

Minutes of the Town Council meeting Held on Wednesday 17th September 2014 in the Council Chamber of the War Memorial Institute Llanwrtyd Wells.

Present

Cllrs: P James, L. Haines, P.Lambkin, J. Rowlands, B. Hodges N Price R. Thomas, T. Van Rees, A Jones

In attendance: Mrs L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Councillor James welcomed all back after the recess and welcomed the guest speaker Mr I Harris, (Environmental manager for the area).

Several issues of concern were put before Mr Harris:

- Grass cutting in the cemetery
Mr Harris assured the Council that all operatives using strimmers were trained and would investigate the poor cutting.
- The damage to tree and boxes on Beulah Road

Mr Harris apologised for the damage to trees and offered to try to replace them. Councillor Rowlands preferred to buy new ones and plant them when the timing was right. With regard the boxes--we are not likely to get these replaced and were informed that cutting from now on would be to boundaries and advised that the boxes be lifted in some way.

- Maintenance of the footbridge over the River Irfon -Mr Harris said he would investigate whose responsibility it was to maintain the bridge and would get back to the Council.
- The road Sign for Victoria Road

Mr Harris said he would investigate how we would go about getting this road sign replaced and report back to the Council

- Japanese Knotweed.

The Clerk had informed Mr Harris as to the whereabouts of the Japanese Knotweed in Town and he reported that they would be treating it in the very near future by injecting into the stems to kill off the root system.

- Cllr lambkin reported that the Abergwesyn sign was missing some letters and that .she was willing to paint them in . However it was felt that this should be pursued through the correct channels and Mr Harris agreed that he would find out more and report back.

Throughout the conversation much was discussed about the future of grass cutting as the budget cuts started to bite Cllr Van Rees substantiated these budget cuts and outlined in general the scale of the proposed cuts.

Mr Harris informed the meeting that the Depot in Llangammarch would no longer be an operational centre(although the depot will remain) and our nearest operational centre would be at Pen y Bont. He was unsure whether he would still be our point of contact but ensured us he would keep us informed of developments.

Mr Harris informed the Council that the repair of the Bridge at Abergwesyn was on hold until the new financial year but a culvert by the Chapel in Abergwesyn was to be repaired in the near future.

Cllr James thanked Mr Harris for his time and hoped that we could continue to work cooperatively to provide as good a service as possible for the residents of Llanwrtyd in spite of the pending cuts in finance.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr P Tonks (due to family funeral)

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.**

One amendment from Cllr Hodges was noted. There were no other issues and the minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by Cllr R Thomas.

3. **Finance**

3.1. The Clerk presented the balance sheet from 30th June to the present date. Clarification was sought with regard to outstanding monies still owed to Mr Stevenson for the play area and outstanding monies from this project. Cllr Rowlands reminded the Council that monies transferred from the Swansea Building Society during the "Parc" project should now be returned. Discussion ensued regarding the amount to be transferred. Cllr James proposed that the amount of £3500 be returned to the Swansea building Society as soon as possible. This was seconded by Cllr R Thomas.

Action: Clerk to transfer £3500.00 back into the Swansea building Society

3.2. The Model Financial Regulations provided by One Voice Wales, which was discussed and adapted to fit Llanwrtd Town Council by the Clerk/RFO and three members of the Council (Cllr Haines, Cllr Tonks and Cllr Jones), was

brought to the table. Cllr Haines outlined the document and raised several issues which were considered by the full Council .

The issue of risk assessments was brought to the table and it was proposed that risk assessments (which are currently done) and any new risk assessments carried out, be logged so we have a record of them.

Cllr Hodges proposed that the Council adopt these Financial Regulations. This was seconded by Cllr Price.

3.3 Final Acceptance of the External Audit-The Clerk outlined the procedure for “notice of conclusion “” which is to be posted in a public place for 14 days. Cllr James proposed to accept the findings of external audit and this was seconded by Cllr Rowlands.

3.4 Added Insurance-The Clerk informed the Council that the improved play area and the painting by Jo Oddie had been added to the Council’s Insurance policy at a cost of £17.77. The play area insurance was increased by £49,000 and the painting was insured for £500.00.

