

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 24 MARCH 2025 AT 7.00 P.M.

632/24 PRESENT

Councillor J Powell (Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor C Walton
Councillor M Dorrance (remote)(left 8:20pm)
Councillor C Walsh (remote)
Councillor M Matthews
Councillor T Fretten (remote)
Councillor M Davies
Councillor L Rijnenberg
Councillor M Perry (remote)
Councillor N Stone
Councillor D Meredith
Councillor M Thapa

In Attendance: Fiona Williams (Town Clerk)
Rhys Ridge-Evans (Administrative Officer)
Mr Patryk Bialowas (S E A Dragons)(left 7:16pm)

633/24 PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed Mr Patryk Bialowas to the meeting and invited him to give his presentation on the S E A Dragons. Mr Bialowas thanked the Mayor and Members for their time this evening and explained the history of the project, and the way in which the project works. After the presentation, Members had the opportunity to ask Mr Bialowas questions which he answered. The Mayor thanked Mr Bialowas for his time, and he left the meeting, and did not return.

634/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors S Drinan, and S Morgans, and Mr R Gillard, Youth Representative.

635/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

636/24 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Mayor reminded Members about the Place Plan consultation that is going live on the 28 March, and also reminded Members about the Police and Crime Commissioners meeting due to be held on Wednesday. The Mayor also reminded Members that the Best of Brecon Awards nominations are open and encouraged nominations to be submitted.

637/24 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Councillor Walton provided Members with an update about meetings that have taken place in relation to the siting of a pump track, and reminded Members of the Pokémon club.

SECTION A

638/24 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 February 2025 (Pages 161 – 166) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Minutes of Full Council held on 24 February 2025 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

639/24 PLANNING, GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE – 3 MARCH 2025

The Minutes of the Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee held on 3 March 2025 (pages 170 – 172) (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 March 2025 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

640/24 FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE – 3 MARCH 2025

The Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 3 March 2025 (Pages 175 – 177) (copies of which had been previously circulated) were considered

IT WAS RESOLVED

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THAT the Minutes of the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee held on 3 March 2025 be taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

641/24 NOMINATION OF MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

The Mayor informed Members that a nomination paper has been received in which Councillor Fretten has nominated Councillor Marie Matthews as Mayor for 2025/26 and this has been seconded by Councillor Rijnenberg. The Mayor called for a vote on this proposal, following which, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That Councillor Marie Matthews be elected as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026

642/22 NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

The Mayor informed Members that a nomination paper has been received in which Councillor Thomas has nominated Councillor Sian Drinan as Deputy Mayor for 2025/26 and this has been seconded by Councillor Walton. The Mayor called for a vote on this proposal, following which, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Councillor Sian Drinan be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal year 2025/26.

643/24 EMAIL CONCERNING PROPOSAL FOR SUPPORT OF THE S E A DRAGONS – BRECON'S FIRST ESPORTS TEAM

Submitted **C(A)** an email concerning a proposal for support of the S E A Dragons, Brecon's first Esports Team. Following the presentation, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT a working group consisting of Councillors Walton, Davies, and Stone be established to look into this item in detail and report back to Full Council.

644/24 POLICIES FOR REVIEW

Submitted **C(B)(i)** Social Media for Councillors Policy, and **C(B)(ii)**

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Publications Scheme for review. Members noted a few grammatical and typing errors within the documents and subject to these being amended, it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Social Media for Councillors Policy, and the Publications Scheme be approved.

645/24 EMAIL FROM ARTUK

Submitted **C(C)** an email from ArtUK concerning membership. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the membership be approved in the sum of £50.

646/24 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted **C(D)** draft Annual Report for 2024/25. The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and all Members who have contributed to this document. The Town Clerk confirmed that the report from the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee is awaited, and that the final year end figures are awaited as well. Subject to the foregoing, it was

RESOLVED

THAT the draft Annual Report be approved.

647/24 BOATHOUSE

Submitted **C(E)(i)** email received from Powys County Council dated 26 February 2025, **C(E)(ii)** a letter sent to County Councillor J Berriman dated 27 February 2025, **C(E)(iii)** a letter sent to Powys County Council Licencing Department dated 27 February 2025, and **C(E)(v)** response received from Powys County Council Licencing Department dated 20 March 2025. Members discussed this item and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the email received 26 February 2025, the letters sent to County Councillor Berriman, and the Licencing Department at Powys County Council dated 27 February 2025, and the email received from the Licencing Department dated 20 March 2025 be taken as received and noted.

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648/24 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BRECON BEACONS CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB SITE

Submitted **C(F)** correspondence received concerning proposed development at Brecon Beacons Caravan and Motorhome Club site. Members noted the content of the correspondence and noted that it would benefit the town.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted, and that this Council is supportive of the principles therein.

649/24 ONE VOICE WALES MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025/26

Submitted **C(G)** information relating to the One Voice Wales membership for 2025/26. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT One Voice Wales membership be renewed for 2025/26 in the sum of £1769.

650/24 20MPH REVIEW

Submitted **C(H)** documentation relating to the 20mph review.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted, and that the proposals within the consultation in relation to Brecon are supported.

