

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MACHYNLLETH TOWN COUNCIL

Held in Y Plas on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009

**Present:** Cllrs. B. Dunn; S Rowlands; S Nicholas; D Lewis; G Baldwin; DW Davies; G Davies; G Jenkins; M Williams; K Hubbard

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

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5282  
TC  
30.03.09

### Apologies

- Cllrs. E Hughes; C Foster

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30.03.09

### Presentation

- A presentation was given by Tony Corden and Keith Jackson of El Sueno Existe – a festival of music which is held every two years in Machynlleth – August 2009 will be its third festival - the festival was inspired by Victor Jara, a singer/songwriter how was killed during a Chilean coup – the ethos of the festival is to bring awareness to people of the identity struggles of different countries – this year will be focussing on Bolivia and the Bolivian Ambassador has agreed to attend the three day festival – there will be workshops, music, dance and environmental information – a security firm would be employed and they were expecting about 500 people to attend over the period – the organisers were also going to be promoting the Welsh language and culture by inviting local groups to participate in various ways - all the Councillors wished the festival well and were pleased it was held in Machynlleth – the Mayor thanked Mr Corden and Jackson for attending and said that Y Plas would help in anyway it could.

5284  
TC  
30.03.09

### Minutes

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

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30.03.09

### Statutory Business

- The new Councillor – Cllr Steven Nicholas – was welcomed and signed the appropriate paperwork required.
- Councillors **agreed** to the Deed of Variation regarding access to the DSO Yard and the Clerk was authorised to proceed with the signing of the documents.

5286  
TC  
30.03.09

### Mayors Business

The Mayor gave his report as follows:

- 24 February, together with Cllr. Williams met with Glyn Davies re: closure of TIC. Subsequently sent a letter to Nick Bourne AM on the same subject.
- On 25 February I attended PACT meeting
- On 28 February the Mayoress and myself enjoyed an evening at the Tabernacle with the Machynlleth branch Royal British Legion's Young Musician of the Year competition. Lots of local talent on show making for a very good evening's entertainment – the Mayor thanked the British Legion for putting on the concert at Y Tabernacl
- March 3 .. With the Deputy Mayor away in Cyprus, a bout of ill health saw

me asking Cllr. Williams to deputise for me at the Army Cadet hut where he presented certificates to the cadets and to long serving members of the local branch Royal British Legion.

- On 5 March I attended a pre-contract meeting with Arwyn George our architect
- On 12 March I met with the lead co-ordinator of the Community Welcome Scheme regarding tourism matters
- On 24 March we held a Plas Development Committee meeting to which all councillors were invited. I was very disappointed with the low number of councillors in attendance
- The First Minister was in Town on 26 March to officially open the Canolfan Hyddgen project.
- Still on 26 March. I went to the Bowling Club for the Tesco public consultation event
- On Friday evening 27 March I attended at the Bowling Club for the launch of Cllr. Dai Wyn Davies's new book on the history of Machynlleth Snooker Club.
- On Saturday morning 28 March I attended at The Tabernacle for the Civic Society Coffee Morning.

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30.03.09

#### **Matters Arising**

- Tourist Information Centre (**5281**) – various letters were received – Cllr Williams said it “beggars belief” at how PCC has cast aside such an important and essential service and its wonderful and dedicated staff.
- Postal costs (**5260**) – the Clerk had received a letter from PCC showing the costs involved in sending the quarterly “Red Kite” magazine – Cllr Rowlands suggested they saved this cost and put it toward street lighting as most people just throw the magazine away.

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TC  
30.03.09

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

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

- Cllr Baldwin said that a bench in Penrallt had been completely vandalised and ripped out of the concrete – Cllr DW Davies stated that this could be added to his next meeting
- The Clerk had asked Richie Gaskell to clean the Welcome signs at either end of Machynlleth
- Cllr Dunn stated that the wreaths at the Memorial had been removed and had understood that they were to remain there for much longer – Cllr Dunn said he would speak to the British Legion to see if they had removed them – Cllr Jenkins said that the matter should be reported to the Police if the British Legion were not responsible for the removal.

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TC  
30.03.09

#### **Health Panel Report**

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

- The Clerk stated that a 94 year old man had been seen by Shropdoc and an ambulance had been called at 10pm – the ambulance arrived from Dolgellau at midnight as there were no local ones available – the man was then transferred to Bangor Hospital – fortunately he was found to be ok and was returned home – Cllr Williams said that the staff on the front line are fantastic but it was essential that more equipment, ambulances and staff be provided.

- Cllr Rowlands reported that Powys Health Board are refusing MRI scans to people referred to them from Machynlleth Health Centre due to funding – Cllr Rowlands felt that early MRI scans can save lives – the Councillors felt that it was not too dramatic to state that this was a matter of life or death to the people of Machynlleth and the surrounding areas – it was **agreed** an email followed by a letter be sent immediately raising our concerns – Cllr Dunn said a copy of the letter should be sent to the Community Health Council along with a request for more input and support from them – Cllr Jenkins said she feels we have some of the best GPs in Wales, if not the UK and when they request an MRI it is because they believe the patient needs a scan– Cllr Baldwin asked if it was legal for Powys to refuse treatment.

