

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 27 MARCH 2023 AT 7.00 P.M.

623/22 PRESENT

Councillor D Meredith (Mayor in the Chair)(left 7:50pm)
Councillor L Rijnbergen
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor S Drinan (remote attendee)
Councillor T Fretten
Councillor J Powell
Councillor N Stone
Councillor C Walton
Councillor N Kilgallon
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor S Morgans (remote attendee)
Councillor M Dorrance (remote attendee)

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)
Belle Arthur accompanied by Emma Arthur (left 7:48pm)
Lynnette Thomas (arrived remotely 7:50pm)(left 7:53pm)

624/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Walsh, Davies, and Perry.

625/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest in agenda item 24. Councillor Morgans declared an interest in agenda item 18. Councillor Rijnbergen declared an interest in agenda item 16. Councillor Dorrance declared an interest in agenda item 20.

SECTION A

626/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 February 2023 (Pages 156 – 161) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

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THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 27 February 2023 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

627/22 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 6 MARCH 2023

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 6 March 2023 (pages 165 – 167) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

628/22 ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (MINUTE NO 600/22)

Councillor Fretten noted that there was a typing error in the minutes which was noted and will be changed. Subject to the foregoing,

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 6 March 2023 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

629/22 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 6 MARCH 2023

The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 6 March 2023 (Pages 170 – 172) (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 6 March 2023 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

630/22 NOMINATION OF MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

The Mayor informed Members that two nomination papers had been received proposing and seconding Councillor Michaela Davies as Mayor for 2023/24. The Mayor nominated Councillor Michaela Davies as Mayor for 2023/24 this was seconded by Councillor Powell and the Mayor called for a vote. It was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

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That Councillor Michaela Davies be elected as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

631/22 NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

The Mayor informed Members that two nomination papers had been received proposing and seconding Councillor John Powell for Deputy Mayor for 2023/24. Councillor Rijnenberg nominated Councillor John Powell as Deputy Mayor for 2023/24, which was seconded by Councillor Stone, and the Mayor called for a vote. It was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Councillor John Powell be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal year 2023/24.

632/22 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW 2022/23

Submitted **C(A)** Annual Internal Audit Review 2022/23. Councillor Powell explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members, and discussed each section of the review individually, which Members voted on during discussions. IT was noted that carious Members have attended the Town Clerks office to carry out some checking and questioning in this regard. It was

RESOLVED

THAT the answers to each section of the Annual Internal Audit Review be yes, and that areas for development refer to ongoing work under the requirements of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act.

633/22 ANNUAL COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (FINANCIAL) 2022/23

Submitted **C(B)** Annual Council Risk Assessment and Management (financial) 2022/23. Councillor Powell also explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members.

RESOLVED

THAT the Annual Council Risk Assessment and Management (financial) be approved without any amendment for 2022/23.

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634/22 INTERNAL AUDIT AND CONTROL TESTING 2022/23

Submitted **C(C)** Internal Audit and Control Testing 2022/23. Councillor Powell explained this agenda item and following discussion it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Internal Audit and Control Testing 2022/23 be approved, without any amendments from the previous year.

635/22 REPORT – ZULU TWINNING

Submitted **C(D)** a report concerning a potential Zulu twinning dated 9 March 2023 prepared by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk provided Members with an update in this regard following further communication with Mrs Dorcas Creswell, which Members noted, and referred to an additional report received from Mrs Creswell which had previously been circulated. Councillor Thomas spoke in detail on this agenda item, following which proposed that this Council does not seek to enter into a Zulu Twinning arrangement, which was seconded by Councillor Stone.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT this Council does not enter into a Zulu Twinning arrangement.

636/22 EMAIL FROM Y GAER – COST OF LIVING EVENT

Submitted **C(E)** an email received from Y Gaer concerning a cost of living crisis event, dated 9 March 2023. Councillor Dorrance explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members, and various Members indicated they wish to attend. The request for Visit Brecon to have a table was noted.

RESOLVED

THAT Visit Brecon attend as requested and that all Councillors who are able to attend do so.

637/22 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

Submitted **C(F)(i) – C(F)(iii)** polices for review as detailed on the agenda. Councillor Fretten informed Members of some minor amendments that were needed to the policies. The Town Clerk also had some minor amendments to make, which were noted.

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RESOLVED

THAT subject to the amendments, the following policies be reapproved, Health and Safety Policy, Social Media for Councillors Policy, and Publication Scheme.

638/22 ONE VOICE WALES RENEWAL

Submitted **C(G)** One Voice Wales renewal documentation. The Town Clerk informed Members that the cost had increased since last year. Subject to this, it was

RESOLVED

THAT the One Voice Wales membership renewal be approved in the sum of £1584.

639/22 LETTER FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL – STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

As Councillor Rijnenberg declared an interest in this agenda item, she left the chamber and took no part in discussions.

Submitted **C(H)** a letter received from Powys County Council concerning the Standards Sub-Committee dated 3 March 2023.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

Councillor Rijnenberg returned to the chamber at this point.

640/22 IRP REPORT

Submitted **C(I)** IRP report for 2023/24 prepared by the Town Clerk and dated 21 March 2023. The Town Clerk explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. Members discussed this agenda item, and it was

RESOLVED

IN regard to Determination four that this be noted;

IN regard to the Table two payments

THAT the determination relating to a senior role be approved in the sum of £500 paid to each Committee Chair;

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THAT the payment to the Mayor be approved in the sum of £1500;

THAT the payment to the Deputy Mayor be approved in the sum of £500;

THAT the attendance allowance not be introduced;

THAT the determination relating to financial loss be paid is requested by a Member;

THAT any travel, overnight stays and subsistence be reimbursed in accordance with prescribed rates if requested by a Member;

IT was also resolved

THAT if a Member stands down, leaves office, or passes away during the year that the cost is not reclaimed nor apportioned;

AND THAT payment is made in one lump sum to Members after all Committee Chairs have been appointed.

641/22 MEMBERS REPORT – BRECON JAZZ

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

Submitted **C(J)** Members report concerning Brecon Jazz prepared by Councillor Kilgallon and the Town Clerk. Members discussed this item in detail and sought clarity on the road closure applications. Councillor Kilgallon gave an overview of the last two meetings attended. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the content of the report be noted and approved, and that agreement be given to the receiving of road closure expressions of interest via the Town Councils email for consideration by Brecon Jazz Festival Forum.

642/22 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

The appointment of the Youth Representative.

643/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk informed Members that an email had been received from Powys County Council informing The Brecknock Welfare Trust that an additional amount of £1000 to cover Cost of Living payment had been awarded. Councillor Dorrance declared an interest at this point as he was not aware that this was being received at the meeting.

The Mayor noted that the second position for Youth Representative had not been filled and asked Members if they are content to proceed to re-advertisement as resolved previously. This was noted and agreed.

644/22 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.

At this point, Miss Belle Arthur and Mrs Emma Arthur left the chamber and did not return.