

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 24 MAY 2021 AT 7.00 P.M.

13/21 PRESENT

Councillor C Walsh
Councillor J Powell (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor T Davies
Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor S Morgans
Councillor M Davies
Councillor A M C Weale (left 8:16pm)
Councillor M Perry
Councillor G Ham
Councillor A Mathias

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)
Ptryk Bialowas (Youth Representative)(left 8:16pm)
Brooke Osborne (Youth representative)(left 8:16pm)

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

The Mayor welcomed the Youth Representatives to the first meeting of the Full Council since their appointment, and everyone present introduced themselves.

14/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Williams and Thomas

15/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Weale declared an interest in agenda item 8 and 16. Councillor Ham declared an interest in agenda item 12. Councillor Meredith declared an interest in agenda item 16.

16/21 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Mayor informed Members that he had attended the judging panel for the Best of Brecon Awards remotely, and had also attended the filming the week before at the Guildhall. The Mayor also confirmed that he had attended working group meetings in relation to the community renewal fund, and the hardship fund, and attended the Guildhall for delivery of the defibrillators.

SECTION A

17/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 April 2021 (Pages 179 to 185) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

18/21 ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

IRP ANNUAL REPORT (MINUTE NO. 593/20)

Councillor Walsh updated Members about a workshop that he had attended in relation to the IRP annual report and provided an overview of the relevant points.

Subject to the foregoing

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26 April 2021 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

19/21 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 4 MAY 2021

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 4 May 2021 (pages 189 – 190) (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 4 May 2021 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

20/21 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 4 MAY 2021

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The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 4 May 2021 (Pages 192 – 194) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

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

21/21 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 10 May 2021 (Pages 1-3) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 10 May 2021 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

22/21 ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021

Submitted (copies of which had been previously circulated) :

- (a) Budget & Actual with Balance Sheet figures **C(A)**
- (b) Accounts to 31st March 2021 **C(B)**
- (c) Annual Return for Audit for year ended 31st March 2021 **C(C)**
- (d) Annual Internal Audit Report within Annual Governance Statement. **C(D)**
- (e) Reserves analysis and report concerning reserves **C(E)**

Members considered the documents provided at (a), (b) and (c) and Questions 1 to 9 of the Annual Governance Statement (Part 1 of the Return) and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Accounts to 31st March 2021 be approved and that questions 1 to 9 in Part 1 of the Annual Governance Statement be answered 'yes' and that the Approval and Certification be agreed and that the Annual Internal Audit Report be received and that the Mayor signs and dates the Return accordingly, and that the reserves be approved as per the draft with the amendments agreed as set out in the Town Clerk' report dated 17 May 2021.

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23/21 LETTER FROM MS F JONES, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BRECON AND RADNORSHIRE

Submitted **C(F)** a letter received from Ms F Jones, Member of Parliament for Brecon and Radnorshire.

THIS was taken as received and its contents noted.

24/21 LETTER RECEIVED FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – BCA

As Councillor Weale declared an interest in this agenda item, he was placed in the waiting room on Zoom, and took no part in discussions.

Submitted **C(G)** letter received from Powys County Council concerning the future of BCA. Members noted that they were disappointed in the decision for this provision to be based out of County and felt that it was a disadvantage for those who are unable to travel.

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

Councillor Weale returned to the meeting.

25/21 CONSULTATION – REMOVAL OF PAY PHONES

Submitted **C(H)** an email received from Powys County Council concerning the proposed removal of payphones within the St John West ward. Members raised their concerns, and it was proposed that a formal opposition to the removal of the pay phones should be submitted for the reasons noted by Members.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Town Clerk responds on behalf of Brecon Town Council to the consultation by way of submission of a formal opposition to the decision setting out the reasons noted.

26/21 PROPOSED COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2021/22

Submitted **C(I)** proposed Committee Membership for 2021/22.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT this be approved as drafted.

27/21 REPORT – A470 CONSULTATION

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Submitted **C(J)** a report prepared by the Town Clerk concerning the A470 consultation.

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

28/21 **REPORT – ISLAND FIELDS**

As Councillor Ham declared an interest in this agenda item, he was placed in the waiting room on Zoom, and took no part in discussions.

Submitted **C(K)** a report prepared by the Town Clerk concerning the Island Fields. Members discussed this item in detail, and at length. Councillor Rijnenberg explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. A counter proposal was put forward by Councillor T Davies for Brecon Town Council to submit an Expression of Interest to Powys County Council on behalf of Brecon Town Council to ensure that the land is retained in local authority ownership. Members stated the primary aim is to stop Powys selling the land and becoming privately owned and felt that the only way to do this is for the ownership to be with Brecon Town Council. Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Brecon Town Council submits an Expression of Interest to Powys County Council by the end of the week, and Councillor Rijnenberg and the Town Clerk to work together to complete this.

29/21 **REPORT – COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND**

Submitted **C(L)** a report prepared by the Town Clerk concerning the Community Renewal Fund.

RESOLVED

THAT the content of the report be approved, and that the working group be set up consists of Councillors M Davies, C Walsh, J Powell, M Dorrance, and M Matthews to look at these options further.

30/21 **WELLBEING REPORT**

Submitted **C(L)** Wellbeing Report for 2020/21. Councillor Rijnenberg had one amendment to make and that was to include thanks to the volunteers at Visit Brecon. Subject to the amendment, it was

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RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Wellbeing Report 2020/21 be approved and published.

31/21 CHANGE OF SIGNATORY – MAYOR’S CHARITIES ACCOUNT

The Mayor explained it was necessary to change the signatory on the Mayor’s Charities Account from Councillor Walsh to himself and sought the Council’ support.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the change of signatory from Councillor Walsh to Councillor Powell be approved.

32/21 TO CONSIDER UPDATE IN REGARD TO S106 FUNDS, AND TO CONSIDER TIME CONSTRAINTS

Councillors Weale and Meredith gave an update in regard to the current position with the s106 funding at St David’ Church, following their attendance at a church meeting the previous week. Following this, Councillors Weale and Meredith were placed in the waiting room on Zoom at this point, and took no part in further discussion as they had declared an interest.

Members raised some concerns about infrastructure and highways, though it was noted that the pressing issue is now the timeframe to enable the works to complete. An overview was given on where the project is at and following lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk writes to the Church to enquire whether it is reasonable for the project to complete in the necessary timescales and to consider whether an extension to the time limits will be feasible.

33/21 LIST OF DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

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

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

34/21 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

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Pay Phones / Wellbeing Report / Island Fields

35/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Perry informed Members that he has received concerns with regards to health and safety issues at the market hall relating to the toilets and a hole in the roof. The poor sanitary conditions of the toilet facilities were noted and are of significant concern. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the proprietor to enquire about plans to address these works and to invite him to a future meeting of the Council to discuss his plans for the building.

36/21 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.