

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL

Held in Y Plas on Monday 23rd February 2009

Present: Cllrs. B. Dunn; C Foster; E Hughes, DW Davies, M Williams; G Davies; G Baldwin; D Lewis.

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

Prior to the start of the meeting Cllr Williams presented the Mayor and Machynlleth Town Council with a book charting the history of the snooker club which had been written by Cllr DW Davies. Cllr Williams also thanked the Mayor for his donation from the Mayors Fund.

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Apologies

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- Cllrs. S Rowlands; G Jenkins; K Hubbard

23.02.09

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Presentation

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- Dyfed Powys Police gave a presentation on crime figures within the Machynlleth area – the Police at the meeting were Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent Gwyn Thomas, Chief Inspector Twigger, Inspector Ridley and PC Biffin – the presentation showed how whilst some crime figures had risen in the area, others had dropped – Chief Superintendent Thomas explained that he was held accountable for the performance of his officers within his division and explained that policing in the 21st century was much more diverse and the Police Force was now considered to be more of a Public Sector Organisation – C.S. Thomas understood that whilst people wanted to see the police on the street they also wanted them to respond quickly in the event of a “999” call being made – he felt that working with other agencies and forming partnerships within the community could only enhance the service provided – C.S. Thomas explained some of the new technology that was becoming available to help ‘front line officers’ and these included a hand held mobile finger print scanner that would negate the need for the officers to take a suspect to a station to have their finger prints taken – there was also an in-car laptop which officers could use to access the Police National Computer - in conclusion C.S. Thomas said that it was their aim to provide the best possible service to the many different communities in order to make things hard for those who want to commit crime – Cllr Williams said that people would like to see a physical presence of police on the streets and people would be happier if this could be improved – C.S. Thomas said with the plan of remodelling this can be strengthened – Cllr Williams stated that the officers in Machynlleth were well respected – Cllr Foster asked if the Sergeant was to be replaced – Insp Ridley stated that immediately on Sgt Dunn moving, Sgt Rees had taken over and there was now a new Sgt named Sgt Gareth Owen and stressed that at no point was Machynlleth without a Sergeant and Machynlleth had its full compliment of officers – Cllr Lewis had the greatest respect for the police and that she had applied to become a Special Constable but had not heard anything further – C.S. Thomas said he would personally look into this – Cllr Hughes said he felt that with all the new technology it could result in the removal of two officers – Cllr DW Davies agreed with Cllr Williams and felt that people needed to

23.02.09

see more officers on the street – C.S. Thomas suggested that perhaps MTC would like to work in partnership with Dyfed Powys Police and help fund an additional PCSO – Cllr Dunn thanked the officers for a very comprehensive presentation but felt that to live in Machynlleth you needed to identify with the community and felt that sometimes the police needed to respect the traditions and values within Machynlleth – C.S. Thomas said it was all about trying to get the balance right and sees both sides and hopes MTC can do the same.

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Minutes

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

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Statutory Business

- New Councillor election - A secret ballot was taken and the vote was in favour of Mr Steven Nicholas becoming a newest Councillor with Machynlleth Town Council
- Cost of Council Elections - The Clerk stated that he had received a bill for the cost of the election in April – Councillors **agreed** the bill was acceptable and should be paid.

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TC
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Mayors Business

The Mayor gave his report as follows:

- The Mayor thanked Cllr Jenkins for making a card on behalf of the Council to send to the Clerk's partner in wishing her a speedy recovery.
- On the afternoon of 4 Feb., along with Cllr. Jenkins, I met representatives from the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the Town Clock Appeal.
- On 9 February I attended an Integrated Children's Centre event at Plas Dolguog and was impressed with the many initiatives there are in the area in support of children and young people.
- On 10 February I attended the inaugural gathering of the new Machynlleth Art Group which is temporarily resident at Y Plas.
- On 17 February I attended the Plas Development Committee meeting.
- On Sunday 22 April I dropped in on the Will Lloyd Trophy finals at the Snooker Club and gave them a cheque from the Mayor's fund towards their Muscular Dystrophy appeal.
- During the month, I have also had various Plas related meetings and have also completed a comments form regarding the Welsh Assembly's proposed plans for CHCs.;
- Cllr Williams thanked the Mayor for completing a Community Health Panel questionnaire and for the comments he made.