3.5 The Clerk informed the Council that as part of their redistribution policy Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council would receive the sum of £30.00 from the Wales Audit Office.

4. Anti-social Behaviour

- The Clerk read a letter from PCSO Wheeldon regarding a multidisciplinary meeting to be held at Riverside on the 8th October at 2:00pm. She requested a member of the Town Council attend.

Cllr P. James said he would attend this meeting.

Action: Clerk to respond to PCSO Wheeldon to confirm attendance of a Council Member.

- A letter was received from a resident outlining concerns about the “amenity “area on Tai Cae Mawr.. After much discussion it was established that it was a condition of planning permission that this area be designated as a child’s play area. The owner of the development still has responsibility for this area of land.. The Council agreed with the complainant’s comments which stated that it was commendable that the areas had been tidied up by another resident and a group of volunteers.

Action: The Clerk to respond to the complainant outlining the position of ownership of the area and the conditions of planning permission.

- A letter was received from a resident concerned about the possibility of making Ochr Bryn/ Tai Cae Mawr a one way system as fears were held about this area becoming a “speed run” when new houses were built down to Station Road. After much discussion it was agreed to write to the resident pointing out that no proposals had been put forward for a connecting road to be built but the Council would be vigilant to such proposals in the future. Any concerns about speeding or any other traffic offence should be reported to the Police.

Action :Clerk to write to resident outlining the above points.

- Cllr Rowlands outlined his concerns about dog fouling on pavements and roads along Ffos Road and generally around Town. It was brought to the attention of the Council that there were no “dog bins” available in Llanwrtyd and that the bins along Station Road were no longer available to deposit dog mess in. Cllr Price pointed out that the normal waste bins in Town were available to deposit dog mess in.

After much discussion it was felt that a dog specific bin be costed for the area around the Station as this was a popular dog walking area .Cllr Jones was asked if she would find a suitable site while Cllr Hodges offered to write a reminder about the consequence of dog fouling to be put into the Grapevine.

Action:

- Cllr Jones to find a suitable site near the station.
- Cllr Hodges to write a paragraph for the Grapevine
- The Clerk to investigate price s for dog bins and find dog notice from previous years if possible.

5. Traffic Calming

5.1 The Clerk outlined the position with regard these signs .After a communication failure with Jo Lancey the planned meeting did not take place and has been rescheduled for Thursday 2nd October at 3;00pm. She will discuss with Kim Everson the amount of Horse traffic through Town and seek her thoughts on placement of the signs.

5.2

- Cllr James reported that the issue of speeding on Ffos Road had been brought to the attention of the Police who would monitor the situation. The Clerk reported that after communication with Mr Mills at Powys County Council we had been put on a list to have traffic data strips put at both ends of Ffos Road. The resident who had brought this to the attention of the Council had been informed of these developments.
- A letter from Hereford Motor Club was read to members regarding rally cars in Town. The Motor Club absolved themselves of responsibility for the disruption in Town on the 31st May but were nevertheless sorry that the opening of the play park had been disrupted by excessive noise.

6. Feedback from Councillors

- Cllr Lambkin brought up the issue of the sign for Abergwesyn toilets. It had been reported to her that revenue in the honesty Box had been low throughout the summer because of lack of signage. It was suggested that the caretaker Mr Dodds could be asked to make a sign.

Action: Clerk to speak to Mr Dodds with regard the above.

- Cllr Haines reported that the Hedge along station road was becoming overgrown. There was some dispute as to whether it was overgrown and whose responsibility it was for cutting back. It was felt it was the landowner's responsibility. Cllr James suggested it be monitored and be brought back to the next meeting.

6.2 A letter was read from Gordon Green, on behalf of the WAG Committee regarding the lack of Camping facilities within Llanwrtyd and requesting that the Town Council inform the appropriate authorities about the problem. He made reference in his letter to the "Old tip" which could now, after 25years, be considered for such a site.

After much discussion Cllr Hodges offered to find out more about the current state of affairs with the site mentioned with regard to land contamination.

