

Confirmed as accurate at FCM meeting 21/05/25 signed T. Sharp (Deputy Mayor).

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2025 AT 7PM, AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, WEST ST.,
KNIGHTON AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Mayor C Branford
Councillor T Sharp
Councillor B Butler
Councillor T Crail
Councillor T Taylor
Councillor C De Serra
L. Craggs Alferoff (Clerk)
County Councillor C Kenyon-Davies
3 Members of the Public

Apologies: Councillor Holly Adams Evans, Councillor Andrew Craggs, Councillor Bob Andrews, Councillor Mark Vaughan, Councillor Sally Vaughan, County Cllr Angelique Williams

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1.0 Public Participation

1.1 Reported by a representative that the Knighton & District Tourism Group were successful with their application for Brilliant Basics funding for the signage projects.

1.2 KDTG request that the planning applications be done in the name of Knighton Town Council, so that they will be cheaper, for a total of 5 applications. This will be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

2.0 Declaration of Acceptance of Office was taken by Councillor Celia de Serra.

3.0 Apologies received as above.

4.0 Declaration of Interest - none received.

5.0 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting(s)

5.1 Proposed by Cllr T Taylor and seconded by Cllr T Sharp to approve the minutes of the 19/03/2025 as an accurate and true record.

5.2 **Cllr T Crail asked that it be noted that he left the meeting due to an accessibility issue.**

5.3 **Vote – Motion approved. 1 abstention, all else in favour.**

6.0 To approve the monthly accounts for March and to receive and approve the schedule of payments for April.

6.1 Proposed by Cllr B Butler and seconded by Cllr T Taylor to approve the monthly accounts for March and to receive and approve the schedule of payments for April (as attached). **Vote – Motion passed, all in favour.**

7.0 Clerk's Report

7.1 Skate Park Inspections required regularly for the risk schedule.

7.2 The Mayor volunteered to do next week's inspection of the Skate Park.

7.3 Proposed by Cllr C Branford and seconded by Cllr T Sharp to enter the Wales in Bloom competition for a fee of less than £150. **Motion passed, all in favour.**

8.0 Proposed by Cllr T Taylor and seconded by Cllr B Butler to approve delegated authority for the Clerk to order supplies under £500 to a budget heading for toilets, office, and civic centre. Motion passed, all in favour.

9.0 Motion : Traffic Calming measures

9.1 There were several near misses reported to Councillors on that section of road, as people tend to speed in that area.

- 9.2 Powys have said they will not put a stop sign in place as it doesn't meet the criteria.
- 9.3 The Clerk and members will bring this up with Active Travel, and see what they suggest, before contacting Powys.

10.0 Mayoral Update

- 10.1 Knighton School Concert was attended, and was really good.
- 10.2 The Mayor is going to abseil for charity on Sunday.
- 10.3 Thursday 8th May is laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph. The Mayor would like to see as many Council Members as possible.
- 10.4 VE 80th Anniversary Afternoon Tea will be held.

11.0 County Councillors' Update

- 11.1 County Councillor C Kenyon-Davies reported as follows:
- 11.2 You probably know that Powys received a bad Estyn report last month, and last Thursday 10th April Leader James Gibson-Watt called an extraordinary meeting to discuss it. Primary education in the county is considered on a sounder footing than secondary; out of the total of eight secondary schools and three all through schools in Powys a number are deemed under review or in special measures. Powys has had three poor Estyn reports since 2011, and each time there has been calls for the Leader or Education Portfolio Holder to step down. This time was no different; a motion to suspend standing orders was called for to allow for a vote of no confidence. This was not passed by 24 to 34, although all those in favour of a change in the top jobs got to their feet to show their opposition (these were mainly Independents and Conservatives complaining about the Lib Dem Labour administration).
- 11.3 Estyn's four recommendations were to improve security, leadership, post 16 education and provision for those with additional learning needs. In regard to the latter as Councillors approached County Hall they were met by parents protesting about the removal of the Nurture programme from Cefnlllys School due to cuts to staff. Schools have been asked to use their financial reserves over this difficult period, and although this year their budget has gone up with inflation, some of them have zero or less than zero in the bank.
- 11.4 This is a really hard situation to turn around. The Chief Executive Emma Palmer has announced the setting up of an Accelerated Improvement Board which she will chair, allowing her the ability to hold "feet to the fire". On the Board will be Officers and educationalists not politicians, so the yo-yo effect of changes in administration can be evened out and a consistent path going forward can be followed. The new officer in charge of education, Dr Richard Jones, says that getting to know all our schools, and providing appropriate

and consistent support is essential. Dr Richard is an experienced educationalist and used to be the headmaster of Builth Wells Secondary School/ Ysgol Calon Cymru. So, we're hoping that things can improve throughout Powys.

12.0 Updates from Committees.

12.1 Allotment Working Group

12.1.1 We've now got a full list of plot holders and vacant plots, so we're in a position to get vacancies filled. We will send out invoices for the rent at the same time as a notice about the skip.

12.1.2 Then we can arrange an allotment working committee with allotment holders invited to join.

12.2 Personnel Committee

12.2.1 Proposed by Cllr Tina Sharp and seconded by Cllr C Branford to accept the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and take on the cover cleaner as a self-employed contractor to clean the toilets.

Meeting closed at 20:05.