

Confirmed as accurate at FCM meeting 22/01/25 signed B Butler (Deputy Mayor).

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2024 AT 7PM, AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, WEST ST.,
KNIGHTON AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Mayor C Branford
Councillor T Sharp
Councillor D Williams
Councillor B Butler
Councillor P Ford
Councillor S Vaughan
Councillor A Craggs
Councillor T Crail (via Zoom)
Councillor C Bevan
Councillor H Adams-Evans (via Zoom)
Councillor T Taylor
L. Craggs Alferoff (Clerk)
County Councillor C Kenyon-Wade
4 Members of the Public

Apologies: Councillor R Andrews, Councillor M Vaughan

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- 1.0 Public Participation**
- 2.0 Apologies received as above.**
- 3.0 Declaration of Interest**
- 3.1 None received
- 4.0 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting(s)**
- 4.1 Proposed by Cllr. D Williams and seconded by Cllr. B Butler to approve the minutes of the 27/11/24 as an accurate and true record. **Vote – 2 abstained, 8 approved. Motion approved.**
- 5.0 To approve the monthly accounts for December and to receive and approve the schedule of payments for January.**
- 5.1 Proposed by Cllr. C Branford and seconded by Cllr. B Butler to approve the monthly accounts for December and to receive and approve the schedule of payments for January (as attached). **Motion approved unanimously.**
- 6.0 Clerk's Report**
- 6.1 Update: Dual authorisation for payments has been implemented, and is a great improvement from a division of roles POV.
- 6.2 Shopfront Grants are wrapping up for this year. Depending on the scheme next year, we may be able to apply for work done to the toilets, but the exact nature of the scheme won't be clear until Christmas.
- 6.3 Cemetery Water Leak – The leak has been repaired. Cllr. B Butler to liaise with Welsh Water over the bill.
- 6.4 Mission Statement/Strategy Working Group – Cllrs T Sharp, B Butler and T Taylor volunteered, the Clerk to call a meeting.
- 6.5 Re: Xmas Lights – The Council must choose members for the standing committee. Proposed by Cllr. A Craggs, seconded by Cllr. P Ford for the committee to consist of Cllrs C Branford, C Bevan, A Craggs, D Williams, and M Vaughan (subject to his agreement). **Motion approved unanimously.**
- 6.6 Powys County Council's Leisure Centre Review to be put on hold.
- 6.7 Propose by Cllr. B Butler, and seconded by Cllr. T Taylor to approve the provision of a "living roof" for the Bowling Green Lane bus shelter by Powys.
- 6.8 **2 abstained, 8 in favour. Motion approved.**
- 7.0 Mayoral Update**
- 7.1 The Mayor attended the Leg Club for their prize draw, 40 prizes in total.
- 7.2 Santa made it to the Civic Centre to meet local children, who all received a present. Thanks to Cllrs S Vaughan, M Vaughan, and R Andrews for their help with the event.
- 7.3 The School held their carol service on the 17th December. The church was full of children and parents.
- 8.0 County Councillors' Update**

8.1 Projected Council Tax rise for 2025 – 2026

- 8.1.1 You may have seen in the press yesterday that it is possible that Council Tax for Powys will go up by 13% next year. This would take a band D property from around £2,050 to £2,330. This may be needed because despite a more generous than expected settlement from the Welsh Government there is still a funding gap. This gap is currently around £13 million; the way our funding formula is calculated each percentage rise in Council Tax raises a million pounds.
- 8.1.2 The gap has occurred largely because of the increased needs of the elderly and also school children with additional learning needs. 37% of the Council's budget goes towards the care of the young and old and that's without factoring in education. It is also still unclear how much of the recent rise in National Insurance contribution local authorities have to pay, and additionally for Powys Welsh Government has chosen to give a bigger slice of the pie to more urban areas; Powys is ranked second from bottom in Wales in terms of funding.
- 8.1.3 Other rural Councils are going to be bargaining with the Welsh Government to try to improve funding allocations, and the budget for Powys will not be voted on until February 2025, so this may just be a worst-case scenario.

8.2 Sustainable Powys meeting in Llandrindod

- 8.2.1 There was a meeting for representatives from Town and Community Councils from the area around Llandrindod Wells on the 21st November which was held in County Hall. At it the ideas behind the hub model or keeping services in the five main Powys towns were discussed, Llandrindod being one of the hubs. There was a bit of confusion about who could go; initially just Council Chairs or the town Mayor were invited but in the end some Clerks and other Councillors went. The Knighton representatives were Neil and Petra.

8.3 Powys Climate and Nature Conference, Saturday December 7th

- 8.3.1 Very ironically because of the connection with global warming, Storm Darragh happening on December 7th meant that this conference couldn't go ahead as planned. All Town and Community Councillors and also Community Groups were invited. The nine workshops will be however be delivered online on successive Saturdays in the New Year.

9.0 MOTION: That this Council writes to our County Councillors Angelique Williams, Corinna Kenyon-Wade and our Senedd Member James Evans asking them to support improved bus services for Knighton at the forthcoming reviews.

Proposer: Cllr. T Taylor Seconder: Cllr. P Ford

- 9.1 The introduction of a Monday to Saturday service to Newtown for employment, education, hospital, shopping and leisure purposes.
- 9.2 The introduction of a Sunday and bank holiday service to run between Ludlow – Leintwardine – Knighton – Clun – Montgomery – Powys Castle – Welshpool for the primary purpose of leisure activities without the need to have or use a car.
- 9.3 The introduction of the proposed TransCymru T48 service to supplement the degraded and unreliable train service between Craven Arms/Ludlow and Ammanford.
- 9.4 The improvement of bus infrastructure within the town, namely the provision of bus stops and timetables, also a main bus stop outside the Civic Centre to serve the town centre incorporating a shelter, timetables and electronic departure board.
- 9.5 With Sustainable Powys, there may be lots of services only accessible from Llandrindod and Newtown. Therefore public transport links are more important.

9.6 **Motion approved unanimously.**

10.0 MOTION: To obtain a debit card for the HSBC account.

Proposer: Cllr. A Craggs Seconder: Cllr. D Williams

10.1 **Motion approved unanimously.**

11.0 Updates from Committees.

11.1 Finance Committee

11.2 Proposed by Cllr. C Branford and seconded by Cllr. T Sharp to have an additional Full Council Meeting to focus entirely on the Precept on the third Wednesday of January, the 15th, and to have a meeting for ordinary Council business on the 22nd January. **Motion approved unanimously.**

11.3 Christmas Lights Committee –

11.3.1 It was agreed for volunteers to take the lights down on the 12th January.

11.4 Toilets Committee

11.4.1 Cllr. T Sharp is working on an overview and breakdown of figures. The figures won't be ready for January.

11.4.2 The budget will have to plan to keep the toilets until the Council can complete the consultation.

11.5 Transport Committee

11.5.1 Cllr. T Taylor has created a timetable to be distributed on the FB/Website.

11.5.2 The Pontfaen bus stop timetable will be put up on the noticeboard.

12.0 Urgent Updates

12.1 Knighton Festive Trail was put on by Cllr. P Ford, and it was discussed to have a donation from Councillors this year and potentially precept related costs next year.

Meeting closed at: 7.59 PM.