

Minutes of a Meeting of the Development Committee, Monday January 9th 2012 at 7pm in Council Chamber, War Memorial Institute.

Present – Cllrs Prichard, Newman, Burton, Price, James, A Jones, and Van-Rees.

In attendance – Mrs Pat Dryden.

Mr Robert Christie and Ms Lindsay Haines were observers.

1 Apologies for Absence – Cllr Rowlands

2 Proposed Conservation Area

Cllr Prichard reflected that all members of the town council had received the correspondence from Mr Christie, plus the clerk's response, and Mr Christie's further response, and that a meeting had been offered to Mr Christie with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk and a convenient date was being awaited from Mr Christie.

She reported that today an email had been received from CY Griffiths agreeing to a meeting between Llanwrtyd TC, Cy and her manager Peter Morris, CC Van-Rees and Mr Christie, Mr Christie commented that this was the first he had heard of it. The clerk said she had tried to speak with Ms Griffiths on the phone, and the email had come through after 5pm with the above message.

Cllr A Jones asked why the meeting was being arranged. Cllr Van-Rees said that 20 years ago when grants were available, Llandrindod and Brecon benefited, and being a conservation area was not considered to be onerous on property owners. Residents who have a particular point of view must be given opportunity to express them. Cllr A Jones asked why the open meeting held in October was not good enough and suggested that this was just a point of view.

Cllr Price said that if the issue was with one of process by PCC then this was an issue with them not the TC. Cllr Newman said that as no official complaint had been made re the TC, then a meeting might help all to move forward.

Cllr Van-Rees said that general comments in Mr Christie's email suggests that the TC were pushing forward with a request for a conservation area, when in reality the TC were pushing forward with a survey to establish residents views. Cllr A Jones asked what difference it made.

Mr Christie said there were strong implications in Cy Griffiths' email that undemocratic procedures had taken place. Cllr Van-Rees said that any firm proposal would have to go to the Planning Committee; however the clerk confirmed that Ms Griffiths had said at the open meeting that if the outcome of the survey was positive, then it would have to go to the Cabinet for approval.

Cllr Van-Rees confirmed that the meeting would not be a public meeting, but a TC meeting with Ms Griffiths and her senior manager present, plus Mr Christie and two colleagues, and it was agreed this would be convened without delay.

Cllr Van-Rees said he had spoken with CC Wyn Jones, the cabinet member involved. There was an agreement that members had always said they would respect local people's decision. Mr Christie said that if the proposed conservation area was to be dropped, then all other issues would fall away. Clerk to set up meeting urgently between LTC, Cy Griffiths, Mr Christie and CC Van Rees, Mr Christie to make convenient dates available to the clerk ASAP.

3 Brown Tourism Signs

Two templates had been sent from Friends of TIC via Mrs Benton. It was noted that these have been discussed on more than one occasion previously by the town council.

Members preferred Draft 3 which includes 'Historic Spa Town'. There was a discussion and agreement that it was preferable that there was no reference to any specific event, it was pointed out that man versus horse was the first event to take place, also that there are several event organisers in town and it might be seen as inequitable for one group's events to be mentioned and not others. Any sign needs to be fully bi lingual. Clerk to respond.

4 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The clerk had written to Ysgol Dôlafon to request use of the school grounds for the celebrations, and the request looks positive. Cllr Price said that Victoria Hall and car park area could be a backup.

There were various suggestions for children's games including sack race, egg and spoon, pin the tail on the donkey, rounders etc. Cllr Price will discuss with the Festival Committee.

There was a suggestion of a tea dance, Cllr A Jones to discuss with person who provides this at Victoria Hall on Monday's.

Cllr Price said there will be no response regarding placing the beacon on top of the Fire Station until March/April. It was decided to go ahead and make the purchase, clerk to do. There was a discussion regarding storage of the beacon.

It had been decided that there would be no hog roast due to the cost involved, but there was suggestions of a BBQ. Cllr Jones asked if she had missed a meeting, and it was agreed that local organisations/people be asked to lend

BBQ's to save money. Cllr James offered to approach local businesses to ask them to donate food and there were suggestions for 'bring and share' parties.

The Stonecroft will provide the bar, the disco was confirmed and the marquee booked. Cllr Van-Rees generously offered to pay for commemorative mugs.

5 Quotes of Maintenance and Configuration of the Pavilion

Cllr Burton declared an interest and left the meeting. Mr Christie and Ms Haines left as this item was confidential.

Cllr Van-Rees briefly outlined his intention to ask the Llanwrtyd and Builth Credit Union, currently based in Builth Wells, whether they would be interested in using the Police Office on the ground floor of the Institute. He then declared an interest and left the meeting.

Cllr Prichard said three quotes had been received for the outside maintenance work and two for the reconfiguration of the inside. Cllr Price said that Mr Cohen's recommendations suggested that the work would give the building in the region of fifteen more years of life. There was unanimous agreement that the outside maintenance needed doing without delay.

Members discussed how the building is not used a great deal, and whether better facilities would encourage more use. It was agreed that a new kitchen is needed, plus more toilets and showers with plain white tiles and porcelain and non-slip flooring.

There was a unanimous agreement to accept the quote from Ken Burton for the outside maintenance, and the inside reconfiguration providing we are successful in a grant application. Cllr price will arrange to meet with Mr Burton to discuss specific details and ask him to begin the outside work without delay.

Funding was discussed; there is £7,500 of the Calor grant remaining, plus offers of £2,500 from Charcroft Electronics Ltd and £2,500 from Paul Newman personally. The clerk to look at the QE2 grant application form.

Pat Dryden

13/01/2012