651/24 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT

Submitted **C(I)** IRP report prepared by the Town Clerk along with supporting documentation received from the IRP Panel. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT in relation to Determination 7 that this be approved via flat rate of £52;

THAT in relation to Determination 8 that this be approved if requested by a Member;

THAT in relation to payments to senior roles that £500 be paid

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to each Committee Chair, and that £1500 is paid to the Mayor, and £500 to the Deputy Mayor;

IN relation to attendance allowance, it was resolved to not make these payments;

IN relation to overnight stays, travel, and subsistence, that these be reimbursed in accordance with the prescribed rates;

IT was agreed that all Members accept payments in the interest of equality;

IT was agreed that this Council does not reclaim any payments made in the event of a Member leaving office, standing down, or passing away during the year;

IT was agreed that payments are made on a one off basis when all Committee Chairs have been appointed.

652/24 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW 2024/25

Submitted **C(J)** Annual Internal Audit Review 2024/25. The Town Clerk confirmed that some Members have 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, and that in relation to the expected standard of being 'forward looking' that this make reference to the General Power of Competency that is anticipated to be adopted in the coming months.

653/24 ANNUAL COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (FINANCIAL) 2024/25

Submitted **C(K)** Annual Council Risk Assessment and Management (financial) 2024/25. Councillor Walsh explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members. A question was raised about whether the risk ratings are assessed before or after the management procedures, and a request was made to include a further column to assess the risks before the procedures are implemented and after. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Annual Council Risk Assessment and Management (Financial) 2024/25 be represented to the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee to assess this additional level of risk, and that subject to this the document be approved as drafted.

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654/24 INTERNAL AUDIT AND CONTROL TESTING 2024/25

Submitted **C(L)** Internal Audit and Control Testing 2024/25. Councillor Walsh explained this agenda item and following discussion it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Internal Audit and Control Testing 2024/25 be approved, with all risks noted to be considered low, and a note that in regard to question 21 that petty cash expenditure is reported on a regular basis within the payments listings presented to Council or the Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee.

655/24 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2025/26 ND TO CONFIRM THAT INDEPENDENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAGE 7 OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Town Clerk informed Members that it is necessary to appoint the Internal Auditor and to confirm independence in accordance with the requirements on page seven of the Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED

THAT Mr Peter Jenkins be appointed and his independence confirmed.

656/24 SENEDD REPORT: TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS MARCH 2025

Submitted **C(M)** Senedd Report: Town and Community Councils March 2025.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

657/24 APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNOR – YSGOL Y BANNAU

Councillor Rijnenberg explained that she has requested that this be put on the agenda for people to be aware of the vacancy and to help recruit a suitable person to fill the role.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

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658/24 REPORT TO COUNCIL – SALINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Submitted **C(N)** report to Council prepared by the Town Clerk concerning the Saline Twinning Association, dated 11 March 2025. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the dissolution of the Saline Twinning Association be approved, that the bank account be closed, and that any remaining balance be split equally between the Brecon Dhampus Twinning Association and the Brecon Gouenou Twinning Association.

659/24 EARMARKED RESERVES

Submitted **C(O)(i)** Report – Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2025, **C(O)(ii)** Reserves – working copy 24/25, and **C(O)(iii)** Budget V Actual February 2025.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted, and that the suggested new earmarked reserves for allocation at 31 March 2025 be agreed.

660/24 NON-NATIVE SPECIES – ISLAND FIELDS

Submitted **C(P)** an email and associated papers received from an officer of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, requesting permission to carry out maintenance works in respect of non-native invasive species at Island Fields. Members discussed this item, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT the works are welcomed and that permission be given for the works to be undertaken, with thanks.

661/24 POPPY APPEAL STORAGE

The Town Clerk explained that following a recent change in the volunteers who will administer the Poppy Appeal going forward, she has met with the British Legion regional officer, about continuing use of the cellar space to administer the Poppy Appeal in Brecon. They wish to continue this arrangement, and the Town Clerk sought permission for this and

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recommended that it is probably a good time to clarify responsibilities for the items stored as well as undertake a risk assessment. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

THAT permission be given for the Poppy Appeal to continue to be administered from the cellar at the Guildhall, subject to this being at the organisers own risk.

662/24 TRANSFORMING TOWNS CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk informed Members that this has been placed on the agenda to provide this Council an opportunity to submit a comment should it wish to do so.

RESOLVED

THAT this be noted.

663/24 ABSTRACTION – MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL

Councillor Fretten explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members and noted that she has received various forms of communication in relation to the future of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Members discussed this item in lengthy detail, and it was

RESOLVED

THAT a working group consisting of Councillors Fretten, Walton, Matthews, Thomas, Davies, and Perry be formed to look at holding a meeting of key stakeholders to discuss the issue.

664/24 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAID AND RECEIVED – NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2025

Submitted **C(Q)(i)** Statements of Accounts Paid for November – December 2024 and January – February 2025, and **C(Q)(ii)** Statements of Accounts Received for November – December 2024 and January – February 2025.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

665/24 PLANTERS 2025

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Councillor Rijnenberg explained this agenda item for the benefit of Members, and informed those present that she along with the Park Keeper have been out and weeded the planters in the town centre, and that the new planters located outside Well Pharmacy have been filled with different composts to retain moisture. Councillor Rijnenberg also informed Members that an offer of wildflowers has been received from a member of the public in Talgarth, which would coincide with the plans for the new green roof on the bus shelter in the town centre. It was noted that the planting of the planters would be discussed at the upcoming Environment and Events Committee meeting.

RESOLVED

THAT this information be taken as received and noted.

666/24 PR OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

That a meeting is to be called about the canal.

667/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor informed Members that a notice of removal has been placed on the BT phone box on the Struet for some weeks and that following conversations with relevant organisations, the proposed change is to remove the coin operated phone, and that a lock is placed on the main structure. This information was taken as received and noted.

668/24 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.