MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 22 APRIL 2024 AT 7.00 P.M.

676/23 PRESENT

Councillor M Davies (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor J Powell
Councillor C Walsh (remote)
Councillor N Stone
Councillor S Drinan
Councillor M Perry (remote)
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor L Rijnenberg OBE
Councillor M Dorrance (remote)
Councillor S Morgans
Councillor T Fretten
Councillor R Thomas

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)
Mr Bryan Davies (left 7:11pm)
Ms Lynne Gornall (Brecon Jazz Club)(remote)
Mr Roger Cannon (Brecon Jazz Club)(remote)
Mr Chris Jones (Brecon Jazz Club)(remote)

Not in attendance: Councillor N Kilgallon
Mr R Gillard (Youth Representative)

677/23 PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed Mr Bryan Davies to the meeting, and invited him to give his presentation about the historical information he is donating to the Town Council. Mr Davies thanked the Mayor, and Members for their time and gave an overview of the historical information. After his presentation, Members had the opportunity to ask him questions, which he answered. The Mayor thanked Mr Davies for his time, and he left the Chamber at this point. The Council agreed to gratefully accept the donation of the plaque for display at the Guildhall, along with the explanatory folder.

678/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Walton.

679/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

680/23 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that she, along with Councillor Fretten, Mr Malcolm Rich, and the Youth Representatives have undertaken the judging for the Best of Brecon Awards.

681/23 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss Arthur spoke in favour of considering water stations as part of Brecon' outdoor spaces, in particular near the athletics track and basketball courts in future. Councillor Matthews confirmed that this has been suggested and could potentially be looked at further for future project work, and potential inclusion in the next budget.

SECTION A

682/23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 March 2024 (Pages 173 – 177) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 25 March 2024 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

683/23 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 8 APRIL 2024

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 8 April 2024 (pages 181 – 183) (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 8 April 2024 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

684/23 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 8 APRIL 2024

The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 8 April 2024 (Pages 186 – 188) (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 8 April 2024 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

684/23 ENVIRONMENT AND EVENTS COMMITTEE – 9 APRIL 2024

The Minutes of the Environment and Events Committee held on 9 April 2024 (Pages 191 – 195) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

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

685/23 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

Submitted **C(A)** Complaints Policy for review. The Mayor informed Members that subject to the changes that have been suggested since the previous month by Councillor Fretten, the policy is re-presented for approval at this meeting. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Complaints Policy be approved with the suggested amendments and that the number of Councillors to deal with stage two complaints be reduced to three.

686/23 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT Mr Peter Jenkins is re-appointed as the Internal Auditor.

687/23 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW 2023/24

Submitted **C(B)** Annual Internal Audit Review 2023/24. Councillor Walsh explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. It was noted that

Members have been invited to attended the Town Clerks office to carry out some random checking and questioning in this regard. It was

RESOLVED

THAT the answers to each section of the Annual Internal Audit Review be yes.

688/23 ANNUAL COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (FINANCIAL) 2023/24

Submitted **C(C)** Annual Council Risk Assessment and Management (financial) 2023/24. Councillor Walsh also explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members.

RESOLVED

THAT the Annual Council Risk Assessment and Management (financial) be approved with an amendment for the adequacy of the precept to move from high risk to medium risk for 2023/24.

689/23 INTERNAL AUDIT AND CONTROL TESTING 2023/24

Submitted **C(D)** Internal Audit and Control Testing 2023/24. Councillor Walsh explained this agenda item and following discussion it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Internal Audit and Control Testing 2023/24 be approved, without any amendments from the previous year, and all risks to be considered low.

690/23 REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

Submitted **C(E)** Report of the Internal Auditor dated 12 April 2024. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the content of the report be taken as received and noted.

691/23 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor informed Members that the Annual Report was almost complete with the exception of the year end figures and the Finance Committee report. Members noted this and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the report be approved subject to the additional information being included.

692/23 TRAFFIC ORDER FUNDING

The Town Clerk informed Members that following the last meeting enquiries have been made with Powys County Council in relation to the funding currently in ear marked reserves, and it has confirmed that no funding is expected from this Council towards the changes already in place. The Town Clerk enquired whether the £4000 in ear marked reserves can now be released to general reserves.

RESOLVED

THAT the above information be noted, and the afore mentioned earmarked reserves be released to general reserves.

693/23 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

The Heraldic Talk given at this meeting

694/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Morgans gave a brief overview of a meeting he had with the owner of the Bannau Brycheiniog Sustainable Tourism business in the Town Centre. The Town Clerk confirmed that the owner was due to come to this evenings meeting but has postponed until the June meeting.

Councillor Morgans also brought thanks on behalf of the Chamber of Trade and Tourism for the work the Park Keeper has been doing to clean the streets within the town centre. It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to Powys County Council for the collaboration in this regard.

695/23 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.