

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th October 2017 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute

Present: Cllrs P. James, T. Van Rees, L. Pace-Avery, L. Voss, R. Hughes, J. Davies, A. Jones, J. Rowlands, S. Jones, P. Lambkin, E. Lake.

In Attendance: Mrs L. E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Visiting speaker : Mr M Gruffydd

Cllr James opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and acknowledged that all Cllrs were present. He informed members that Cllr Pace-Avery had volunteered to chair the meetings in November and December and thanked her for her flexibility in changing the original arrangement to chair the October meeting.

Cllr James welcomed the visiting speaker Mr Morys Gruffydd from the Urdd Eisteddfod.

Mr Gruffydd thanked the Town Council for allowing him to present information on the forthcoming Urdd National Eisteddfod which is to come to the showground in Builth Wells in May 2018.

He gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the history and the ethos of the Urdd Eisteddfod and informed members that it is Europe's largest youth festival and it was 40 years since the Festival had been to Mid- Wales.

He outlined the benefits to the area in terms of tourism, in particular accommodation which he felt would be needed across the area.

Cllr James asked if the organisation had a list of all accommodation in the area and the answer was that all known premises had been asked to register with them. Cllr James felt that any list could be advertised in the Town "Grapevine".

Speaking as a business man in the Town Cllr James felt that during Royal Welsh Week trade in the outlying areas had seen a decrease and wondered if this would be the case with the Eisteddfod . Mr Gruffydd assured members that there would be no accommodation for the public on site and 200 caravan pitches therefore much more accommodation would be needed in the outlying areas and in past experience he felt that the spin off for these areas proved very positive with many people returning to places they had stayed .

Mr Gruffydd then spoke about funding and praised the Llanwrtyd Beulah and Garth area for almost reaching their target fund of £10,000 for the event . Cllr S. Jones informed members that the target figure has already been reached and there was still a planned concert in November which would also raise funds.

Mr Gruffydd outlined the benefits of being a sponsor and asked if Llanwrtyd Town Council would be interested in sponsorship, the least amount being £1000.00.

Cllr James pointed out that in these times of austerity the Town Council were not able to donate such a sum but would do all it could to promote the event and recognised its importance to the area.

Mr Gruffydd acknowledged this point and welcomed the awareness raising support that the Council pledged. To that end Cllr S. Jones asked if banners and bunting could be provided and Mr Gruffydd assured the Council that he would send some to the Clerk closer to the date.

Tickets for the event would go on sale in February 2018 and by March they would know the line-up of the opening concert.

Mr Gruffydd did say they would need volunteer stewards which could be applied for through their website which can be found on the promotional leaflet, available in the surgery and in the Arts and Heritage Centre.

Cllr James thanked Mr Gruffydd for his presentation and assured him that Llanwrtyd Wells would fully support the event and would be ready for visitors to the area giving them, as always, a warm and enthusiastic welcome. Mr Gruffydd left the meeting at 8.25pm. Cllr James resumed the agenda.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Declaration of interest** There were no declaration of interest.
3. **Minutes of the September minutes and Matters arising-** The Clerk informed members of an amendment requested by Cllr Rowlands and although the amendment was not noted on their copies it had been altered on those due to go out to the public. He also requested that at Item 5 the date of "the 1st November" be changed to "later in November". This was agreed by members and after due consideration the minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr A. Jones and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees.

Matters arising-1) the Clerk read an e-mail received from Mr A Powell regarding issues that the Town Council had raised with regard to the surgery.

2)An e-mail was read from Miss I Davies of planning regarding the status of the lane running alongside Myrtle House which stated that the lane is recorded as an urban footpath. This gives the public the right of walking but

any other use (i.e. by car) would have to be proven. There may be a private right of access by car which is a separate issue from the public right.

After much discussion it was decided that a letter be written to Powys Planning requesting a copy of the original planning documents for the building.

3) An e-mail was read from Mr G Davies of planning regarding the property "Snack Attack". It was stated that building control had gained access to the building earlier on in the year and that the site was unoccupied and only contained building material. Therefore, no action was considered necessary.

Much discussion ensued regarding this issue and it was suggested that a letter be written to Mr M. Keylock with a view to enquiring whether non-domestic rates were being paid on this building.

Action: Clerk to write above letters.

4. **Finance**

4.1 September Balance Sheet -the Clerk presented the September balance sheet. There were no issues raised by members and the September balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Pace-Avery and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees.