Further discussion then ensued with regard the WAG in general:

- Cllr Lambkin brought up the issue of a talk on "Farming Today" when Mr Green had intimated that the WAG games had brought a vast sum of money to the Town.
- Cllr Price reported feedback to him from the public stating that they felt that the event was too long, during the day when a lot of people were at work and that events were too expensive. On a positive note many thought the world flags were a lovely touch.
- Cllr Rowlands reported that the organisers were thinking of making the next event, in two years, shorter.
- Cllr James proposed that Mr Green be invited to our next meeting to discuss the camping issue and to give his perspective on the Games. This was agreed by members

Action : Clerk to write to Mr Green to invite him to our next meeting.

6.3 Councillor Vacancy

Cllr James informed members that there had been one application for the post of Councillor from Miss Sarah Jones of Abergwesyn. He outlined Miss Jones's qualifications and experiences. Cllr Jones also pointed out that Miss Jones was a Welsh speaker and this would be beneficial to the Council in the future as greater emphasis would be put on Councils in the future to use Welsh in their communications. This was corroborated by Cllr James. After some discussion a vote was taken and Miss Jones was unanimously accepted as Councillor.

Action: Clerk to inform Miss Jones of the Council's decision and inform the appropriate authorities of her appointment.

7. Planning

There were three planning applications brought to the table.

- Planning application P/2014/0653. Development of 5 dwellings on land adjacent to Erw Haf, Ffos Road. –notice had been received for attendance at this full Planning Committee. Cllr Van Rees informed members that he had been informed that planning consent had been granted for this development but with a long list of Conditions to be adhered to.
- 7.1 Planning Application P/2014/0739 Removal of conditions 3,4,5 of permission P/2014/0045 relating to Code for sustainable Homes requirements at 17 Tai Cae Mawr, Ffos Road. - there were no issues of concern regarding this application after it was explained by Cllr Price.

- 7.2 Planning Application P/2014/0843-Erection of a double garage with storage above (part retrospective) at Maesbrynar Ffos Road. It was felt that this application contravened planning laws in many respects and it was felt that a report outlining these contraventions should be sent to the relevant Planning Authority.

8. Twinning

Cllr Rowlands informed the meeting that there was a contingent from Meriel in Llanwrtyd for the Four day walks. He also informed members that there was a large party of 23 proposing to visit Cesky Krumlov next Spring.

9. Services

9.1 Green Bring Site

No further information was forthcoming regarding the Green Bring Site.

9.2 Riverside Toilets

Councillors had been sent the County Council's Cabinet report before the meeting and were therefore "au fait" with the contents of the document. Much discussion ensued with questions asked as to what criteria was used to allocate the monies. It was felt that the Town Council should pursue the issue of the toilet being a short distance from the major trunk road with the Welsh Assembly Government. We should also request a refit of the toilets to make them fit for purpose in the 21st century before considering taking them over and question the different monetary allocation to facilities in the County of similar size to Llanwrtyd .

Action: Clerk to write to Mr A. Knox copied to Mr J. Powell at Powys County Council in the first instance.

10. Dolwen Field

10.1 Play Area

This area is still not finished and attempts to make contact with the contractor have been fruitless. Cllr Price suggested that before we make further contact a meeting be held with the LW Parc Committee to discuss exactly what needs finishing.

10.2 Pavilion

- It was agreed that a Pavilion Management meeting be called at the end of the month to discuss a variety of issues.
- The Clerk informed the Council that the electricity Supply contract with SSE was due for renewal. After a discussion about quarterly charges and units costs it was unanimously decided to renew this contract for the fixed period stated (ie 24 months).

10.3 Grass Cutting-no further issues were brought to the table as all were discussed with Mr Harris at the beginning of the meeting.

10.4 Camping

A letter, written on behalf of the WAG committee by Mr G Green, was read to the Council. It outlined the need for a permanent Camping / Caravan park in Llanwrtyd Wells siting the "Old Tip" as a possible venue. The letter urged the Town Council to alert the appropriate authorities to the issue.

Cllr James proposed that Mr Green be invited to the next Town Council Meeting to discuss this issue .This was seconded by Cllr Van Rees

.In the meantime Cllr Hodges volunteered to find out the situation with land contamination on the site.

11. Town Square and Green

11.1 Flagpole

Cllr Hogdes outlined prices from various companies who would install the base, and erect the flagpole. She had sought advice about planning permission and no such permission is needed. After much discussion it was felt that "contractor installation" would be the way forward to ensure Health and Safety issues were adequately covered. It was agreed that Cllr Hodges invite three companies to visit the site with the view to possible future tendering. Cllr Price and Cllr Rowlands agreed to attend this site meeting when arranged.

