

Minutes of the Town Council held on Wednesday 21st June 2017 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute

Present: Cllrs P. James, J. Rowlands, J. Davies, P. Lambkin, S Jones, L. Pace-Avery

Police Officers ; PCSO Ms A. Dick and PC K Briggs

Members of the Public; 15 members of the public were in attendance.

In Attendance Mrs L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Councillor James welcomed everyone to the meeting and laid out the format of the meeting stating that it was not a public meeting but those who wished to comment would be allowed to do so urging speakers to speak through the Chair. The agenda of the meeting was then addressed.

1. **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs T Van Rees and A. Jones
2. **Declarations of Interest** There were none stated at this point in time.
3. **Minutes of the May meeting**

The minutes of the May meeting were considered and the final request for any amendments was requested. Cllr Pace-Avery requested that a "Me" should be inserted at item 11 referring to the Women's Aid Scheme. There were no other issues raised and the minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Pace-Avery and seconded by Cllr P Lambkin.

Matters arising from the minutes .

The Clerk read a letter from the Planning Authority which was in response to a letter sent by the Town Council expressing concern over the loss of the development units as Maes Y Dre. The letter outlined the only option for future development being "employment proposals on non-allocated sites". Members were not satisfied with the contents of the letter and suggested that a letter to Kirsty Williams outlining the Council's concerns, should be written.

Action: Clerk to write above e-mail to Ms Williams.

The Clerk read a letter from the fire Service with regard an enquiry the Town Council had made about the use of fire extinguishers in premises. As this was an issue brought to the table by Cllr A. Jones it was decided to revisit this issue at the July meeting.

Action ; Issue to be put on July agenda

4. Mast at Ty Cae Mawr

Cllr James began by stating how good it was to see the public at the meeting and explained that there would need to be a time limit of 30minutes allocated to the issue due to a long agenda and other urgent business of anti-social behaviour and communication with the police officers present.

He stated that the Town Council would explain the rationale for their decision and the timescale of events and then he would open up the floor for the public to ask any questions they wanted. He reminded all present that any comments or/and questions should be addressed through the chair.

Cllr James began by pointing out that "facebook" Llanwrtyd Swap and Buy was not an appropriate way to communicate with the Town Council and that the Council must act with consideration for the whole community and not the few. He voiced that some of the comments made on facebook were misinformed, inaccurate and at times bordered on libellous. He was adamant to point out that the Town Council would in no way financially benefit from the installation of the mast as was implied by certain individuals on facebook. He stated that should any comments like this continue the Town Council would consider taking legal advice and noted that the two main perpetrators of such comments were not in attendance at the meeting.

He asked the Clerk to go through the timescale of events and the letters that had been exchanged between the Town Council and the public.

The Clerk outlined the timeframe of events which led to the decision together with communication between the Town Council and a local resident who had written to the Town Council of his concerns.

Cllr James reiterated comments made on "Facebook" regarding this communication were completely untrue. The resident in question had been personally spoken to by Councillor James and in response to this Cllr James

had received a thankful letter for the time taken to explain the rationale behind the decision. The letter was read to the meeting by the Clerk.

Cllr James opened the discussion to the Public. It was asked if there were any other sites considered and if so could they be relayed to the meeting. The Clerk read out five sites that had been considered and the rationale given for them not being appropriate.

The point was made that two of the sites had been rejected on the grounds of close proximity to a Primary school and many felt that the site chosen was also close to a large cluster of children who would now be subjected to RF rays which had no substantial scientific data to say what the long term effects of exposure would be.

Mr Jeremy Andrews, an independent radio engineer, and not employed by any telecommunications network, explained to the meeting the amount of RF that would be emitted from the mast. He reassured residents that it was no more than having two mobiles phones operating in any one house. The beams radiate and receive from the top of the mast and would not impact adversely on the health of anyone any more than using a microwave, a mobile phone, an "I pad" and wi-fi within a house, to name but a few.