4.2 Banking arrangements -The Clerk informed members that a second account had been set up and requested permission to transfer monies from Account number one that related to income from the Street Market. Cllr James read a letter from Mr M Watkins in response to a letter sent from the Council. She gave permission for £500.00, which was held by the Town Council from a Memorial walk for her late husband Bryan Watkins, to be used for the Dolwen Field project. This too would be transferred to Account number two. Councillors unanimously supported the transfer of funds appropriate to the amount already raised.

Cllr James informed members that the cyclists had also donated monies for the project and that his sponsored "Movember Moustache" had so far raised over £300.00 which would go towards the project.

It was suggested that a thank you letter be written to Mrs Watkins for her kind donation to the project.

Action: Clerk to write above letter.

5. **Councillor Feedback**

5.1 Meeting of Tourism businesses in Llanwrtyd -**Cllr Rowlands** read out a letter that he had drafted for consideration by full Council regarding the invitation for businesses to meet to discuss how different groups might be able to work together to attract more visitors to the Town. Having read the letter he asked for Council approval to send out the letter to all businesses in Town. All members agreed that this would be a good idea. Cllr Rowlands suggested that the first meeting could be in January and that it would be advertised in the Grapevine. He informed members that the next meeting of the "Wellness" group in Llandrindod was at the end of November and asked if a representative was needed at the meeting and if so he was willing to attend. Cllr Pace Avery and Cllr P. Lambkin also volunteered, if needed, to attend.

Actions. Cllr Rowlands to attend above meeting.

Cllr Rowlands to write to all business in Llanwrtyd re; meeting in early January.

Cllr Rowlands to put A5 size article in "Grapevine."

Discussion then ensued as to the wide range of websites associated with Llanwrtyd and concerns were raised that there appeared to be no one central website that had all the information co-ordinated.

Cllr Van Rees enquired as to the "Cambrian Mountain Initiative" which appears to "died a death" despite many meetings where many businesses gave up their time to brainstorm ideas. Cllr James felt that the initiative had not produced anything of value to date and had heard no more.

Cllr Hughes informed members that many visitors from the Netherlands come to Llanwrtyd and as a Town we need to be seen to be providing the services necessary for a tourist area.

Cllr T. Van Rees reported on recent events regarding the Social Services report which had reached the media. As to whether any children in the local area had been put at risk, he assured members that no such risk was evident. He informed members that the County Councillors had been misled by officers with reports that were wholly inaccurate and that internal investigation currently underway could lead to a police investigation with regard to conduct in public office with possible prosecutions.

He reported that he had spoken to Mr S. Smith regarding repairs needed on the footbridge in Llanwrtyd and in Llangammarch and both would be dealt with. He reported that there was no news regarding the refurbishment of the War Memorial Institute and no news regarding the vicarage.

Cllr James reported that Mr Newman had been successful in obtaining one of the units on a lease basis and could apply to lease the second.

Cllr Voss reported that a member of the public has also expressed an interest in leasing one of the units. It was suggested that a letter be written to Mr P Morris stating that it was becoming obvious that enquiries are being made for small industrial units and could they please identify a site for such development in Llanwrtyd to be included in the Local Development Plan.

Cllr Lambkin informed members that 11 plots at Ty Cae Mawr were due to be auctioned in Cardiff. Cllr T Van Rees left the meeting at 8.40pm due to an early hospital engagement the following day. All members wished Cllr Van Rees well .

5.2 Volunteer data base -**Cllr Pace Avery** reported to members that Llanwrtyd was a pilot scheme for PAVO to record volunteers on a database. This is part of a Powys wide strategy. Llanwrtyd has been given two Tablets ,which are simple and easy to use, to digitally record the volunteer base in Llanwrtyd. The project will be beneficial to the Dolwen Field Project because we can use it as evidence of volunteer development.

Cllr Lambkin reported that the data base had been mentioned at a recent Green Events meeting and reported that there were mixed feelings about such a system with some being in favour and others feeling that it might put off volunteers.

During further discussion it was felt that a list of operating groups in Llanwrtyd would be useful for those who have moved into the area. It was suggested it could go on the board in the surgery.

Action: Clerk to devise a sheet for organisations to sign up to with a contact name, a time and a place of meeting with a view to compiling such a list.

She also reported That Radcliffe's had cut back the growth on the vacant plot of land at Erw Haf.