11.2 Other Issues

Cllr Rowlands informed members that Mrs C. Pritchard had planted a new tree on the town Square replacing the damaged one. It was felt that a letter of thanks should be written. Also speak to Mr Croker, who strims the Square, to be vigilant of the new sapling.

Action; Clerk to write to Mrs Pritchard and speak to Anthony Croker about strimming.

Cllr Jones brought up the issue of the Oak Tree which needs to be planted. It was suggested it be planted on Dolwen Field . This was to be investigated and reported back to the next meeting.

Cllr Rowlands reported that the fruit trees behind the Pavilion had disappeared. He offered to investigate further and report back to the next meeting.

12 . Correspondence

Item 3.3 Letter from the External Auditor outlining final process with invoice .

Item 3.4 Letter from WPS insurance with bill for including the painting and play are equipment on the insurance schedule.

Item 3.5 Letter from Wales Audit office informing the Council of a redistribution sum.

Item 4.0 Letter from resident regarding Amenity area on Tai Cae Mawr ([response to be made](#))

Item 5.2 G-mail from Ian Mills regarding speeding on Ffos road together with a map.

Item 5.2 Letter from resident requesting a one way system. Ochr Bryn/Tai Cae Mawr([response to be made](#))

Item 5.2 Response from Hereford Motor Club re ; rally cars through Town.

Item 6.3 Letter from Miss Sarah Jones regarding Councillor Vacancy.([response to be made](#))

Item 7.0 Planning application p/2014/0739 Removal of Conditions 3,4 and 5 relating to the Code for sustainable Homes requirements .

Item 7.1 Planning application/2014/0653 inviting representation to speak at Planning Meeting with regard land adjacent to Erw Haf.

Item 7.2 Planning application P/2014/0843 regarding construction of double garage and storage at Maesbrynar, Ffos Road ([response to be made](#))

Item 9.2 Cabinet Report on Public toilets (sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting ([letter to be written to Mr Knox and Mr Powell](#)))

Item 10.2 Letter from SSE regarding renewal of contract for electricity at the Pavilion([accept new contract](#))

Item 12.0 Letter to Mayor invite to annual general Meeting of St David's Foundation Hospice Care([response to be made](#))

Item 12.1 Letter from One voice wales regarding motions to be taken forward to the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 4th October.

Item12.2 Letter from Gill Wright (HOWLTA), raffle tickets and notice of AGM([response to be made](#))

Item 12.3 G-mail from Becky Hulme re; red squirrels

Item 12.4 Letter from mid wales Fire and Rescue offering a talk.

Item 12.5. Acknowledgement of the Summer Ambassadors Pack from Powys regarding Involvement in managing cuts in services.

Item 12.6 Letter from Mr Davies re; road closures (response to be made)

Item 12.7 Letter from Gordon green regarding Camping in the Town

Item 12.8 G-mail from Carol Pritchard re: tree on Square that she planted to mark the Queens Jubilee.

Item 12.9 G-mail from Jen Walsby regarding the £300.00 grant for flower boxes.

Item 12.10 G-mail form Peter Tonks

Item 12. 11 Letter from Builth Community Support

Date of next Meeting : Wednesday 15th October

Signed.....

Date.....

Lynn E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Amendments

Cllr Lanbkin requested that the issue of the Abergwesyn sign be included

This addition is done in the beginning section :

- Cllr lambkin reported that the Abergwesyn sign was missing some letters and that .she was willing to paint them in . However it was felt that this should be pursued though the correct channels and Mr Harris agreed that he would find out more and report back.

Cllr Rowlands requested that the following line be omitted with regard the boxes on the 483 .:

Cllr Rowlands pointed out that permission from the Trunk Road Agency had been sought some time ago to place the boxes in their current position. (He was in fact referring to the trees not the boxes).

Clr Rowlands wished to insert (although the depot will remain) with regard the sentence below

Mr Harris informed the meeting that the Depot in Llangammarch would no longer be an operational centre () and our nearest operational centre would be at Pen y Bont

