

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL

Held in Y Plas on Monday 1st February December 2010

Present: Cllrs. D W Davies, B. Dunn; G Baldwin; D Lewis; E Hughes;
K Hubbard; M Williams; G Jenkins; C Foster

Also present: M Biffin - Secretary

Prior to the meeting starting Melanie Biffin, Secretary asked for permission from the Town Council to act as Clerk for the evening due to the Mr Parsons being away after his hospital stay – Councillors **agreed** – the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr E Hughes,

5442 Apologies

TC • Cllrs.S Rowlands; S Nicholas; G Davies; and Clerk Mr J Parsons
01.02.10

5443 Presentation

TC A presentation was given by Mr Henk Jan Kuipers of Affordable Housing – Mr
01.02.10 Kuipers stated that he covered the Montgomeryshire area and was paid by WAG and employed by PCC – a imitative was taking place in Ceinews where a variety of housing was needed – a local lettings policy was trying to be drawn up so that there was a standard lettings policy agreement which would give local people priority needs – there needs to be community support for the scheme to work – Mr Kuipers stated that they were always looking for land at an affordable price and funding would be needed to help keep rents low – Cllr Foster felt this was a good idea – Cllr Jenkins stated there was a definite need in Machynlleth and surrounding area and that obtaining a council house was difficult if you did not fit a certain criteria – Cllr Williams asked if any available land had been identified – Mr Kuipers stated that no research had taken place in Machynlleth as yet as he wanted to speak to MTC first – the Forestry Commission was supplying the land in Ceinews to Gwalia Housing – affordable housing would be available at approximately 70% of the market value but it was variable and subject to lots of rules and regulations – Cllr Hubbard agreed with the comments made by Cllr Jenkins – Cllr Lewis stated that she worked with a lot of young people and they all found it very difficult to find affordable housing – Cllr Baldwin said that older people also needed housing and should not be forgotten or excluded – Cllr Baldwin also asked if PCC were looking at utilising empty properties – Mr Kuipers said that if we knew of any empty properties then Shelter Cymru has a website where you can notify them of the properties and they will contact the Council and tell them – Mr Kuipers stated that the Housing Associations feel it is cheaper to build new than try to refurbish older properties – Cllr Dunn asked what PCC's attitude was towards empty housing – Mr Kuipers stated that PCC were looking into this – Cllr Dunn felt that PCC were absolving themselves of not providing housing by putting people in to B & Bs and not finding a long term solution – Mr Kuipers stated he would go back and report all comments to PCC – Cllr DW Davies identified 3 pieces of land – (1) the field next to the school at Tan Y Bryn – (2) Land on Garth Road which has already had planning permission for 22 houses – (3) across the road from Garth Road land had already been bought by developers but nothing has been done – Cllr DW Davies also stated that the selling off of council houses has also caused a shortage – Cllr Hughes said that old houses had to be brought up to meet certain fire regulations etc and it was very costly – Mr Kuipers was thanked for his presentation.

- 5444 Minutes**
TC
01.02.10 The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council – it was stated that in the Statement of Accounts the figure of £21,873.30 should read Grosvenor Construction and not R Gaskell
- 5445 Statutory Business**
TC
01.02.10 There was no business to discuss.
- 5446 Mayors Business**
TC
01.02.10 The Mayor has been in hospital and therefore there was no report – Cllr Hughes stated that he had been to visit Cllr Rowlands and she was bored but recovering well – also Mr Parsons was now at home and was in good spirits – all Councillors wished a speedy recovery to both the Mayor and the Clerk.
- 5447 Matters Arising**
TC
01.02.10
 - Expectant mothers(**5380**) – Letter from PLHB
 - Library Notice Boards (**5410**) – Cllr Dunn had spoken to someone regarding this and they had no objections – the size and position of the board would be discussed at the General Purposes Panel
 - Ambulance Service (**5424**) – letter to and from Edwina Hart MBE – the Deputy Mayor reported that when the Clerk had his fall the ambulance arrived with 10 minutes – Cllr Dunn stated that MTC were very pleased with the front line staff – Cllr Williams stated that it was impossible to get from Machynlleth to rural areas in 8 minutes and what was needed was more ambulances
 - Forge Road Footway Scheme (**5431**) letter from PCC
 - Welsh Ambulance Service (**5426**) Action Plan from Mr Richard Lee
 - Jack Crabtree paintings – Cllr Dunn stated that the paintings were very large but he had identified an area to put them – he was waiting for the works to be done on the area and then would arrange their installation.
- 5448 General Purpose Panel Report**
TC
01.02.10 The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council.
 - Cllr Williams stated that the bench at the golf club needed repairs
 - Cllr Foster is getting information and quotes for carrying out repairs to bus shelters
 - Cllr DW Davies asked if a letter could be sent to Adrian Jervis asking for a grit bin to be installed at the entrance to Cartref Dyfi as it was very dangerous for residents and visitors – this was **agreed**.
- 5449 Health Panel Report**
TC
01.02.10 The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council.
 - Cllr Williams asked if a letter could be sent to PLHB asking for a response to the 3 questions in the Health Panel Report – this was **agreed**.
- 5450 Town Clock Panel Report**
TC
01.02.10 The report for the Town Clock Panel was given to the Councillors
 - Cllr Jenkins said that people have been asking if the clock would be floodlit – Cllr Jenkins said that if MTC wished for floodlights then planning permission would need to be sought – a vote was taken and it was

agreed that the clock should be floodlit

- Cllr Dunn asked if the falcon on top of the clock could remain – Cllr Jenkins explained that the falcon needs to be moved every couple of days as the birds get used to it and this would be impossible once the scaffolding was taken down.