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Matters Arising

- Bro Dyfi Leisure Centre **(5260)** – letter from PCC
- Machynlleth Hospital **(5241)** – Letter received from PLHB - Mach Hospital – the Clerk said we still needed to put pressure on PLHB to make use of the Hospital
- Street Lighting **(5161)** – email from PCC – Cllr Williams said the meeting with PCC went well and we should look at this situation further as soon as possible after 1st April

5272 **General Purpose Panel Report**
 TC
 23.02.09 The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council.

- Cllr DW Davies stated that he had just received a letter from the PTA saying they were prepared to held with funding of the new bus shelter

5273 **Health Panel Report**
 TC
 23.02.09 The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council.

5274 **Town Clock Panel Report**
 TC
 23.02.09 The Town Clock Report having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council

5275 **Plas Panel Report**
 TC
 23.02.09 The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council

- Cllr Dunn stated that he had spoken to PCC with a view to the Registry Office being moved to Y Plas
- Cllr Lewis said that the new hall should include the name of Mr Parsons to honour all his work for MTC – Cllr DW Davies felt it should also include Mr Parsons relative Mr Humphries – it was **agreed** that the lecture hall should be named The Humphries & Parsons Lecture Hall – the main community centre would be named by way of a competition but must include the name Machynlleth – this was **agreed**

5276 **County Councillor J M Williams Report**
 TC
 23.02.09 The minutes of the last meeting having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council

5277 **Planning Applications**
 TC
 23.02.09

- P2009 0112 – Unit 1 Treowain Enterprise Centre – change of use
- P2008 1512 – 12 Heol Pentrerhedyn – listed building consent – **Granted**
- P2008 1512 – 12 Heol Pentrerhedyn – Full Planning Permission – **Granted**
- M2006 0381 – Mid Wales Storage, Doll Street – erection of 5 terrace houses – **Granted**
- M2006 0616 - Mid Wales Storage, Doll Street – erection of 10 semi detached houses – **Granted**
- P2009 0177 – Owain Pughes Cottage – outbuilding to dwelling house
- Mid Wales – it was **agreed** a letter be sent to PCC Planning asking for written confirmation and assurance that these 15 new properties would include the legally required percentage of affordable housing

5278 **Statement of Accounts**
 TC
 23.02.09 The Statement of Accounts having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council

Date		Chq No	Chq Drawn
26/01/2009	Colin Wilde	5016	£ 1,068.58
	Mark Rumbelow	5017	£ 318.00
	Melanie Biffin	5018	£ 427.38
27/01/2009	R A Gaskell	5019	£ 127.48

04/02/2009	R A Gaskell	5020	£ 122.33
10/02/2009	Inland Revenue	5021	£ 540.12
11/02/2009	R A Gaskell	5022	£ 117.57
18/02/2009	R A Gaskell	5023	£ 107.67
	Scottish Power	5024	£ 2,477.48
	BT	5025	£ 159.87
19/02/2009	David R Rowlands - Honours Board	5026	£ 192.00
	I G Owen	5027	£ 38.03
	MTC Y Plas - Honours Board	5028	£ 52.00
	PCC Street Lights	5029	£ 350.93
			£6,099.44

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Correspondence

- Clone Town Britain Survey Form
- Wynford Vaughan Thomas Memorial – request for letter of support – this was **agreed**
- Offer for Community Centre - letters from J H Jones
- Ambulance Response Times – letter to Welsh Ambulance NHS Trust
- All Wales Convention Visit to Powys
- Mr & Mrs Braddock – letter of thanks

5280
TC
23.02.09

Publications

- Local Government Partnership Scheme Annual Report

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TC
23.02.09

Any other business

- Tourist Information Centre – Cllr Dunn thanked Cambrian News for the fair reporting of the TIC – Cllr Dunn said he had spoken to Jan Redler of PCC asking if there could be a touch screen information unit in Y Plas but was told that PCC would not fund this – Cllr Dunn said he had been approached by local B&B owners and local businesses who felt their business would suffer without some sort of tourist information service – all the Councillors **agreed** that Cllr Dunn should investigate the touch screen unit further and thanked Cllr Dunn for his efforts – Cllr Williams said it was appalling that PCC should take this decision and a letter should be sent to Mr Mark Kerr, PCC Chief Executive to find out why such a unit could not be provided.