

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL

Held in Y Plas on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009

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

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

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5423

### Apologies

TC

- Cllrs. M Williams; G Jenkins; G Davies; D Lewis

21.12.09

5424

### Presentation

TC

21.12.09

A presentation was given by Mr Richard Lee of the Ambulance Trust and he was supported by Mr John Howard of Montgomeryshire CHC - Cllr S Nicholas declared his interest – Mr Lee stated that there had been a 4% improvement in service in North Powys and 3% in South Powys but it was still only hitting about 50% of the WAG target of 65% of calls being answered within 8 minutes – Mr Lee stated that this was due to the rural areas of Powys and most stations only had one vehicle available – Powys is currently controlled by Cwmbran but as from January the control will come from Carmarthen and Mr Lee believes this will improve service as the staff will be more experienced in dealing with rural communities – Mr Lee stated that staff have to receive a 30 minute break after six hours work – this is under the European Working directive – and this may result in some areas not being covered but Mr Lee stated that most of the staff are more than prepared to cover breaks – Mr Lee said two stations in Powys, Llanidloes and Llanfachlyn are not 24 hours but he would look at amalgamating their hours so they could cover each other and therefore provide 25 hour cover – Air Ambulances were discussed and it was stated that any costs involved in staffing the helicopters, other than the pilot, is the responsibility of the trust – WAG are investing an extra £4m in the Wales Ambulance Service from April and this may provide additional staff in Powys – Mr Lee stated there were no plans to reduce the ambulance service in Powys and in fact there would be an increase of the use of the Air Ambulance – Cllr DW Davies stated that when he has called for an ambulance they have always been prompt and efficient – Mr Lee stated there were 12 staff positions in Machynlleth which currently had 2 vacancies – it ran 2 shifts to cover 24 hours a day – Mr Howard reported on current applications in Powys and filling vacancies - Cllr Dunn asked if the air ambulance usage increased who would cover the costs – Mr Lee stated that this would be covered by the Ambulance Trust – Cllr Hubbard stated that the comments made by Edwina Hart AM showed her lack of understanding of rural communities – Mr Lee suggested MTC write to Edwin Hart to pass on concerns - Cllr Hughes asked if staff worked through their breaks were they insured – Mr Lee stated that staff are covered on and off duty so that they may offer support in the event of coming across an accident – Cllr Hubbard and Cllr Baldwin both stated that the First Responders in Machynlleth were never called on or utilised and this was a waste of a valuable support resource – Cllr Hubbard asked if the extra £4m would provide more ambulance – Mr Lee said he would not know until he knew how much of the money would be allocated to Powys – Cllr Rowlands said that when Doctors call ambulances for non-emergency patients it can take hours before an ambulance arrives – Mr Lee said he felt the doctors called ambulances to often and this stretched the resources but all call are prioritised in order of needs – Cllr Rowlands gave details of a 999 call she had made that the Ambulance Trust said

was never received – Mr Lee said if she gave him the details he would personally look into the matter - Mr Lee stated that he would be looking to utilise Minor Injuries Units much more – Cllr Dunn stated that PLHB had closed the Machynlleth MIU so why are the Ambulance Trust now trying to use them more – Mr Lee stated that the Ambulance Trust and LHBs were working together to utilise the MIUs – Mr Parsons asked why if the Machynlleth Ambulance was not available could the Dolgellau ambulance not be sent – Mr Lee stated that as from 9<sup>th</sup> December this would now be able to happen as new software etc had been put in place to allow units to be dispatched from the nearest available station regardless of which county they were situated – Cllr Rowlands thank Mr Lee and Mr Howard for attending.