5451
TC
01.02.10

Plas Panel Report

There report for the Plas Panel having previously been circulated was **accepted** by Council.

- Cllr Dunn stated that the outside toilets had been vandalised again – they have been made safe and are currently locked – Cllr Dunn suggested the broken items be replaced using the items at the old community centre – it was **agreed** this was a very good idea and Cllr Dunn would arrange this – Cllr Dunn stated that he was getting prices for steel gates to be put across the doors.
- Cllr Baldwin asked of the fountain could be turned on again – Cllr Williams stated that there would be a lot of maintenance and health and safety would be a problem – Cllr Dunn stated that the fountain did work and he was looking at funding for maintenance.
- Cllr Jenkins requested that the Secretary provide a full financial report for the Plas – this was **agreed**.

5452
TC
01.02.10

County Councillor J M Williams Report

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

- Cllr Williams said that unemployment in Machynlleth was increasing.

5453
TC
01.02.10

Planning Applications

- P2009 1335 - Ysgabour Wen, Tanrallt Road – change of use on land from agricultural to residential
- P2009 1223 – Leeds House – rear extension and conversion of upper floors – **granted**
- P2009 0177 – Owain Pughes cottages – alterations and change of use - **granted**
- Cllr Williams reported that the Co-Op application would not be heard at the next planning meeting.

5454
TC
01.02.10

Statement of Accounts

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

Date		Chq No	Chq Drawn
22/12/2009	Colin Wilde	5201	£ 1,281.61
	Mark Rumbelow	5202	£ 169.68
	R A Gaskell	5203	£ 130.80
	Mel Biffin	5204	£ 362.67
	R A Gaskell	5205	£ 110.54
05/01/2010	R A Gaskell	5206	£ 125.68
	P Evans & £15 Postage costs	5207	£ 327.00
12/01/2010	R A Gaskell	5208	£ 130.80
05/01/2010	Inland Revenue	5209	£ 763.80
19/01/2010	R A Gaskell	5210	£ 110.54
26/01/2010	Colin Wilde	5211	£ 1,283.80

27/01/2010	Mark Rumbelow	5212	£ 297.70
	R A Gaskell	5213	£ 131.00
	Scottish Power - Clock	5214	£ 58.11
	Cilla Conner - Translation	5215	£ 74.92
	Computersurgeon	5216	£ 90.00
	Cllr Glenda Jenkins - Exps	5217	£ 33.98
	TOTAL		<u>£5,482.63</u>

5455
TC
01.02.10

Correspondence

- Communities 1st Partnership – Stakeholder Event – request for Councillors to attend training – no Cllrs expressed an interest
- PCC – Further proposed modifications to the Powys Unitary Development Plan
- Montgomeryshire Conservatives – Draft Strategic Outline Programme re: possible school closures.
- Email from PCC – could Machynlleth become a Diamond Jubilee city – it was **agreed** that further information of any financial changes or increase in responsibilities would be sought before we proceed any further .
- Request for donation from Junior and Intermediate 7 a side football teams – it was stated that donations had already been agreed for this year..
- Request for donation from Norma McCarten to help provide professional tutors for art classes at Y Plas - it was stated that donations had already been agreed for this year.

5456
TC
01.02.10

Publications

- One Voice Wales
- Powys Regeneration Partnership magazine

5457
TC
01.02.10

Any other business

- Parking in Llynloedd Lane – Cllr Dunn reported that he had met with Mr Fenwich and his son – Cllr Dunn said that MTC should be campaigning for some sort of restrictions to be put in place at the narrow end of the road near Maengwyn Street – Cllr Hubbard stated that Mr Fenwich actually adds to the problems in the summer by using his field for carparking – Cllr Lewis said that only 0.01% of traffic uses the land and definitely no wagons – Cllr Williams stated that Adrain Jervis of PCC said they had no authority as the road was unadopted – it was **agreed** an email should be sent to him for clarification and to suggested restrictions.
- Tipping – Cllr Hughes stated he had received a complaint that someone was clearing their garden and tipping the waste on the road side – it was **agreed** a letter be sent to Adrain Jervis.

5458
TC
21.12.90

In Committee

A request was made that reports and minutes not be given out to the press until the night of the meeting – a heated debate took place and Cllrs **agreed** to discuss this further at the next meeting when the Clerk would be back.