

BRECON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2024 AT 6.00 P.M.

652/23 PRESENT

Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor J Powell
Councillor M Matthews (in the Chair)
Councillor S Morgans
Councillor T Fretten
Councillor C Walton
Councillor M Dorrance (arrived 6:47pm)

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)
Mr Malcolm Rich (co-opted member)(left
6:58pm)
Mr Rhys Gillard (Youth Representative)(left
6:58pm)
Miss Belle Arthur (Youth Representative)(left
6:35pm)

Not in attendance: Councillor N Kilgallon

653/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Davies and Powell. Apologies were also received from Ms Francesca Bell.

654/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no items.

655/23 MINUTES ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on 9 January 2024 (Pages 127 – 132) (copies of which had been previously circulated)

RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 9 January 2024 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

656/23 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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There was no report.

657/23 RISK AND SAFETY SHEET FOR REVIEW

Submitted **E(A)** Risk and Safety Sheet for anglers for review. The Town Clerk informed Members that she was not aware of any necessary changes, though invited comments. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Risk and Safety Sheet be re-approved as drafted.

658/23 BANK ACCESS

Submitted **E(B)** an email received concerning bank access. The Town Clerk informed Members that further information has been received from Brecon Angling Club regarding works to hedgerows etc and the timeframes in which this work can be carried out. Discussions took place in regard to the balance between maintaining growth on the river banks for erosion prevention, protection of habitat, and also access for angling. The SSSI status and Natural Resources Wales consents were also noted. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Town Clerk seeks some further advice and guidance from the Wye and Usk Foundation and/or the National Park Authority in this regard.

659/23 UPDATE – BRUCE WAKE TRUST FUNDS

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Bruce Wake Trust had provided a grant of £3000 in 2022 towards the fishing bay improvement works. The Town Clerk has been in correspondence with the trust from time to time to inform them that the work has not yet started and is not likely to be able to do so for some time, and requested advice regarding the monies. The Trust has advised that we are able to retain the funds for now and to keep the trust updated towards the end of this year.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

660/23 RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR REVIEW

Submitted **E(C)** Maendu Well Risk Assessment, **E(D)** Maendu Well Pond Risk Assessment, and **E(E)** Beacons Park Green Space Risk Assessment. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the above mentioned risk assessments be taken as received and noted.

661/23 EROSION MATTERS

The Town Clerk provided an overview of the work carried out some years ago in relation to erosion concerns on the site of the former ash tip, and discussed some of the measuring work that had been taken pre-covid. This evidently has not been done for some years and the Town Clerk explained that this has come back to the agenda for consideration as to whether this item is to be revisited or whether it is the Committee's view that further work is not required presently in this regard. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

FOR a working group to be set up to review the position, and to involve Brecon Town Councils Youth Representatives, and Dr M Bramley, along with Councillors Thomas and Matthews, and Mr M Rich.

662/23 CONSIDER REPLACING DOG BAG DISPENSER AT UPLANDS

The Chair informed Members that the dog bag dispenser at the Uplands park has been vandalised, and enquired whether it is the wish of the Committee to purchase a replacement.

RESOLVED

THAT the purchase of a new dog bag dispenser be approved.

663/23 FEEDBACK ON POWYS CLIMATE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Councillor Thomas gave an overview about the present work of the Powys Climate Stakeholder Group, and explained that a report has been commissioned by Powys County Council, one of the main points being that place planning should occur across Powys to pursue decarbonisation and to build community resilience towards climate impact.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

664/23 HABITAT MANAGEMENT – BRECON CASTLE AREA

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Submitted **E(G)** email sent to and received from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, copy extract report, information relating to SSSI citation, and photographs of buddleia at Castle Street bridge. The Town Clerk explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members, and discussed the advice from Bannau Brycheiniog being that before any work is done to the river bank consent is needed from Natural Resources Wales. It was also noted that the vegetation protects the River Bank from erosion and also provides habitat, and that the best time to carry out any work is in Spetember. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT a site meeting is organised with Mr D Germin of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority and also representatives from Powys County Council to discuss the concerns further.

665/23 UPDATE REPORTS – EVENTS 2024

The Town Clerk provided Members with updates in relation to the following Brecon Town Council events in 2024; D-Day 80, Gurkha Parade and 50 year commemoration, Brecon with Bells On, Brecon Pride, Brecon Town Council 50 year anniversary, and 400 year anniversary of the Guildhall.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

666/23 TO CONSIDER PLANTING WETLAND BUSHES IN MAENDU WELL

The Town Clerk informed Members that a request has been received from the Park Keeper to purchase some wetland bushes in Maendu Well following a conversation with the Tree Surveyor recently to reduce some of the boggy areas within Maendu Well. Members discussed this item in detail, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the purchase of wetland bushes be approved with a maximum spend of £200.

667/23 UPDATE – PLANTERS IN TOWN CENTRE

The Town Clerk provided Members with an update in relation to the town centre planters, and where it is proposed for them to be placed.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

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668/23 PR AND PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

There were no items.

669/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk informed Members that an invitation has been received from St David's Church for this Council to participate in a flower festival scheduled for 14 – 16 June 2024 to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the rebuild of St David's Church. Following discussion, it was agreed to participate with a maximum spend of up to £50, purchasing a reusable plant. Councillor Rijnenberg will work with the Town Clerk in this regard.

Councillor Fretten informed Members of an email from the Hay, Brecon, and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees welcome day on 23 June 2024 at Brecon High School. Councillors are invited and help has been requested in regard to donations of food and any contacts that Councillors can help with in regard to food donations. It was also requested that the Mayor be asked to attend if possible.

Councillor Morgans raised a query about recycling bins and notified Members that he has sent a photograph of some recycling bins that he would like to see in the town centre to the Town Clerk. Members requested that he circulate the photo and that this be brought forward to the next agenda.

670/23 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

THAT in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted whereby matters of a sensitive nature were to be discussed 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.

Mr M Rich and Mr R Gillard left the meeting at this point, and did not return.