

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00 P.M.

493/22 PRESENT

Councillor D Meredith (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor S Drinan (remote attendee)
Councillor T Fretten
Councillor J Powell
Councillor N Stone
Councillor C Walsh (remote attendee)
Councillor C Walton
Councillor N Kilgallon
Councillor M Davies (remote attendee)
Councillor M Dorrance (remote attendee)
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor M Perry (remote attendee)
Councillor S Morgans (remote attendee)(arrived 7:03pm)

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)
Ruth Gibbs (Frazz Parade)(left 7:14pm)
Lindsay Hay (Frazz Parade)(left 7:14pm)
Dawn Penny (Frazz Parade)(left 7:14pm)
Ptryk Bialowas (arrived 7:23pm)(left 7:50pm)
Lynnette Thomas (arrived 7:59pm)(left 8:04pm)

All persons noted in attendance remotely were present by video link.

494/22 PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed representatives of the Brecon Frazz Parade to the meeting, and invited them to give their presentation. Ms Gibbs thanked the Mayor, and Members for allowing her and her colleagues the time to come and give their presentation this evening and explained the history of the Frazz Parade, and confirmed that the Frazz is now a constituted group. Ms Gibbs asked Members to view the video that had been provided which was played to the meeting. An overview of the plans for 2023 was provided, with the theme being 40 years of jazz. Once their presentation had ended, the Mayor thanked them for their time that evening, and they left the chamber and did not return.

495/22 APOLOGIES

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There were no apologies.

496/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest in agenda item 26.

497/22 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that a list of his engagements would be circulated by the end of the week.

SECTION A

498/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 November 2022 (Pages 108 – 113) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 28 November 2022 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

499/22 ENVIRONMENT AND EVENTS COMMITTEE – 3 JANUARY 2023

The Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 3 January 2023 (Pages 117 – 122) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 3 January 2023 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

500/22 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 9 JANUARY 2023

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 9 January 2023 (pages 125 – 127) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

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THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 9 January 2023 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

501/22 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 9 JANUARY 2023

The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 9 January 2023 (Pages 131 – 133) (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 9 January 2023 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

502/22 QUARTERLY REPORT – Y GAER

Submitted **C(A)** quarterly report received from Y Gaer. Members discussed this item in detail, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the information contained within the report be taken as received and noted.

503/22 TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION MAY 2022 – CONTESTED RECHARGE

Submitted **C(B)** information received from Powys County Council concerning the contested recharge for the May 2022 election. The Town Clerk informed Members that the election cost was more than was anticipated and provided details of the overspend required on the election budget heading.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted, and the overspend on the budget be approved.

504/22 LETTER FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – MOUNT STREET INFANTS SCHOOL, MOUNT STREET JUNIOR SCHOOL, AND CRADOC C.P. SCHOOL DATED 14 DECEMBER 2022

Submitted **C(C)** a letter received from Powys County Council concerning

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Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School dated 14 December 2022.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

505/22 DISPENSATIONS FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

Submitted **C(D)** Dispensations for Town and Community Councillors received from Powys County Council.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

506/22 BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022 AND BUDGET V ACTUAL FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2022

Submitted **C(E)(i)** Bank Reconciliation as at 31 December 2022, and **C(E)(ii)** Budget V Actual for November and December 2022.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

507/22 AUDIT REPORT

Submitted **C(F)** Audit Report for 2021/22. Members were pleased to note the unqualified audit report and noted the comments raised by the auditor about reserves. Members passed on thanks to the Town Clerk and team of staff for the work carried out in regard to the audit.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

508/22 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM ENVIRONMENT AND EVENTS COMMITTEE TO PURCHASE A LITTER PICKING TROLLEY

Submitted **C(G)** a photograph of a litter picking trolley following a recommendation from the Environment and Events Committee. The Town Clerk confirmed that there are funds available in the street cleaning budget heading to cover the costs. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

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THAT the trolley be purchased using the budget identified.

509/22 REPORT – TO CONSIDER TWINNING WITH A TOWN IN KWAZULU NATAL

Submitted **C(H)** information to assist with consideration of a request to twin with a town in KwaZulu Natal. Members discussed this item in detail. Queries were raised about various elements of a potential twinning arrangement, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT Councillors Walsh, Fretten, Drinan, Kilgallon, Meredith, and Davies form a working group to consider the proposal further and to discuss some of the questions arising with Mrs Creswell.

510/22 REPORT – SKATEPARK AND PUMPTACK

Submitted **C(I)** a report concerning skatepark and pumptrack prepared by the Town Clerk dated 12 January 2023.

RESOLVED

THAT the details within the report be taken as received and noted, and that the actions be approved.

511/22 MAYORAL CHAIN ARRANGEMENTS

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Mayor is seeking permission to take the working chain to Nepal with him on his upcoming visit. The Town Clerk informed Members that it is a requirement of the insurer to seek permission from the Council for this to happen, as well as certain security measures.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the permission to take the working chain to Nepal be approved.

512/22 MEMBERS REPORT – MOUNTAIN BIKING IN THE BRECON AREA

Councillor Matthews explained that it was resolved by the Environment and Events Committee to meet with the individual who has made contact with the Council in regard to mountain biking provision in the Brecon area.

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This meeting has taken place and, as resolved by Committee, the next step is to have a further meeting with a much wider stakeholder group including land owners, National Park Authority, etc and some of the mountain biking community.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

513/22 GRANT APPLICATIONS – BRECKNOCK WELFARE TRUST

The Town Clerk notified Members that two grants have been applied for on behalf of the Brecknock Welfare Trust. The first is a cost of living grant of £1,000 via Powys County Council, which must be earmarked for that particular purpose, and which has been successful. The second is an NPC Labs grant which also tackles financial hardship. The application was submitted in December 2022, but the outcome has not yet been received.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

514/22 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

There were no items.

515/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Rijnenberg informed Members that a number of Members of the Planning, Guildhall, and Staffing Committee would be absent for the next meeting and that Members who do not sit on that Committee may be approached to sit as a representative of those Members who are absent.

Councillor Rijnenberg informed Members that a planning application has been received by the Planning, Guildhall, and Staffing Committee in relation to a proposed bus depot at Penlan. The application was received after the date of the last meeting and the expiry date for comments is prior to the next Committee meeting, therefore information has been circulated in regard to this today. Members discussed and commented on some of the elements of the application and it was agreed that Councillors should respond individually to the application if they so wish.

516/22 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

SECTION B

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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.

At this point of the meeting, the Mayor thanked Mr Bialowas for his tenure as a Youth Representative on the Council, and Mr Bialowas responded, and he then left the meeting and did not return.

DRAFT