The response to this was "where is the tipping point?" --- with more and more technology coming on board with more powerful devices at what point do people say "enough!" The feeling was that the mast was being sited in the recommended site simply because the infrastructure was readily accessible and that it would have been the cheapest option. Residents felt aggrieved that they had not been informed individually as residents and felt that this was being imposed on them without proper consultation. A letter was read by one of the residents from a scientist who recommended that any mast should not be within a mile of any housing.

The feeling was that there should be an alternative to the site recommended -the Cambrian Mill was one suggestion but the Mr Andrews pointed out that the signal would not cover the area identified in the proposals because of surrounding hills.

The Clerk read the report from the Powys Planning authority which outlined the reasons why the planning had been approved. This stated that the concerns of residents had been noted and further clarification had been sought regarding the safety levels of RF waves. The applicants had reassured the Authority that the levels being emitted were well within the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection(ICNIRP) guidelines.

Cllr James asked for a letter to be read from a local business who was supportive of the mast stating that it was necessary to support local businesses and would provide much needed infrastructure.

There was some scepticism as to whether this mast would in fact benefit local businesses and concerns were raised that in the future more dishes or extra antennae could be added.

Those fears were allayed by Mr Andrews.

The question was asked as to who the company responsible for its installation would be. The Town Council had no information with regard this issue.

Residents were also concerned about Health and Safety of residents when equipment, already installed, was being serviced. Vans often parked on the pavement leading pedestrians to walk out into the road. Should another mast be sited in the area this problem would be exacerbated.

After much debate, heated at times, it was the feeling of the meeting that residents would like the Powys Planning Authority to re-evaluate the siting of the mast and put pressure on them to put it somewhere else. Individual residents would write to County Councillor T Van Rees and collectively they would petition for the mast to be moved.

The Town Council was asked if they could be relied on for support if there was a possibility of renegotiating the site. Cllr James reiterated that the Town Council had to consider the issue in terms of the whole Community and if things did come back to the table then the issues would be duly considered.

PC Briggs offered the fact that the Community of Llanwrtyd was not alone in dealing with issues of this kind and recommended listening to a recent "Woman's Hour" programme that dealt with the issue of "how to get your voice heard" as a Community/ or Community Group. Residents thanked him for this information.

Cllr James brought the discussion to a close and was keen to add that the Council is working as a group of volunteers to maintain services within the Town, that it was lovely to see the Community represented at a Town Council Meeting and that there should be a commonality amongst all to fight for the Community. He urged those present to put themselves forward in the future to join the Council. He invited those who wished to stay to do so.

Cllr James heartily thanked Mr Andrews for his attendance at the meeting and felt his independent input was of great value to all.

Mrs Hazell thanked the Town Council for their time and for putting the issue at the top of the Agenda and clarified on behalf of the residents that they were not disagreeing with the need for the technology and better service but that the siting of the mast was inappropriate given that there was a large population of children nearby and siting had already been rejected at the Primary School and the Fire Station on the grounds that it would be too near children. All but one resident left the meeting.

Action as a Result of the Meeting : Residents would individually write to Cllr Van Rees in his capacity as County Councillor and would write collectively to the Planning Authority at Powys requesting that a re-evaluation of the siting of the mast be considered as a matter of urgency.

Cllr James resumed the Agenda and brought forward **Item 9, Anti-social Behaviour**, since both PCSO Amy Dick and PC K. Briggs had been waiting throughout the previous debate.

He welcomed both officers to the meeting and explained that there was now considerable Community and business concern regarding the anti-social behaviour of certain individuals within the Town who were often high on alcohol and /or drugs and were intimidating children and residents alike to a point where children are beginning to find alternative routes through Town to avoid these individuals who “hang out” on the Town Square. Letters outlining these concerns from Charcroft Electronics, The Stonecroft Inn and Manor Adventure were read out by the Clerk.

