

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL

Held in Y Plas on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**Present:** Cllrs. D W Davies, B. Dunn; K Hubbard; M Williams; E Hughes;  
S Rowlands; G Baldwin; G Jenkins.

**Also present:** J. H. Parsons – Clerk; M Biffin - Secretary

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**5356**  
TC  
**27.07.09**

### **Apologies**

- Cllrs. D Lewis; S Nicholas; G Davies

**5357**  
TC  
**27.07.09**

### **Presentation**

- There was no presentation given

**5358**  
TC  
**27.07.09**

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council.

- The Clerk stated that Anne Marie Carty would be filming the proceedings this evening for a University project and she would be particularly filming the discussion about the Tesco development – some Councillors did not wish to be filmed and this was **agreed**

**5359**  
TC  
**27.07.09**

### **Statutory Business**

- There was no business to discuss

**5360**  
TC  
**27.07.09**

### **Mayors Business**

The Mayor gave her report and some of her duties are detailed as:-

- Attended the OGI for the Pennal Letter Ceremony
- Attended the Dyfed Powys Police meeting and would be attending a meeting with the Chief Constable in Machynlleth on the forthcoming Friday.
- Performed the official opening of the Café in Y Plas and wished Helena and Aled every success with their new venture
- Opened the carnival – the Mayor wished to thank all those involved with the carnival and said it had been a great success – Cllr Williams agreed and commented that the Marching Band leading the procession was excellent – Cllr Hughes stated that the Climbing Wall had been very successful
- The Mayor stated that she would be performing the Opening Ceremony of El Sueno Existe and that all Councillors would be invited.
- The Clerk stated that former Mayor and Cllr W G Jones had undergone a further operation which required the removal his other leg but he was doing well and had returned to Machynlleth – all the Councillors offered their best wishes to him

**5361**  
TC  
**27.07.09**

### **Matters Arising**

- Coach Parking (**5328**) – Cllr Dunn had met with Wyn Lloyd who had driven a coach into the car park – they have identified an area for coach parking.
- CCTV (**5355**) – Cllr Dunn stated that this matter had been discussed some

time ago **(5232)** and a maintenance contract was agreed – Cllr Jenkins asked the prices – Cllr Dunn recommended the “Silver” agreement priced at £2170 per year – Cllr Baldwin asked if there were any other companies that could provide a service – the Mayor suggested that Cllr Dunn looked into this and then the Mayor, Deputy and Cllr Dunn would select a company and agreement – all Councillors **agreed** – the secretary was to contact Petra Evans to find out how much had been spent on call outs in the last year.

- Footpath on Forge Road **(5199)** – a letter had been received from the PCC – Cllr Hughes stated that the parking was causing a problem by the Treowain Estate and the turning area was overgrown – it was **agreed** a letter be sent to Adrian Jervis to ask the area to be cut back.
- Co-op Crossing **(5345)** – a letter had been received from the Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency and the tree was to be removed.

**5362**  
**TC**  
**27.07.09**

#### **General Purpose Panel Report**

The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council.

- Cllr Rowlands said she had spoken to the man who had carried out the work removing the tree by Maengwyn Café and was sadden to hear that a Cllr had complained about his work – the man said he would not take payment for the work but would never work for Machynlleth Town Council again – the man would not say which Councillor had complained – Cllr Jenkins asked if a letter could be sent praising the work and stating that the views of this one Councillor were not the views of the rest of the Council – this was **agreed**
- Cllr Hughes said people had been asking where the hanging baskets were this year – it was pointed out that there had been no hanging baskets for some years now due to health and safety when watering them – Cllr DW Davies stated that the flower tubs were being planted at the moment.

**5363**  
**TC**  
**27.07.09**

#### **Health Panel Report**

The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council.

- Cllr Dunn expanded on the recent CAPP meeting. He felt that mental health services provision were not adequate and seemed to be getting worse.
- Cllr Jenkins asked about nursing beds – Cllr Williams said that there are now representatives from Powys Social Services and it has been made clear action is needed but he feels that things are moving – Cllr Williams said there is also a need for residential beds as people deserved to be looked after in their home town.
- Cllr Rowlands was concerned that staff were not being replaced at the hospital – it was **agreed** a letter would be sent to David Evans PLHB – Cllr Baldwin said we have been promised so many times and are being palmed off.

**5364**  
**TC**  
**27.07.09**

#### **Town Clock Panel Report**

- Cllr Jenkins stated that four companies had been invited to tender and it shouldn't be too long before work is started – Cllr Rowlands thanked Cllr Jenkins for all her hard work.

5365  
TC  
27.07.09

### Plas Panel Report

The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council

- Cllr Dunn mentioned that on the 18 August “the Big Do” was taking place in Machynlleth and hoped MTC would support this
- Cllr Dunn stated that someone had contacted him with a view to putting on a “Tolkein” festival.
- Cllr Dunn said the concert for November had now been arranged and asked if Councillors could help with speaking to local businesses and people to obtain raffle prizes.

5366  
TC  
27.07.09

### County Councillor J M Williams Report

The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council

- Cllr Rowlands said that some people had commented that there was a long delay on them receiving their new bus passes – Cllr Williams stated that he had been led to believe that the old passes would remain valid until the new ones arrived but he would look into this.