- 5425**            **Minutes**  
TC                The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were  
**21.12.09**        **approved** by Council.
- 5426**            **Statutory Business**  
TC                The Town Clock insurance needed to be increased whilst the works were being  
**21.12.09**        carried out – this was **agreed**
- 5427**            **Mayors Business**  
TC                The Mayor gave her report and stated that she had been very busy and had on  
**21.12.09**        occasions attended 3 events in one day.
- The Mayor stated that she had attended Y Tabernacl for a concert given to thank Mr Dillwyn Jones of Ysgol Gynradd Machynlleth who was retiring – the Mayor requested a letter be sent to Mr Jones to thank his work for the Town – this was **agreed**.
- 5428**            **Matters Arising**  
TC
  - Expectant mothers(**5380**) – letter to Hywell Dda Trust & Powys Local Health Board but no response has been received to date
  - Montgomeryshire Forum (**5402**) – there is no joining fee and form has been sent
  - Speed Signs on Garth Road (**5404**) – letter from PCC
  - Library Notice Boards (**5410**) – letter to and from Head Librarian
- 5429**            **General Purpose Panel Report**  
TC                The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were  
**21.12.09**        **approved** by Council.
- Cllr DW Davies stated that PCC have allowed £40,000 to carry out works on the Treowain to Forge footpath
- 5430**            **Health Panel Report**  
TC                The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were  
**21.12.09**        **approved** by Council.
- 5431**            **Town Clock Panel Report**  
TC                The report for the Town Clock Panel was given to the Councillors  
**21.12.09**
  - Cllr DW Davies stated that tours of the inside of the Clock could be given as a tourist attraction and the monies raised could be used toward the maintenance of the clock – Cllr Hubbard said that this would hugely increase the insurance and we would also need to employ someone to

carry out the tours and this would cost more than could be brought in.

- Cllr Dunn stated that people had reported that the clock was a couple of minutes slow and that it would not be able to chime for New Year as the workers were off now until 4<sup>th</sup> January.

5432  
TC  
21.12.09

### Plas Panel Report

There was no meeting held in December and Cllr Dunn gave an end of year report which was **approved** by Council

- The Clerk stated that he had been at Court and the **Transport ????** had stated that he had attended a meeting at Y Plas and was very impressed with the facilities and service and in particular the assistance given by Colin Wilde.

5433  
TC  
21.12.09

### County Councillor J M Williams Report

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

- The Clerk said that MTC should congratulate Cllr Williams for the excellent reports he presented to the Council.

5434  
TC  
21.12.09

### Planning Applications

- P2009 1112 – Bowling Club – replacement shed & storage area - **granted**

5435  
TC  
21.12.09

### Statement of Accounts

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

Date		Chq No	Chq Drawn
02/12/09	R A Gaskell	5190	£ 117.55
	Mark Rumbelow	5191	£ 374.67
	Mel Biffin	5192	£ 130.80
	R A Gaskell	5193	£ 78.68
	Petra Evans - 13 wks	5194	£ 575.00
03/11/2009	R A Gaskell	5195	£ 20.00
09/11/2009	PCC - Rates on Community Centre	5196	£ 274.85
10/11/2009	R A Gaskell	5197	£ 60.00
	Inland Revenue	5198	£ 725.09
18/11/2009	R A Gaskell	5199	£ 130.80
24/11/2009	R A Gaskell	5200	£21,873.30
			<b>£24,360.74</b>

5436  
TC  
21.12.09

### Correspondence

- Appeal request from Bro Ddyfi Advice Centre – a letter has been received from BDAC stating that they had earlier sent a letter for the estimates meeting but it must have been lost in the post – Cllrs held a long discussion where it was stated that only letters received in time for the estimates meeting were to be given consideration and that this had been passed as a resolution in previous years – some Cllrs felt that as the letter had claimed to have been sent in time then it should be considered where as other Cllrs felt that MTC could leave themselves open to other organisations claiming to have sent letters which may have been lost in the post – a vote was taken and it was **agreed** that BDAC could not be

considered at this time and we cannot be held responsible for post not arriving – however all Cllrs felt that BDAC were a valuable and worthwhile organisation and would receive consideration next year if their letter was received in time.

- Airtricity – notification of delay for Wind farm
- Ambulance Staff vacancies – report from Montgomeryshire CHC
- Powys Local Housing questionnaire

**5437**

**TC**

**21.12.09**

**Publications**

- Ombudsman Report – Code of Conduct draft guidance
- Age Concern magazine

**5438**

**TC**

**21.12.09**

**Any other business**

There was no other business to discuss