Cllr James invited the officers to give an update of policing the issue and felt that it was now time for some demonstrative action since this group of individuals were beginning to affect the Town in an adverse way and would deter visitors from coming to Llanwrtyd .

The Police Officers informed members that they were very aware of this group of individuals who “feed” off one another’s behaviour and egg each other on. There has been an eviction notice served on the residents of the flat where they live but it won’t come into effect until August. Where they go after that was unknown.

There was concern that that the process was taking too long but the officers said the difficulty was that people are not ringing in the incidents to the 101 number and if they don’t then things can’t be acted on. There would be no quick fix for this issue and if the public are not prepared to give statements it makes it very difficult to build up an evidence case.

All Pubs within Llanwrtyd have been asked not to sell alcohol to any member of this group but Cllr James enquired if it was possible to get a drink ban order on the Town Square . PC Briggs was unsure if this could be done but would consult with his colleagues and report back to the Council .

Members felt strongly that there was not enough being done by the police to tackle this growing problem but once again the officers reiterated that if no one reported the incidents that were occurring and/or were not prepared to make statements then the evidence would not be gathered. Changes in legislation made it difficult to bring drug and alcohol issues to court because this was deemed to be ineffective in preventing further incidents and was not economically viable. It was asked if there could be measures taken to prevent the supermarket on the square selling alcohol to the group. The police officers felt that now here was a bank of Community complaints that Community Protection notices could be put into place. This would be monitored by the neighbourhood policing team, a warning letter would be issued stating certain restrictions of movement and if these were breached then prosecution would be likely and it would go to court. PC Briggs requested copies of all the letters read out together with a covering letter from the Town Council stating the severity of the problem.

Action: Clerk to scan and send letters to PC Briggs and write covering letter.

Cllr James asked to be kept informed and stated that two councillors had been allocated to the role of police liaison but that no one had ever been invited to any meetings. PC Briggs felt that this initiative was related to the Crime Commissioner and was not within his remit. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Police Crime Commissioner inviting him to the next Town Council meeting in July.

Action: Clerk to write to Police Crime Commissioner.

Cllr James asked if the local supermarket could be asked not to sell these individuals alcohol and whilst the Police officers said there was not a problem with asking they didn’t feel it would solve the problem as alcohol would be sought elsewhere.

Cllr Pace-Avery also suggested contacting Powys County Council with regard to Health and Hygiene as human faeces had been found in the car park behind Victoria Hall.

Cllr James informed members that one of the individuals had at one point seemed to have got his life in order and held down a job for a short while but recently having teamed up with others had fallen back into drinking and drug abuse PC Briggs suggested that if these people feel rejected by society then they would not feel as if they need to look after the Town. Cllr James suggested another route and explored ways of including

them in dialogue as to why they were behaving as they do and asked if it would be possible for them to attend a meeting of the Council. PC Briggs suggested Adult Community Resolution which would require these individuals to attend. This would have to be under police supervision and PC Briggs would go back to his colleagues to investigate. It was agreed that it should be put in place for attendance at the September meeting if it was a possibility

In the meantime, it was important to get the message across to the public to report any incidents to 101 and try to encourage the giving of statements. PCSO Dick gave the Clerk her e-mail address to keep her informed of any further anti-social behaviour.

Action: PC Briggs to enquire if Adult community resolution would be appropriate and if so set up the above for attendance in September.

Cllr James thanked both PCSO A. Dick and PC K. Briggs for their attendance and their input into the meeting. Both left the meeting.

The order of the agenda was resumed.;

5. Finance The Clerk presented the balance sheet for the period 29/04/17-31/05/2017.

It was noted that £3000.00 from Powys County Council had been credited to the account for the maintenance and running of the Public toilets. This is the third year of a five-year grant. It was also noted that outlay for the month was quite high but this was due to one off payments for work done on the public toilets and signage. After due consideration, the balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr J. Davies and seconded by Cllr S. Jones.