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

The Town Clock Report having been previously circulated, were **approved** by Council

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30.03.09

#### **Plas Panel Report**

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

- Cllr Dunn stated that he had applied for funding with the Community Welcome Scheme to repair the outside toilets.
- Cllr Dunn also said that Tourism Partnership Mid Wales have stated they will provide £5,000 towards a tourist information touch screen to be sited at Y Plas if the Community Welcome Scheme match funded it – a group of Bed & Breakfast owners, headed by Marian Griffiths, will also be providing accommodation and travel information – Cllr Williams welcomed the initiative by Marian Griffiths – Cllr Williams suggested the Community Enablement Support Fund at PCC may be able to provide funding and Cllr Dunn **agreed** to contact them.
- Cllr Jenkins asked about the utility charges, in particular gas costs, and how they were recouped from the Leaseholders – the Secretary explained the financial details to the Council.
- The Clerk said he had received the Contract from the Architect for the building of the new Community Centre – all the Councillors **agreed** for the Contract to be signed – they also **agreed** to proceed with the offer received for the sale of the old Community Centre.

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30.03.09

#### **County Councillor J M Williams Report**

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

- Cllr Williams stated that WAG are providing £60,000 funding for a higher platform to be built at Machynlleth Station to enable disabled traveller and people with prams/pushchairs to get on and off the trains more easy – it was **agreed** a letter of support be sent to Cambrian Coast Railway

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#### **Planning Applications**

- M2006 0616 – Midwales Storage – a letter was received giving details of the properties allocated for “local needs”
- P2009 0300 – 27 Cae Crwn – extension and detached garage
- P2009 0177 – Owain Pughe’s Cottage – amended proposals
- Parking Restrictions at Ffordd Mynydd Griffiths

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## Statement of Accounts

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

Date		Chq No	Chq Drawn
24/02/2009	Colin Wilde	5030	£ 1,077.01
	Mark Rumbelow	5031	£ 288.00
	R A Gaskell	5032	£ 127.48
25/03/2009	J H Parsons	5033	£ 1,500.00
	J H Parsons	5034	£ 3,235.00
27/02/2009	M Biffin	5035	£ 388.25
04/03/2009	R A Gaskell	5036	£ 117.17
10/03/2009	R A Gaskell	5037	£ 117.37
12/03/2009	Inland Revenue	5038	£ 522.62
	B3 Architects	5039	£ 3,501.75
18/03/2009	R A Gaskell	5040	£ 107.67
24/03/2009	R A Gaskell (including retrospect pay)	5041	£ 294.26
	M Biffin (including retrospect pay)	5042	£ 630.08
	Colin Wilde (including Holiday Pay)	5043	£ 1,691.55
	Mark Rumbelow	5044	£ 312.00
	Petra Evans	5045	£ 291.20
	Mel Biffin - Voice Recorder from Argos	5046	£ 43.99
	BT - Alarm System in Plas	5047	£ 532.66
	Powys County Council - Election Charges	5048	£ 324.58
	EXPO Publishing - Town entry in year book	5049	£ 113.85
	K P Fire - Extinguisher Service	5050	£ 51.75
			<b>£15,268.24</b>

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## Correspondence

- Dyfi Junction River Crossing Consultation Document – it was **agreed** a letter of support was to be sent
- Dyfed Powys Police – correspondence between Cllr Dunn and PC Biffin
- Machynlleth Community Children's Project – a thank you letter received regarding the use of the office in the community centre.
- One Voice Wales – it was **agreed** to renew our membership
- One Voice Wales – a meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April – letter to be forwarded to Cllr Hughes
- Tesco – various correspondence
- Welsh Language Board – a request for a Councillor to be on the board the Welsh Language Steering Committee – it was **agreed** to pass the letter to Cllr Hughes to see if he would like to represent the Council.

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## Publications

- Boundary Commission for Wales – newsletter
- Powys CAB – newsletter
- Powys Carers Service
- Age Concern Powys
- Open Space magazine

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### Any other business

- Parking at the station – Cllr Dunn brought this up on behalf of Cllr Hughes – concern was expressed at the lack of parking at the station – Cllr Baldwin stated that MTC had contributed towards costs for providing parking – Cllr Dunn said that with the restrictions now at Ffordd Mynydd Griffiths the problem might get worse – Cllr Rowlands said that she felt that Lloyds Coaches should continue to park at the station as he has brought much employment to the area – Cllr Jenkins agreed and said we should look after our own and felt that if visiting coaches parked in the main car park they would use the town more – Cllr Dunn stated that there were 3 dedicated coach bays in Y Plas car park where parking was free – it was **agreed** that details of parking be sent to the Coach Drivers Year Book telling them of this along with a suggestion that they drop off and collect from the main car park but parked in Y Plas – it was also **agreed** a letter be sent to Cambrian Railways suggesting they look at the parking situation at the station.
- Youth Club – Cllr Baldwin raised concerns that unless the Youth Club received funding it may have to close – Cllr Jenkins said we needed to find out if PCC were to stop funding first – Cllr Dunn stated that the Youth Forum was involved in the Plas Garden Project – Cllr Williams stated that the Teenzone was to cease and it had been agreed that £500 was being given to the Youth Forum and the remainder of its account was to be given to MTC to be used for youth projects.
- Cllr Nicholas stated that he was interested in sitting on the Health Panel. It was also suggested by Cllr. Williams that he be asked to take on the responsibility for the Scansis pitch, formerly the responsibility of ex-councillor McDermott
- The Mayor thanked Machynlleth Community Children's Project for the free loan of a laptop for this evening presentation.