

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 24 JANUARY 2022 AT 7.00 P.M.

562/21 PRESENT

Councillor J Powell (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor T Davies
Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor D Meredith (left at 8:48pm)
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor A M C Weale (left at 8:48pm)
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor C Walsh
Councillor S Morgans
Councillor A Mathias (arrived 8:25pm)
Councillor I Williams
Councillor M Perry

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)
Ariane Brumwell (Brecon and Radnor Express)
(left 8:21pm)

563/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors M Davies, G Ham, and Miss B Osborne. The Town Clerk informed Members that Councillor Mathias was due to attend but would be joining later.

564/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors D Meredith and A M C Weale declared an interest in agenda item 30 on the confidential pages.

565/21 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor confirmed that he had delivered the Christmas window competition prizes, gifts to the care homes within Brecon, attended Santa's Grotto as an elf the weekend after Brecon With Bells On, and attended the tractor run.

SECTION A

566/21 MINUTES

Council Meeting 24 January 2022

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 November 2021 (Pages 122 to 126) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

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

567/21 ENVIRONMENT AND EVENTS COMMITTEE – 4 JANUARY 2022

The Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 4 January 2022 (Pages 130 – 134) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 4 January 2022 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

568/21 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 10 JANUARY 2022

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 10 January 2022 (pages 136 – 139) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 10 January 2022 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

569/21 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 10 JANUARY 2022

The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 10 January 2022 (Pages 142 – 145) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

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THAT the Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 10 January 2022 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

570/21 CCTV POLICY FOR REVIEW

Submitted **C(A)** CCTV policy for review. Members noted that there was a reference to the Data Protection Act 1998 which should be removed. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT subject to the removal of the reference to the Data Protection Act 1998, that the policy be re-approved.

571/21 MAYORS HANDBOOK – REVISED VERSION FOR APPROVAL

Submitted **C(B)** revised Mayors Handbook for approval. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the revised handbook be approved as drafted.

572/21 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCY – CLERKS QUALIFICATIONS

Submitted **C(C)** information relating to the general power of competency relating to Clerks qualifications. It was noted that the Town Clerk had one of the relevant qualifications.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

573/21 SHAPING WALES' FUTURE – WELSH GOVERNMENT

Submitted **C(D)** information relating to Shaping Wales' Future received from Welsh Government.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

574/21 EMAIL FROM LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL – BULLYING OF CLERKS: MP TO RAISE QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT

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Submitted **C(E)** an email received from Llandrindod Wells Town Council concerning the bullying of clerks: MP to raise question in parliament. Members were supportive of the cause, though it was queried whether this out to be put to the devolved Welsh Government. The Town Clerk informed Members that One Voice Wales are involved in lobbying in this respect.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

575/21 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS

Submitted **C(F)** consultation on draft statutory guidance on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for community and town councils. Members discussed this item in detail and it was

RESOLVED

THAT a response be submitted in relation to question 4 stating that funding is required for multilocation meeting provisions.

576/21 BRECON BUZZ

Submitted **C(G)(i)** signage report – Brecon Buzz, **C(G)(ii)** Email from Brecon Buzz, and **C(G)(iii)** standard signs for Brecon proofs. The Town Clerk explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. The Town Clerk requested that consideration be given to staff time being given as match funding for future grant applications made by Brecon Buzz, and that the ‘quick win’ actions be carried out where possible. Members noted requirements surrounding qualifications required for working on highways signage.

RESOLVED

THAT the use of Brecon Town Council staff time be agreed as match funding, and that Brecon Town Council staff carry out actions where possible at no cost and that Councillors Perry, Walsh, and Powell form a working group to look at the report content in further detail.

577/21 REPORT – PLATINUM JUBILEE

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Submitted **C(H)** a report concerning the platinum jubilee prepared by the Town Clerk. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

TO proceed with the proposals within the report.

578/21 MOUNT STREET SCHOOL

Submitted **C(I)(i)** statutory notice relating to Mount Street School, and **C(I)(ii)** objection letter. Councillor Rijnenberg explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. Members discussed this item in detail, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT a further letter objecting to the closure and amalgamation of the three schools be submitted.

579/21 ELECTIONS ARRANGEMENTS REPORT 2022

Submitted **C(J)** elections arrangements report 2022 prepared by the Town Clerk. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

TO approve the procedural arrangements as detailed within the report.

580/21 RECOMMENDATION FROM PLANNING, GUILDHALL, AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETINGS

Submitted **C(K)** recommendation from Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee relating to remote meetings. Members discussed this item and it was

RESOLVED

TO proceed as noted within the report, with a review of this being made by the new Council after the election.

581/21 RECOMMENDATION REPORT – GREENSPACES WORKING GROUP

Submitted **C(L)** recommendation report from the greenspaces working group. Members discussed this item, and following discussion, it was

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RESOLVED

THAT the recommendations be approved as drafted.

582/21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT PILOT – SELF EVALUATION TOOLKIT

Councillor Walsh provided an overview of the toolkit pilot that is underway, and confirmed that a further workshop is anticipated shortly and further feedback will be provided in due course.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

583/21 LETTER FROM BRECON 20:20 AND FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

Submitted **C(M)(i)** letter from Brecon 20:20, and **C(M)(ii)** final supplementary planning guidance.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

584/21 DELEGATED DECISIONS

Submitted **C(N)** list of delegated decisions.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

585/21 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

Jubilee / Mount Street amalgamation objection / promotion of election (media assets to be requested from Powys County Council)

586/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk informed Members that Councillor Ham had today resigned from the Council with immediate effect and explained that due to the proximity of the election in May the process will not be followed whereby an election can be called to fill this vacancy. The Town Clerk informed Members that it is possible, however for the vacancy to be filled by co-option if this Council was of the view that is worthwhile at this stage.

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The Town Clerk informed Members that an invitation has been received from Buckingham Palace inviting a Councillor to attend a garden party in May, the invitation having been circulated earlier in the day. Members queried whether it had to be a Councillor or whether it could be someone from the community. The Town Clerk said she would make enquiries in this regard and let Members know, but suspected it would need to be a Councillor. The Town Clerk also explained that the request is for a Councillor who has made a difference during the COVID crisis. After discussion, it was agreed that nominations be submitted to the Town Clerk by Wednesday 26 January and that the Town Clerk is delegated to make the arrangements.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a decision taken last summer approved a further busking event at easter, though as this falls within the purdah period, advice has been received that this is not advisable, and requested agreement that the busking be moved to July and August 2022.

587/21 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.

Ms A Brumwell left the meeting at this point and did not return.