6. Co-option of New Councillors

The Clerk informed members that there had been three letters of application for three current vacancies. The Clerk read out all letters from Mrs R. Hughes, Mrs L Voss and Miss E. Lake.

Each letter of application was then individually considered.

Cllrs J Davies, L Pace-Avery felt they should declare an interest since they had encouraged two of the candidates to apply..

Cllr James felt that it would be good to have some younger councillors to give their perspective on issues affecting the Town. After due consideration of each applicant Cllr James asked for a show of hands for each candidate in turn.

Rachel Hughes was unanimously co-opted

Lorraine Voss was unanimously co-opted

Elodie Lake was unanimously co-opted

Cllr Rowlands pointed out that Miss Lake would probably be with the council for a year as it was likely that she would return to university. He also informed Councillors that there was money available in the "Bryan Watkins" fund which the new Councillors might like to make use of and/or use for training.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to all the above and invite them to attend their first meeting in July and also to the buffet on the 22nd July.

Action: Clerk to write above letters.

7. **Appointments to Committees** -this was deferred until July when we will have a full complement of Councillors.
8. **Adoption of Social Media Policy** -this was deferred until the July meeting when we will have a full complement of Councillors.
9. **Anti-Social Behaviour** -this issue was dealt with at the beginning of the meeting. No further issues were brought to the table
10. **Traffic Calming** – the Clerk informed members that the issue of the missing bollards had to be addressed through the Welsh Government because they were on the trunk Road. A letter was to go to the Welsh Gov regarding this and the quality of the Road surface through the Town. It was felt that the Traffic Calming issue could be re-visited at the same time in the hope that all three things could be part of a wider plan. Cllrs felt this was a good idea.

Action: Clerk to write above letter.

Cllr Rowlands volunteered to take responsibility for Traffic Calming and all Cllrs unanimously agreed to him taking on the role. Cllr James thanked Cllr Rowlands for putting himself forward to do this and hope that with continued pressure something would eventually happen to slow the traffic through Llanwrtyd.

Action ; Clerk to liaise with Cllr Rowlands and hand over the file which was left by Cllr Tonks when he stood down.

11. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr Davies reported a conversation with Mr A. Stokes who felt that the area behind the Victoria Hall should be monitored by CCTV cameras as this seemed to be a hot spot for fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. Cllr James asked should there be a joint project between Victoria Hall Committee and the Council to address this issue. It was decided to defer this to the July meeting when it could be put to Cllr A. Jones who is a committee member.

Cllr Pace -Avery

- reported a conversation with Elizabeth Ann Davies regarding the general disorder at the back of Victoria Hall and in particular the use of the ground to the side of the Hall where there is a lot of noise from chainsaws and bonfires being lit.

It was suggested that the resident in question be asked to write a letter to the Town Council with her concerns.

- Cllr Pace Avery also reported that on a recent picnic at the "White Bridge" she had collected a bag of rubbish that had been left strewn around.

Contact to be made with NRW.

Cllr Lambkin

- enquired as to what was happening to the War Memorial Institute but since Cllr Van Rees was not present other Cllrs felt they were not in a position to answer the question.
- She reported on the meeting attended at PAVO with the Clerk called "Meet the funders". She outlined the salient points but added that most of the funders present required charitable status in order to apply .

Cllr James informed members that the buffet for those Cllrs stepping down would be on Saturday 22nd July. Partners were invited together with newly appointed Councillors. It would start at 7:30pm at the Drovers restaurant.

Cllr S. Jones

- reported to members that the log lorries had, once again, taken down the telephone wires at Cym Irfon and they were without telephone communication at Abergwesyn. The issue of the log lorries not using the agreed one-way route was again raised.
- reported that the AGM of the Abergwesyn Committee was to be held on Thursday 22nd June. Cllr James gave his apologies but asked if the deputy mayor Cllr Pace Avery would be able to attend. Cllr Pace-Avery agreed that she would attend to represent the Council.