Cllr Voss reported

- that she had been approached by a member of the public dismayed to find crockery from the Chapel on the bridge being sold at a second-hand shop in Builth Wells at an exorbitant price.

that she had been informed that the County Council would be paid for allowing a mast to be sited on public land and that 30% of any payment should be passed to town and/or Community Councils. She said she had received a phone call from Roger Stevens at the Lasswade and he had told her that a friend of his who is a councillor at PCC had given him the information.

- The Town Council was not aware of such an arrangement.

Cllr Lambkin reported that there was a badger sett causing disturbance in the Cym Mynwent graveyard which is the responsibility of Powys county Council.

Action: Clerk to report this to Powys via their website.

Cllr Davies reported that a footpath, which runs through Victoria Wells had been closed off. He had spoken to Mr G Stickland who leads local walks and he has written to Powys concerned that this has happened. He claims there are many closed footpaths in the area that he is trying to get reopened. The Clerk confirmed that the Council had received a copy of the letter.

6. **Anti-Social Behaviour-** Cllr James explained that the recent damage to the Public toilets was due to the excessive wind . The damage incurred was minor with one of the hanging baskets brackets being sheared off the wall and a plaque inside had fallen off the wall breaking the glass.

No other issues of anti-social behaviour were brought to the table.

7. **Traffic Calming -** Cllr Rowlands reported that after an advert in the Grapevine for volunteers for the Go safe project only two had come forward when six are actually needed. It was suggested that another advert be put into the grapevine and advertising via Facebook was suggested. Cllr Lake offered to compile a piece to go on Facebook.

Action: Cllr Rowlands to liaise with Cllr Lake as to the content to be publicised.

Cllr Rowlands to put another advert in "Grapevine"

8. **Planning-**

- planning application P/2017/1159 to resurface an existing car park/ layby off the public road at the Washpool was considered. There were no objections to this application.
- planning application Ref P/2017/1017 to install a 22m lattice mast on a concrete base at Pentwyn Farm Abergwesyn was considered. Although there were no objections from the table since this is in private land Cllr S. Jones was concerned that she had not seen any notice of the works anywhere in Abergwesyn. She requested copies of the notice to put up in Abergwesyn . The closing date for objections for this application is 30th October.

Action: Clerk to send Cllr Jones copies of the notice.

9. **Twining-**Cllr Davies reported

- that the association were busy raising funds for the next visit from Meriel in two years' time and reported that a recent music quiz held in the Belle Vue had been very successful.

- that both Meriel and Cesky Krumlov were , once again , sending items over for the Christmas Tree festival.
- that in May/June 2018 approx 55 children were going to visit Manor Adventure
- that the children of Meriel had requested to lay a wreath on Armistice Day and that they were planning further celebrations to mark the centenary of the first World War next year.

10. Services

- a) Public Toilets- no further issues were raised regarding the public toilets. Cllr A. Jones asked when we would hear anything about Loo of the Year awards. The Clerk informed members that we should hear something by the end of October.
- b) Dolwen Field-The Clerk reported on the meeting that both she and Cllr Pace Avery had attended during the morning. The meeting was useful in as much as it gave the perspective of the people who would look at the application with the emphasis being on what Llanwrtyd has to currently offer and how the Community want to build and develop what we already have. This information will be relayed to the development committee and the application will be re-worked to take account of the information.

A letter of support for the project was read from the leader of the Council Mrs R Harries
Cllr James informed members that Mrs M Watkins had written giving approval for the monies raised during the memorial walk for her late husband, to be transferred to the Dolwen Field Project fund.

Action: Clerk to write a thank you letter to Mrs Watkins.

The Clerk informed members that contact had been made with Mr Evans regarding cutting of the hedge along Cefn Gorwedd road and repairing of the wire fence on Dolwen Field. She had met with Mr Evans and had obtained a verbal quote of £600.00 to do the job. There was some discussion regarding cost but the majority of Cllrs felt his rate as very competitive. Cllr James asked members to vote on accepting the quote to get the work done. 10/11 voted to accept the quote. The proposal was carried.

Action: Clerk to contact Mr Evans to proceed with the work.

Cllr Lake reported that eight a side football, run by Josh Powell and Sol Lake could be started on the Dolwen Filed. This was welcomed by Cllrs. who suggested some funding avenues that they might explore to set this up.

- c) Library- there were no issues relating to the Library. The volunteer system appears to be working well. Cllrs Pace-Avery and Voss informed members that they were hoping to resurrect the writing group at the library. Cllr James suggested that a letter recognising their success be sent to the volunteers. Cllr Voss volunteered to do this via Facebook .

