

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 24 JUNE 2024 AT 7.00 P.M.

82/24 PRESENT

Councillor J Powell (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor C Walsh (remote)
Councillor N Stone (remote)
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor S Morgans (remote) (arrived 7:04pm)
Councillor T Fretten
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor M Perry (remote)
Councillor S Drinan

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)
Mr Rhys Gillard (Youth Representative)(left 7:56pm)
Ms Helen Howarth (Brecon Beacons Sustainable Tourism)(remote)(left 7:20pm)

Not in attendance: Councillor N Kilgallon
Councillor M Davies

83/24 PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed Ms Helen Howarth of Brecon Beacons Sustainable Tourism to the meeting and invited her to give her presentation. Ms Howarth thanked Members for giving her the time and opportunity to speak to them this evening. Ms Howarth explained to Members her plans for the community interest company going forward and what it is already doing and gave an overview of a wholesale online store launching soon, plans for a bamboo shop local shopping bag and a future potential rewards scheme being trialled by the community interest company. After the presentation, Members had the opportunity to ask questions. The Mayor thanked Ms Howarth for giving her time this evening, and she left the meeting and did not return.

84/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Walton, Dorrance, Matthews, and Rijnenberg.

85/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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Councillor Drinan declared an interest in agenda item 11.

86/24 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members of the events he has attended since the last meeting and thanked those who were present at the Gurkha Parade and D-Day 80 events for their attendance and assistance on the day.

87/24 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

There were no items.

SECTION A

88/24 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 May 2024 (Pages 4 – 10) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

89/24 ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

REQUEST FOR GUILDHALL RECEPTION – ZULU VISIT (MINUTE NO. 30/24)

The Town Clerk informed Members that unfortunately the visit by the Zulus has been cancelled due to issues with grant funding. Subject to this,

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 28 May 2024 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

90/24 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 3 JUNE 2024

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 3 June 2024 (pages 13 – 15) (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 3 June 2024 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

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91/24 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 3 JUNE 2024

The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 3 June 2024 (Pages 18 – 21) (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 3 June 2024 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

92/24 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO DEMENTIA MATTERS POWYS – BRECON AREA

The Mayor explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members and the history of the appointment. The Mayor then called for nominations, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Councillor Powell be the representative on the Dementia Matters Powys – Brecon area group.

93/24 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES

Submitted **C(A)(i)** IRP Annual Report to Council, **C(A)(ii)** IRP FAQ – Taxation on Remuneration, and **C(A)(iii)** IRP – Homeworking and Consumables Taxation. The Mayor explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members, and discussions took place surrounding each determination. After discussion, it was

RESOLVED

- 1) IN relation to determination 6 that the flat rate of £52 be paid;**
- 2) IN relation to determination 7 that this be paid if requested by a Member at the rates detailed within the report at attachment C(A)(i);**
- 3) IN relation to determination 8 that in regard to the allowances for a senior role, a payment of £500 is paid to each Committee Chair, for the Mayor a payment of £1500 is paid, for the Deputy Mayor a payment of £500 is paid, that the attendance allowance is not paid, and that travel or subsistence is paid by claim;**

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- 4) IF a Member stands down, leaves office, or passes away that no reclaim is made;
- 5) THAT the payments be made in one payment once all Committee Chairs have been appointed.

94/24 M&G INVESTMENTS LETTER – CHANGES TO FUNDS’ DILUTION POLICY

Submitted **C(B)** a letter received from M&G investments concerning changes to the dilution policy. Member discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received, and the contents noted.

95/24 LOCAL BUS NETWORK 2025 RETENDERING

Submitted **C(C)** an email received from Powys County Council concerning the local bus network 2025 retendering. The Town Clerk informed Members that Councillors Rijnenberg and Drinan had met with her and a staff member from Visit Brecon to discuss this item prior to the meeting, and the report following that meeting has been circulated for Members information. It was suggested that this report be this Council’s response to the consultation. Members discussed this, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the content of the report be approved for submission as this Council’s response to the consultation.

96/24 EMAIL FROM MID WALES ORIENTEERING CLUB

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

Submitted **C(D)** an email received from Mid Wales Orienteering Club dated 14 June 2024. The Mayor and the Town Clerk explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT subject to pedestrians being afforded priority right of way, and subject to not causing obstructions to the pedestrian routes that support be confirmed for the event.

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97/24 REQUEST FOR JAZZ RECEPTION

The Town Clerk explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Jazz Reception be approved.

98/24 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

Councillor Walsh informed Members that a training session has taken place in relation to the community speedwatch initiative, and that further information would be forthcoming to a future meeting of this Council.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

99/24 WHITE RIBBON ACCREDITATION UPDATE

The Mayor explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. The Mayor informed Members that the working group is due to meet to work on the action plan. It was confirmed that the White Ribbon organisation have sent a press release and this would be publicised after the general election. Councillor Meredith asked to join the working group.

RESOLVED

THAT the information provided by the Mayor be taken as received and noted, and that Councillor Meredith joins the working group.

100/24 FREE PARKING UPDATE

The Town Clerk informed Members that the free parking has been confirmed for the 27 July for Brecon Pride and again from 24 August up to and including 29 March 2025, in the long stay car park by the bus station on Saturdays.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

101/24 BRECON TOWN COUNCIL 50 YEAR POSTCARD COMPETITION UPDATE

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The Town Clerk informed Members that the postcard competition has been judged and three designs were picked to feature on the postcard as a collage. It was noted that the winning designs were from the same school, and that the Mayor and Chair of Environment and Events Committee would be presenting the winning school with a water bottle for each pupil, and that the surplus will be given to the other schools which had submitted entries.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

102/24 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

There were none

103/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk informed Members that thank you letters have been received from Brecon Men's Shed, Brecon RAFA, and Jonathan Morgan for the D-Day 80 commemorative event.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a letter has been received from the Charity Commission concerning the G T Harley Thomas Trust stating that the funds haven't been active for some time. It was noted that the working group is looking at this and the Town Clerk suggested that a letter is sent to the Charity Commission informing them that the matter is in hand and that it is being looked at. This was approved.

104/24 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.