

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.00 P.M.

637/21 PRESENT

Councillor J Powell (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor T Davies
Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor M Dorrance
Councillor A M C Weale
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor C Walsh
Councillor S Morgans (arrived 7:14pm) (left at 7:45pm)
Councillor I Williams
Councillor M Perry (arrived 7:07pm)

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)(arrived 7:05pm)
Charlie Ward (Brecon Climate Hub)
Olivia Crooks (Brecon Climate Hub)

Not in attendance: Miss Brooke Osborne, Youth Representative

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Mayor requested a moments silence to mark the recent passing of former Councillor Mary Phillips, the current conflict in Ukraine, and the missing resident of Brecon, Rita.

638/20 PRESENTATION – BRECON CLIMATE HUB

The Mayor welcomed Ms Charlie Ward and Ms Olivia Crooks of Brecon Climate Hub to the meeting and invited them to give their presentation. Ms Ward and Ms Crooks thanked Members for inviting them to the meeting and they gave their presentation. Following the presentation, Members had the opportunity to ask questions which Ms Crooks and Ms Ward answered. Members welcomed collaborative working with the Brecon Climate Hub going forward. The Mayor thanked Ms Crooks and Ms Ward for their time, and they left the meeting and did not return.

639/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mathias, and Mr P Bialowas.

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640/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dorrance declared an interest at agenda item 21.

641/21 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor confirmed that he had no official engagements since the last meeting.

SECTION A

642/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 January 2022 (Pages 148 to 154) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

643/21 ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCY – CLERKS QUALIFICATIONS (MINUTE NO 572/21)

Councillor Walsh informed Members that he had attended a workshop concerning the above related matter and would submit a paper to a future meeting.

Subject to the foregoing, it was

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24 January 2022 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

644/21 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 7 FEBRUARY 2022

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 7 February 2022 (pages 159 – 162) (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 7 February 2022 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

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645/21 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 7 FEBRUARY 2022

The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 7 February 2022 (Pages 164 – 167) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 7 February 2022 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

646/21 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

Submitted **C(A)(i)** Safeguarding Policy, and **C(A)(ii)** Complaints Policy. Members discussed this and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the policies be re-approved with a two year review period.

647/21 CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Submitted **C(B)** draft Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Town Clerk informed Members that this was an initial first draft and recommended that it be developed further with the Brecon Climate Hub and Ecodovey. The Town Clerk explained that this Council has been successful in securing participation in a Community Carbon Planning Process funded by the UK Government Community Renewal Fund and that Ecodovey will be working with the Council to produce a carbon audit for Brecon.

RESOLVED

THAT the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan be approved with further development as suggested, and that the information as discussed be taken as noted.

648/21 BANK RECONCILIATION AND BUDGET V ACTUAL DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022

Submitted **C(C)** Bank Reconciliation and Budget v Actual for December 2021 and January 2022.

RESOLVED

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THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

649/21 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Mayor invited Members to consider the appointment of the internal auditor for 2022/23.

RESOLVED

THAT Mr Peter Jenkins MBE be appointed as internal auditor for 2022/23, if he is willing to do so.

650/21 TRAFFIC ORDER FUNDING REQUEST

Submitted **C(D)** an email received from Councillor Dorrance concerning a Traffic Order Funding request. Councillor Dorrance explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. The Town Clerk identified potential budgets that could be used to cover this expenditure and advised that research is needed in regard to applicable powers of spend. Members discussed this in detail, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the request be approved in principle, and that the Town Clerk researches further the applicable powers of spend and that the identified budgets be approved.

651/21 EMAIL FROM PAVO – LOCALITY INITIATIVE FUND

Submitted **C(E)** email received from PAVO concerning the Locality Initiative Fund.

RESOLVED

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

652/21 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW 2020/21

Submitted **C(F)** annual internal audit review for 2021/22. This item was discussed in detail and following discussion it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the replies internal audit review 2021/22 be 'yes', and that further comments will be provided from Councillor Walsh

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as discussed.

653/21 ANNUAL COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT (FINANCIAL) 2021/22

Submitted **C(G)** annual Council Risk Assessment & Management (Financial) 2021/22. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the annual Council Risk Assessment & Management (Financial) 2021/22 be approved as discussed.

654/21 INTERNAL AUDIT & CONTROL TESTING 2021/22

Considered **C(H)** Internal Audit & Control testing questionnaire 2021/22. This item was discussed in detail and after discussion it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the 2021/22 report be completed with the yes/no answers as agreed, and all risks to be identified as low with the exception of numbers 6,8, and 9 which are identified as medium.

655/21 SIGNAGE REPORT

Submitted **C(I)** a signage report prepared by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk informed Members that Brecon Buzz had been successful in securing a grant towards some of this work, and are looking to develop the Visit Brecon brand as a partner identity for the Town, there is a meeting on 11 March to consider this further.

RESOLVED

TO accept the recommendations as detailed within the report.

656/21 TREE PLANTING REQUEST – LLANFAES PARK

Submitted **C(J)** a tree planting request for Llanfaes Park. Members discussed this item in detail, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the request be approved for tree planting in Llanfaes Park.

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657/21 DWR CYMRU WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024 – PRE-CONSULTATION

Submitted **C(K)** Dwr Cymru Water Resources Management Plan 2024 pre-consultation.

RESOLVED

THIS information was taken as received and noted.

658/21 REPORT – COVID REQUIREMENTS

Submitted **C(L)** a report on Covid Requirements for the Guildhall prepared by the Town Clerk. Members discussed this item in detail, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the existing safety measures, including 1m distancing though excluding Covid passes continues at the Guildhall, and that the current measures in Visit Brecon remain in place, with a further review at the March Council meeting.

659/21 DELEGATED DECISIONS

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

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

660/21 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

Climate Hub / Climate Emergency Plan / Signage / Tree Planting / Traffic Order Funding

661/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Weale asked Members to consider sending a letter of support to the Ukrainian Embassy in London, that the Ukrainian Flag be flown from the Guildhall, and that a Working Group be set up to assist with Brecon's response to the war in Ukraine. It was agreed to send a letter to the Ukrainian Embassy, to fly the Ukrainian Flag from the Guildhall, and that a working group consisting of Councillors Weale, Powell, M Davies, Meredith and Rijnenberg be set up. At this point, Councillor Dorrance declared an interest as a family member is involved in the collection.

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The Town Clerk informed Members that the One Voice Wales renewal had been received today in the sum of £1440, and enquired whether Members wished for Membership to be renewed for 2022/23. After discussion it was agreed to renew the membership.

Councillor Williams noted that Powys County Council has waived the fee for street closures for the platinum jubilee and requested that Brecon Town Council shared the deadline for applications.

662/21 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.