MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 22 MARCH 2021 AT 7.00 P.M.

469/20 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 M Dorrance
Councillor A Mathias
Councillor S Morgans
Councillor G Ham (left at 9:00pm)
Councillor M Davies

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)
Yasmin Bell (CEO, CAB Powys) (left at 7:30pm)

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

The Mayor called for a minutes silence following the passing of King Goodwill Zwelithini of KwaZulu Natal. Following this, the Mayor welcomed Councillor Michaela Davies to Brecon Town Council and wished her good luck for her time with the Council.

470/20 PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed Ms Yasmin Bell, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Bureau Powys, to the meeting and invited her to give her presentation. Ms Bell gave an overview of the CAB Powys for the benefit of Members and talked through some of the services and figures relating to the wards in Brecon (n.b. St John East, and St John West were explained as one ward). Following Ms Bell' presentation, Members had the opportunity to ask questions which Ms Bell answered. The Mayor thanked Ms Bell for attending the meeting and for the information she provided, and invited her back to a future meeting of the Council to provide an update, and she left the meeting and did not return.

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471/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor A M C Weale.

472/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M Dorrance and Mr R Ridge-Evans, Administrative Officer declared an interest in agenda item 31 of the confidential pages.

473/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that a letter of condolence had been sent to KwaZulu Natal following the passing of King Goodwill, and the Mayor also informed Members that a new monarch had been appointed. The Mayor informed Members that he had attended the AGM of the Brecon and Saline Twinning Association, and had also attended a meeting with the Regimental Museum.

SECTION A

474/20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 February 2021 (Pages 132 to 136) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

475/20 ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

POLICIES FOR REVIEW (MINUTE NO. 422/20)

The Town Clerk informed Members that she had not received any further comments in relation to the policies presented at the previous meeting, and that these would be re-approved as drafted.

Subject to the foregoing

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22 February 2021 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

476/20 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 1 MARCH 2021

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 1 March 2021 (pages 140 – 142) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

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IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 1 March 2021 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

477/20 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 1 MARCH 2021

The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 1 March 2021 (Pages 144 – 145) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 1 March 2021 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

478/20 NOMINATION OF MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/222

The Mayor nominated Councillor John Powell as Mayor for 2021/22 this was seconded by Councillor Meredith and the Mayor called for a vote. It was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That Councillor John Powell be elected as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

479/20 NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

The Town Clerk informed Members that two nomination papers had been received proposing and seconding Councillor David Meredith for Deputy Mayor for 2021/22. It was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Councillor David Meredith be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal year 2021/22.

480/20 SCHOOLS CONSULTATION – EMAIL AND LETTER FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL DATED 25 FEBRUARY 2021

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Submitted **C(A)** email and letter received from Powys County Council concerning the schools consultation. Councillor Rijnenberg explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members ,and was of the view that the consultation process is not accessible for those whose first language is not English. Councillor Rijnenberg gave an overview of the two phases and that she felt the critical aspect is that the consultation is being carried out at the wrong time as there is a risk to progress of education of children due to the 15 months of already interrupted schooling and the further likely two – four years of disruption. Following lengthy discussion, it was proposed for Brecon Town Council to complete the consultation and for Members to also submit the consultation individually. It was

RESOLVED

WITH all in favour with the exception of one abstention, that Brecon Town Council submits a collective response to the consultation which highlights the risk to the progress of education of children and the concerns around the timing of the consultation and that the Town Clerk works with Councillor Rijnenberg to complete a suitable consultation response on behalf of Brecon Town Council.

481/20 LETTER FROM MOUNT STREET INFANTS CHAIR OF GOVERNORS, DATED 9 MARCH 2021

Submitted **C(B)** a letter received from Mount Street Infants chair of Governors.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and its contents noted.

482/20 EMAIL AND PRESS RELEASE FROM BCA.

Submitted **C(C)** an email and press release received from BCA. Councillor Rijnenberg explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. Members discussed this agenda item in detail and following discussion it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a letter be sent to Powys County Council requesting assurance that those persons supported by BCA will continue to be supported appropriately under the provisions of the

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Wellbeing Act and to enquire how Powys can help to sustain BCA in the future.

483/20 REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Submitted **C(D)** report of internal Auditor.

This information was received and the contents noted.