5367  
TC  
27.07.09

### Planning Applications

- A letter of support for Mr & Mrs Jenkins of Ysgabour had been sent to PCC Planning
- P2009 0755 – 5 Heol Maengwyn – change of use
- P2009 0746 – Tesco – to be discussed at the end of the meeting.
- P2009 0177 – 106 Heol Maengwyn – change of use
- P2009 0781 – 27 Bryn y Gog – conservatory
- P2009 0658 – 5 Trem yr Orsedd – extension – **granted**
- P2009 0454 – 106 Heol Maengwyn – listed planning consent
- P2009 0800 – demolition of the Community Centre – all Councillors declared their interest.

5368  
TC  
27.07.09

### Statement of Accounts

The Statement of Accounts having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council

Date		Chq No	Chq Drawn
30/06/2009	R A Gaskell	5115	£ 120.57
	Technical Services Shropshire - CCTV	5116	£ 135.47
	Mid Wales Signs - Mayors Board	5117	£ 12.00
	Petra Evans - 13 wks	5118	£ 312.00
	Mel Biffin	5119	£ 373.00
	I G Owen	5120	£ 23.72
07/07/2009	R A Gaskell	5121	£ 141.03
14/07/2009	R A Gaskell	5122	£ 130.80
	B£ Architects - replacement Chq	5123	£ 3,501.75
	Inland Revenue	5124	£ 845.41
21/07/2009	R A Gaskell	5125	£ 155.97
21/07/2009	Scottish Power	5126	£ 737.36
	Travis Perkins	5127	£ 59.20
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,548.28</b>

**5369**  
**TC**  
**27.07.09**

### **Correspondence**

- Village SOS Funding – Cllr Dunn will obtain an application form
- Age Concern – meeting 30 July, 2.30pm at the Bowling Club
- Independent review of financial support for Assembly Members – a hardcopy is being sent to the office
- Open Space – open day, 15<sup>th</sup> August at Memorial Hall, Aldbury, Hertfordshire.
- Powys Standards Committee – confidentiality dispensations
- El Sueno Existe – programme of information
- Montgomery Area Committee – press release
- St John Cymru Wales – asking for support
- PCC – recycling – Cllr Dunn has spoken to someone in Merrionydd and they say recycling food waste is not ideal and causes problems – Cllr Williams said we need to be assured that food waste would be collected weekly and what provisions would be made regarding wheelie bins for people who lived in flats or up large flights of stairs.
- WAG – consultation on proposed legislative competence order

**5370**  
**TC**  
**27.07.09**

### **Publications**

- Ombudsman Annual Report

**5371**  
**TC**  
**27.07.09**

### **Any other business**

- Cllr Hughes was concerned about parking in Treowain and asked what happened to the piece of land owned by the golf club – the Clerk suggested that Cllr Hughes provided him with plans of the area and then he would write to the golf club.

**5372**  
**TC**  
**27.07.09**

### **Tesco**

The Council had now received full plans of the proposed Tesco Development.

- Cllr Rowlands said it was an important issue and would like a response from each Councillor and would like them to be honest and open
- The Clerk gave a list of all the reports received and stated that only Cllr Williams, Jenkins and Dunn had called in to view the plans – the Clerk stated we have received a number of written objections from residents.

The Councillors responded as follows:-

- Cllr DW Davies – no problems with Tesco coming and suspected it will bring more people to Machynlleth
- Cllr Dunn – personally had big problems with the ethics of companies like Tesco and others – Co-op was a community supermarket and had showed that in its support to local community projects – he was concerned that all the reports came out in favour of Tesco – Cllr Dunn was particularly concerned with traffic issues, the mention of a “medium risk” from Radon contamination and the fact that a Phase 2 Environmental Assessment had been mentioned but there was no report – however as a Councillor he had to support the wishes of the majority and would do so.
- Cllr Hubbard – against the development and felt the Co-op and Spar was sufficient in a town the size of Machynlleth – she was also concerned about the increase of traffic
- Cllr Williams – not keen on large conglomerates and was concerned for the people living close to the development – he agreed with Cllr Dunn regarding the traffic and Radon and suggested we get WAG to provide better / more pelican crossings – he stated that it appears written

responses are totally against the development but verbal responses appear to be for it – he agreed with Cllr Dunn and said he would also support the majority

- Cllr Hughes – agrees with Cllr Dunn and Williams but is in favour of the development to create more jobs
- Cllr Jenkins – against the development – she had sought views of the local residents and there was an overwhelming response in favour – she had concerns about the height of the building and would like to suggest Tesco plant trees to protect / shield the houses in front of the development – Cllr Jenkins was extremely concerned that at a previous meeting with Felix Gummer and Roy Thomas, Mr Gummer had categorically stated that there would be no pharmacy in the development but now the plans show one – she feels that if they are prepared to be dishonest with us this early in the process what else are they going to go back on – Cllr Jenkins asked that a strongly worded letter be sent to Mr Gummer asking him to justify this – Cllr Jenkins feels we have been lied too by Tesco and it shows a total lack of integrity.
- Cllr Baldwin – against Tesco and agrees with Cllr Dunn and Jenkins – she says local shop owners are concerned and feel they may have to close in the future as they cannot compete on prices
- Cllr Rowlands – is in favour of the development and most people have said they support it – the area is currently an eyesore – Cllr Rowlands father supported the Laura Ashley development when it wanted to come to Machynlleth but it went to Carno and she feels Machynlleth lost out on a great opportunity and this development could be another opportunity which should not be missed – people have said Machynlleth is a dying town.
- The Clerk stated that he had to give MTC response to PCC and a vote was taken to decide if the Council should support the majority, subject to being given satisfactory answers to the issues regarding traffic, Radon, tree planting, Pharmacy provision and Phase 2 Environmental Report – the vote showed 6 Councillors were in favour and 2 were against.