It was agreed that contact be made with natural resources Wales regarding the telephone lines and the log lorry pathway.

Action: Clerk to contact NRW.

- **Cllr Rowlands** enquired if there had been any response from Mr Nixon regarding the Brown signs at the Cambrian Mill. The Clerk reported that there had been no communication from him and Cllr Rowlands suggested that another letter be sent.
- He also enquired as to the outcome of the Councillors response to the possibility of NAT west Bank providing a mobile service. The clerk informed members that an e-mail had been sent back to Kirsty Williams saying that the town were very interested in the proposition but as yet nothing had materialised.

Cllr James reported a dead sheep in the river opposite Cop View and suggested that contact be made with Howell Davies who would possibly know who the sheep belonged to

12. **Planning** -planning application P/ 2017/ 0577 Improvements to Forestry access at land at Esgair Dafydd Forest near Llanwrtyd was duly considered. Cllr Davies had spoken to the farmer at Esgair Dafydd and he had no objections. No other objections were raised.

Cllr James informed members that an email had been received regarding the planting at Lofftwen . This was inaccurate information and a further e-mail from Mr Fulford at Lofftwen offered to come to the next town Council Meeting to discuss proposals.

This was accepted and he would attend in July.

Cllr James informed members that he had received a letter from Mrs Morgan who complained about the building works of the new house being built close to their property. She talked of debris in the pathways causing tripping hazards and aggravation from the builders working there with difficulty in leaving and accessing their own premises.

Action ; Clerk to respond to Mrs Morgan's letter.

13. **Twinning-** Cllr Davies informed members that an application for funding had been submitted to the lottery fund to support two youngsters who are coming to work in Llanwrtyd from Meriel and Cesky Krumlov.

14. **Services**

- a) **Surgery** -the clerk informed members that the Community Notice Board in the Surgery would be done towards the end of July. It would have a section for Town Council news and the minutes. Cllr Davies requested that Twinning issues be allowed to be displayed. This was agreed and Cllr Davies said he would inform the Twinning Committee.
- b) **Library** -Cllr Pace Avery informed members that some of the volunteers had finished their training but there was concern that there might not be enough volunteers. The Clerk enquired about progress with the volunteer bureau at the surgery but Cllr Pace Avery said they were still waiting for confirmation from Mr. A. Powell and would chase it up.
- c) **Public Toilets**-The Clerk gave members a copy of the expenditure on the public toilets and what the annual expenditure would roughly be. Cllr James itemised the things that were needed to finish off the project. We still needed waste bins and appropriate sanitary bins (The clerk would get quotes from three companies and bring the information back to the next meeting) Hot water heaters were needed in both toilets but these would be small ones. The waterless urinals were now fitted and operational and a Cleaner had been appointed to clean for three hours a week. He was to keep a log of work done and report any issues to either the Clerk or Cllr James himself.

Cllr James informed members that during the Man v Horse event that there were not sufficient toilets for the number of visitors in Llanwrtyd and that the Town Council had lost a great deal of revenue because people were queuing at the Public toilets and were propping open the doors. They were also left in a dreadful state and Cllr James himself spent 3 or more hours cleaning them.

At this point Cllr Lambkin declared an interest and left the meeting. Cllr James continued saying that there needed to be some dialogue about how the Town copes with the large numbers in terms of infrastructure.

Whilst he praised the event itself for having worldwide status and brought a lot of revenue to the Town it was important that the infrastructure was in place to deal with the numbers of competitors and spectators and that Health and Safety had to be a priority with adequate numbers of safety blankets whatever the weather.

Cllr S. Jones suggested asking Green Events for a donation towards using the toilets and then they could constantly open and be properly manned and cleaned throughout the day.

