to Council for approval.

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

357/20 REPORT – WELFARE FUND

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Submitted **C(G)** a report concerning new proposed welfare fund for the 2021/22 budget. Members discussed this item and it was agreed that a working group be set up to look at the details.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a working group be set up consisting of Councillors Walsh, Perry, and Powell to look at this in more detail, and Councillor Dorrance would join the working group if he could.

358/20 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

Submitted **C(H)** conclusion of audit by way of certified annual return for the year ended 31 March 2020. Members thanked the Town Clerk and the other staff Members for the work that goes into preparing the document. It was also noted that the audit was unqualified for another year.

THIS information was taken as received and noted

359/20 FUTURE AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN WALES AND AUDIT CYCLE BY COUNTY

Submitted **C(I)(i)** a report concerning the future audit arrangements for Town and Community Councils in Wales and **C(I)(ii)** audit cycle by County. The Town Clerk explained this agenda item in more detail for the benefit of Members. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

360/20 LIST OF DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

Submitted **C(J)** a list of decisions taken under delegated powers. The Town Clerk informed Members that in relation to the coinbox repair at Lion Yard, this had been completed in house and for now this cost has now been avoided.

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

361/20 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 2021/22

The Mayor invited Members to consider the appointment of the internal auditor for 2021/22.

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RESOLVED THAT Mr Peter Jenkins MBE be appointed as internal auditor for 2021/22.

362/20 REQUEST FOR MEETING – ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor informed Members that a recommendation had come from the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee following discussion surrounding the Local Development Plan to contact Abergavenny Town Council to request an online meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee to seek their views on the outcome of pedestrianisation of Abergavenny.

RESOLVED

THAT the request from the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee be approved.

363/20 RECOMMENDATION FROM VISIT BRECON WEBSITE WORKING GROUP

Submitted **C(K)** a report concerning mobile phone requirement for Visit Brecon social media purposes. The Town Clerk explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. Members discussed this item in detail and during discussion it was suggested to reduce the cost to a maximum of £900. Following discussion, with 12 votes in favour, and one against

RESOLVED

THAT the purchase of a device and data plan to enable staff members at Visit Brecon to access social media be approved subject to a maximum spend of £900.

364/20 OPTIONS FOR FURTHER DEFIBRILLATORS

Submitted **C(L)** a report prepared by the Town Clerk concerning options for further defibrillators in Town. Councillor Rijnenberg explained this agenda item in detail and suggested that a working group be set up to look at options in this regard. It was agreed that the working group should consist of a representative from each ward. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT a working group be set up consisting of Councillors Rijnenberg, Meredith, Thomas and either Powell or Mathias.

365/20 FINAL PRECEPT/BUDGET 2021/22

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Submitted **C(M)** final budget/precept for 2021/22.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

366/20 MEMBERS REPORT – ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK

Councillor Dorrance explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members and informed Members that in the latest version of the Active Travel Network plan, there was no footpath leading from the edge of Maes-y-Ffynnon through the estate and suggested that this Council writes to Powys County Council to request that one is put in as part of the improvements. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT a letter of support be drafted and sent to Powys County Council requesting that a footpath be placed within the Maes-y-Ffynnon housing estate as part of the estate improvement works.

367/20 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

Hidden disabilities sunflower scheme / unqualified audit / support to the active travel network / defibrillators / request to put the courier fraud information on social media, and in the noticeboard outside the Guildhall.

368/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Thomas updated Members on the progression of the pollinators project.

Councillor Dorrance requested that a letter be sent to Brecon Surgery to offer the use of the Guildhall as a base to offer the vaccination to Coronavirus as some members of the community would not be able to get to Sennybridge for the vaccination. It was agreed to refer this matter to the next meeting of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee for further discussion.

369/20 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

SECTION B

RESOLVED

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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