- d) Town Square and Green-**Cllr James** informed members that the barometer to record monies raised for the Dolwen Field project was standing at £450.00. This needed to be updated.

Cllr Rowlands outlined the position with Wales in Bloom stating that the last time we applied was 2013. He had spoken to Ms Walsby and reported that they both felt a new approach was needed with the emphasis on Community involvement . The boxes had worked well this last year and several businesses had made a huge effort with their floral displays but more was needed from the Community and it wasn't just about the flower displays but about the look of the buildings, the tidiness of the Town etc.-a small group of volunteers was needed. Cllr James felt that individual businesses should be approached for them to take on some responsibility. It was suggested that a letter be put into the Grapevine to raise awareness of the "Wales in Bloom" initiative and to get a plan of action put together in conjunction with the school, local businesses and individual households. It was felt that this could be done in January. It was also pointed out that the forthcoming Eisteddfod, due to take place in Builth Wells in 2018 could be a good incentive for Llanwrtyd to pull together to make the Town look as attractive as possible for likely visitors during this period.

Action: Cllr Rowlands to compose an article for the Grapevine ready for inclusion in January.

- e) Surgery – The Clerk read the response from Mr A. Powell at Agenda Item 3 (matters arising) from September minutes. There were no other issues relating to the surgery brought to the table.

11. Correspondence

Item 3 on Agenda

- 1) e-mail from Mr A Powell in response to letter sent from TC
- 2) e-mail from Miss I. Davies at planning regarding access to the lane
- 3) e-mail from Miss I Davies re; Snack Attack
- 4) e-mail form Mr G Davies in response to Letter from town council re; Snack attack

Item 8 on Agenda

- 1) Planning application P/2017/1159 Resurface an existing car park at the Washpool.
- 2) Planning application P/217/1017 Installation of a 22m high mast on concrete base at Pentwyn Farm Abergwesyn.

Item 10b on Agenda

- 1) Letter of support for Dolwen Field Project from Ms R Harris Executive Leader Powys County Council.
- 2) e-mail from Mr S. Bourne (Director of Public Health) in response to letter sent by Cllr Pace-Avery.
- 3) Letter from Sarah Rochira Older People’s Commissioner for Wales re : Dolwen Field Project

Item 11 Correspondence

- Item 11.1 Letter from Dyfed Powys Police in response to letter sent by Town Council regarding Police Committees.
- Item 11.2 Letter from WPS regarding change of Scheme Insurer from Aviva to Royal Sun and Alliance from January 2018
- Item 11.3 e-mail from Powys waste regarding possible revised collection rounds.
- Item 11.4 Copy of letter sent to Powys from Mr G.Stickland re: right of way at Victoria Wells
- Item 11.5 e-mail from electrician of trunk road agency re; erection of Christmas lights, plus application form.
- Item 11.6 e-mail from One Voice Wales re; Burial charges for children.
- Item 11.7 Letter from Citizens Advice re; financial assistance..

A letter was received via Cllr Voss from Ms S Hazell expressing her disappointment with the Town Council regarding installation of the mast at Ty Cae Mawr.

Action: Clerk to respond accordingly.

Cllr Jones requested clarification regarding the recycling unit from Cae Post which is sited in the car park behind Victoria Hall.. The position of the unit was not appropriate as it blocked the other re-cycling units. When it was moved to another position it was put back in its original place by persons unknown.

This unit is for plastic film but there has been little or no publicity for its use. The contract was for a trial period of 3months. After much discussion the Council decided to extend the contract for another three months and to put an article in the grapevine to explain its existence to the public.

Action: Clerk to contact Cae Post with a view to extending contract.

Clerk to write short article for Grapevine

Clerk to ensure that the existing unit is emptied asap.

Signed.....

Date.....

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER

Amendments: Cllr Voss requested the following amendments;
At Item 5 councillor feedback an alteration of the wording

“that the County Council would be paid for allowing a mast to be sited in Llanwrtyd and that 30% of the payment should be passed to town and/or Community Councils. The Town Council was not aware of such an arrangement.”

Be changed to :

“that she had been informed that the County Council would be paid for allowing a mast to be sited on public land and that 30% of any payment should be passed to Town and/or Community Councils. She said she had received a phone call from Roger Stevens at the Lasswade and he had told her that a friend of his who is a councillor at PCC had given him the information.

The Town Council was not aware of such an arrangement.”

At item 5 Councillor feedback that the cutting back of the plot of land at Erw Haf be attributed to Cllr Pace-Avery and not herself.