Several issues were brought to the attention of Cllrs;

- 1) Public toilets -loss of revenue -not enough toilets altogether
- 2) No toilets paper in the school toilets which led to a lot of angst directed at those who were selling teas and coffees
- 3) Not enough safety blankets
- 4) Nowhere to go in Llanwrtyd where people could just sit out of the rain.
- 5) Runners not staggered so professionals at the front with fun runners behind.

Question raised: Should there be a cap on the number of runners?

What happens to the profit made since they are a non-profit organisation?

Cllr Lambkin re-entered the meeting 9:50pm

The Clerk informed members that the Transfer of freehold documents for the Public Toilets had been received . She handed them to Cllr James to scrutinise and suggested that Cllr Van Rees also should have a copy to peruse. These documents would be considered at the next meeting in July.

- d) Dolwen Field -it was decided that a committee meeting was needed to progress this project . Cllr James and the Clerk to arrange a date and get back to Cllrs.
- e) **Town Square and Green** -the Clerk brought up the issue of the grass cutting in the cemetery since an e-mail had arrived from A. Page . Not only had the rare orchids been decimated but there had also been damage to one of the gravestones. Members agreed that the quality and frequency of verge cutting was not acceptable and it was suggested that a letter be sent to Powys with the above concerns.

Action: Clerk to write above letter.

Cllr James informed members of the recent campaign to add another finger to the post indicating the Wells at the Dol -y-Coed . Ms Benton had written to all Band B establishments in order to raise the money to do this,

though there had been no contact with the Newmans at Charcroft . Cllr James contacted Mrs Newman and received a letter clarifying the situation with regard the renovation of the well. This letter was read to members and a copy was requested to be sent to Ms J Walsby who had enquired whether the Town Council had been in touch with Charcroft.

Action: Clerk to send a copy of the letter to Ms Walsby.

- f) ATM machine -the new ATM machine is now in situ and was available for the Man v horse weekend. An e-mail from Mr Davies wanted to know if things were in place and had ben responded to.
- 15. Timing of July meeting -it was decided to keep the timing of the July meeting as planned for the 19th as Royal Welsh Week begins on the 24th July.
- 16. Correspondence

Item 3 on Agenda Letter from Planning Policy Officer regarding the Land at Maes y Dre(as a result of The Town Council's enquiries)

Item 3 on agenda e-mail form Fire Service in response to our enquiries about fire extinguishers in premises

Item 6 on Agenda

- E-mail from Lorraine Voss regarding co-option
 - Letter from Rachel Hughes re ; co-option
 - E-mail from Elodie Lake re; co-option

Item 8 on agenda Social Media Policy

Item 9 on Agenda e-mail from Mr Carpener re ; Mid Wales Housing

Item 12 on the Agenda Planning application P/2017/0577 Improvements to forestry Access at land at Esgair Dafydd Forest

Item 14c on Agenda e-mail from Mr C Thompson re: Cleaning of Toilets

Item 14c on Agenda documents from Powys regarding the Transfer of Public Toilets Freehold to the Town Council

Item 14c on Agenda e-mail from Anna page regarding grass cutting in the Cemetery.

Item 16.0 e-mail from Mr R Price re; planting at Lofftwen

Item 16.1 Letter from Cllr Pace Avery re: Grapevine domain

Item 16.2 Letter from Mr Stickland re; Maps of Llanwrtyd Wells

Item 16.3 letter from Powys re; ballot paper for appointment to the Powys Standards Committee

Item 16.4 e-mail form E.ON acknowledging termination of contract as of 7th July.

Item 16.5 Rep for Once Voice Wales

Item 16.6 Model resolution Protocol for Town Councils

Item 16.7 One voice Wales request for any issues to be addressed at their AGM

The highlighted items were discussed during the course of the meeting item16.0 onward were not discussed and were held over to the next meeting since time had run out. The meeting was closed at 10:05pm

Signed ;

Date.....

DATE OF NEXT MEETING; WEDNESDAY 19th JULY

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