

KNIGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF-Y-CLAWDD



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER AT 7PM AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, WEST ST., KNIGHTON AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Councillors D Williams (Mayor/Chair), H Adams-Evans (Deputy Mayor), B Caine, B Andrews, C Branford, C Bevan, S Vaughan-Ross, M Vaughan, T Sharp, P Ford, R Edwards, T Taylor.

Apologies: Councillor B Butler, Councillor P Barrett (resigned 19/09/23)

In Attendance: K Compton (Press), L James (Town Clerk), Members of the Public, County Councillors C Kenyon-Wade and A Williams

Minute 01 (Agenda item 1):

Prior to the start of the meeting, Robert Edwards signed a Declaration of Acceptance as a new Councillor. This was witnessed and signed by Lisa James in her capacity as Proper Officer to the Council. Councillor Edwards also signed an agreement to abide by the Members Code of Conduct set out in the Local Government Act 2000 Section 52.

Minute 02 (Public Participation)

The first ten minutes of the meeting saw participation by 4 members of the public.

A representative from the now defunct Knighton First Responders spoke to seek the Council's support in forming a new Knighton First Responders Group.

A representative from the Knighton Flood Group updated the Council on delays as a result of contractors no longer being available to carry out the urgent works on behalf of Powys County Council. They reiterated the group's request for support from the Council.

A local business owner advised he had submitted a document to the Clerk with reports and ideas to be factored in to work about to start on the town regeneration plan. He urged all councillors to read the document. The Chair advised the document would be considered when the current approved plan is reviewed in January.

County Councillor C Kenyon-Wade, speaking as a member of the public, advised that the Town Investment Plan under debate at this meeting should be respected if approved and that a grant application could be made to the Shared Prosperity Fund to employ a Town Development Officer to facilitate the plan (deadline for application being 02 October). She also advised of an upcoming climate/energy meeting to be held in Knighton on 03 October.

Minute 03 (Urgent Item)

Police Update

PC Fraser Scott attended the meeting to address concerns about vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

PC Scott advised that a gang of 8 children have been identified as responsible for the vandalism at the skate park. 4 of the children have admitted their guilt and will be entered into a programme of education via the Youth Offending Team. PC Scott stated the vandalism

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is some of the worst he has seen and that the same group have been vandalising Presteigne too.

Councillor Caine asked about the efficacy of CCTV in this instance. PC Scot advised that there was very good CCTV owned by Powys CC at the recycling centre, but that this is now disabled. He also advised that CCTV does not help when the perpetrators are wearing hats etc that obscure their faces.

PC Scott explained his route and the areas he covers and advised that Radnorshire is now served by only himself and one PCSO, in comparison to staffing levels 10 years ago when c 12 officers would have covered this area.

PC Scott left the meeting at 7.30pm.

Minute 04 (Agenda items 4 & 5)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by all and there were no matters arising.

Minute 05 (Agenda item 6)

The monthly accounts (attached) for July and August were approved. A request was received from the Chair that they be presented in a more readable (larger font) format.

Minute 06 (Agenda item 7) :

It was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Town Investment (regeneration) Plan for Knighton.

Proposed by Cllr. B Caine, seconded by Cllr D Williams.

Minute 07 (Agenda item 8)

The Clerk's report was made as follows.

1. The ad for a new cleaner for the public toilets resulted in 3 applications. 2 candidates were interviewed and the position is now filled. A start date is to be agreed but will be as soon as possible.
2. Knighton Hotel Carpark toilets are still closed awaiting repairs. Bowling Green Lane toilets will remain open and will be deep cleaned and a date set for repairs. A meeting will be convened shortly to discuss repair costs and the way forward.
3. Work has begun on the half year accounts and a budget meeting has been set for 4th October.
4. Website. Work has begun on updating the information held on the Council website.
5. Online banking. Having established that we CAN have online banking with HSBC, I have provided information for us to be able to access this and therefore may not use the SMC account recently set up.
6. Clerk's training – attended 2 of 3 training sessions on how to apply for grant funding. Clerk's qualification training is ongoing.
7. Remembrance Sunday – wreaths have been confirmed and a list of invitees requested to ensure invites are issued in good time.

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Minute 08 (Agenda item 9)

Cllr. D Williams provided updates on Mayoral appointments, including laying the wreath in memory of the Battle of Britain; attending the Twinning Association event on 25 September; the friends of Knighton School Colour Run event and a Refugee Support Group event both on Saturday 30 September.

Minute 09 (Agenda item 11)

County Councillor C Kenyon- Wade updated on a grant available to fund a development officer for the town regeneration project via PAVO and the Shared Prosperity Fund, deadline 02 October. She also advised of a meeting being held on 03 October in conjunction with National Resources Wales.

Minute 10 (Agenda item 14)

It was agreed to award the Knighton Tourism Group c£100 towards the cost of the tourism A3 leaflets designed and ready to print. It was requested that the group provide a copy of their accounts, as will all groups requesting financial assistance going forwards. It was RESOLVED that the Mayor would, in this instance, award the funds from his Mayor's Allowance. Resolution proposed by Cllr B Andrews and seconded by Cllr B Caine.

Minute 11 (Agenda item 1a)

Motion proposed by Cllr T Taylor, seconded by Cllr. B Andrews "That the Motion approved by Knighton Town Council on 26 September 2022 that all motions to be included on the agenda must have a proposer and a seconder to be incorporated into Standing Order The Rules of Debate at Meetings". The motion was PASSED.

Minute 12 (Agenda item 1b)

Motion proposed by Cllr T Taylor, seconded by Cllr B Andrews "That Knighton Town Council calls for a review of bus routes and bus stops in Knighton to provide easier and more convenient access to existing services, including provision of bus stops at either end of the town centre". The motion was PASSED.

Minute 13 (Agenda item 1c)

The motion fell due to the proposer, Cllr P Barrett having resigned his position on 19 September 2023.

Minute 14 (Agenda item 16)

It was agreed to take down the hanging baskets and for council members to plan a time to do this.

Flags will be taken down at the same time and sent for repair.

It was agreed that the Clerk should carry out a DSE assessment of her workplace and a Health and Safety assessment of the Civic Centre.

Meeting ended at 8pm.