484/20 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW 2020/21

Submitted **C(E)** annual internal audit review for 2020/21. This item was discussed in detail and following discussion it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the internal audit review 2020/21 be approved and completed as per the answers discussed.

485/20 ANNUAL COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT (FINANCIAL) 2020/21

Submitted **C(F)** annual Council Risk Assessment & Management (Financial) 2020/21. The Chair of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee gave an overview and provided a recommendation to change the overspend on services risk from high to medium. Following detailed discussion, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the annual Council Risk Assessment & Management (Financial) 2020/21 be approved as discussed.

486/20 INTERNAL AUDIT & CONTROL TESTING 2020/21

Considered **C(G)** Internal Audit & Control testing questionnaire 2020/21. This item was discussed in detail and after discussion it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the 2020/21 report be completed as agreed.

487/20 TRUST ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/20

Submitted **C(H)** Trust accounts for the year ended 31/12/20 for **a)** Harley Thomas Trust, **b)** Brecknock Welfare Trust and **c)** Alderman Thomas Williams Trust.

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THESE accounts were received and approved.

488/20 INTERNAL AUDITOR ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Submitted **C(I)** the engagement letter from the Internal Auditor dated 24 February 2021.

RESOLVED

THAT this letter be taken as received and its contents noted.

489/20 BUDGET – V – ACTUAL – FEBRUARY 2021

Submitted **C(J)** Budget – v – Actual for February 2021.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

490/20 SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 FOR THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR

Submitted **C(K)** information relating to the Summary of Key Provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for the Community and Town Council Sector. Members discussed this in detail and it was suggested that a working group be set up to look at this. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT Councillors Powell, Ham, Walsh, and M Davies form a working group to look at the provisions of the new act in more detail.

491/20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT – COMMENCEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND GUIDANCE

Submitted **C(L)** information relating to Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act – Commencement, Implementation, and Guidance. The Mayor noted that this information relates to the previous agenda item and it was deferred to the working group.

RESOLVED

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THAT this information be deferred to the working group.

492/20 CONSULTATION ON PONTYBAT SAFETY SCHEME

Submitted **C(M)** a consultation document concerning the proposed Pontybat Safety Scheme. Councillor Dorrance explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. Members discussed this item in detail and, following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT Members are requested to complete the consultation response individually and that a consultation response be submitted by the Town Clerk on behalf of Brecon Town Council which supports the proposals in the plans.

493/20 MEMBERS REPORT – ISLAND FIELDS

Submitted **C(N)** information relating to the island fields received from Councillor Rijnenberg. Councillor Rijnenberg explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. The initial proposals and ideas for discussion contained in the report were considered.

RESOLVED

THAT the initial proposals and ideas contained within the report be agreed and actioned, and that a working group consisting of Councillors Rijnenberg, Perry, Ham, T Davies and M Davies consider the matter further.

494/20 SOCIAL MEDIA FOR COUNCILLORS POLICY

Submitted **C(O)** Social Media for Councillors Policy for review. The Administrative Officer noted that on the last page of the policy, it refers to the Date Protection Act 1988 and noted that it would need updating to comply with GDPR. The Mayor suggested that any further comments be submitted to the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

THAT any further amendments to the policy be submitted to the Town Clerk by Mid-April.

495/20 UPDATE REPORT – RATS

Submitted **C(P)** an update report concerning rats. Councillor Perry

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explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. Members queried whether the application form complied with GDPR and the Town Clerk confirmed that it does. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT the content report be noted and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

496/20 MEMBERSHIP OF ONE VOICE WALES 2021-2022 – RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Submitted **C(Q)** information relating the renewal of membership to One Voice Wales. The Town Clerk explained that One Voice Wales had been of use on multiple occasions for specific advice during the current period of membership and recommended that the membership be reviewed for another year.

RESOLVED

THAT Brecon Town Council renews its Membership with One Voice Wales for the 2021-22 year.

497/20 LIST OF DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

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

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

498/20 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

The Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect / Pest Control Service

499/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor informed Members that Brecon Beacons National Park Authority was running a consultation with regards to transportations along the A40 this week and that if any Member wished to attend the consultation to let the Town Clerk know.

The Mayor also informed Members that and email has been received from the Chamber of Trade and Tourism concerning the current restrictions, and circulated prior to this meeting, the content of which was noted.

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

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500/20 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.

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