

Minutes of the Special Meeting held in the Big Room in the War Memorial Institute on Tuesday 27th October

Proposed Closure of Barclays Bank

Present: Cllrs P James, N. Price, J Rowlands, L. Pace-Avery, S. Jones, A. Jones, J.Davies, A Edwards, P Lambkin, T Van Rees.

Kirsty Williams AM, Gary Price

Gordon Green , Karen Perkins ((Save our Bank Action Group)

Sue Hazell, Arthur Price, Susan Panteg, Mr Avery, Steven Mills, Gary Price

Apologies for Absence: Apologies from Mr Price on Chris Davies' behalf and from Gordon Green on Rob christie's behalf.

Cllr James opened the meeting at 7:00pm thanking everyone for attending. He outlined the basic agenda for the meeting.

1. Who's who

Cllr James asked everyone to identify themselves and who they represented.

2. Where are we now?

Cllr James outlined the actions taken by the Town Councillors to date. Several letters had been written to relevant people and newspapers had been contacted with disappointing take up. The Clerk outlined the correspondence with Mr Adrian Davies who is keen to have a location for the ATM as soon as possible. Gordon Green informed the meeting of the letters that the Save our Bank Action Group had sent but again the response had been poor or non-existent.

Cllr James asked Kirsty Williams to give a brief update on what she had been doing.

Ms Williams informed the meeting that;

- She had had written confirmation from Mr Davies that Barclays were committed to keeping the ATM in Llanwrtyd but its use would be monitored on an annual basis.
- That the post office had agreed to look at the provision of providing a "Local Plus " facility.(Cllr Van Rees informed the meeting that he had spoken to Miss Christie and she was in agreement to have upgraded Post Office facilities within the garage). Ms Williams suggested there may be funding available for refurbishment of the building.
- Nat West were closing a number of branches but were proposing a mobile banking service for rural Towns and Villages. There is a possibility that they would add Llanwrtyd to their route in the future.
- Credit Union want to establish a presence on the High Street. There is something called a "Common Bond" with "Red Kite Credit Union". Any provision would need to be negotiated with "Red Kite" but long term this could provide a solution. Credit Union are looking for support from Powys County Council and the Welsh Government. Credit union is to meet with Mr Griffiths at Powys.

Cllr Van Rees was keen to attend any such meeting.

- Cllr James informed the meeting that Ms Oddie, owner of the premises, would be willing to keep the ATM in the building subject to negotiation with Barclays.
- Cllr Van Rees informed everyone that the Trustees of the War memorial Institute could offer a space for the ATM if necessary.
- Mr G Price addressed the meeting saying that he was stepping in for his colleague Chris Davies who was unable to attend the meeting. He was in favour of the Local Plus Post Office idea but was concerned that the owner of the garage needs to be aware of the extra work it would involve, probably without any further staff.
- Cllr Rowlands enquired of Mr Price whether the matter had been raised in the House of Commons as was promised by Mr Davies at the original meeting with Barclay's representatives. Mr Price said that he was hoping to have a word with Mr Javid. Mr Davies to inform us if the issue has been raised.
- Cllr Pace-Avery enquired if the mobile Bank would be prepared to have a presence on Event days.

- Gordon Green put forward a letter which he wanted to send to Mr McFarlane asking for an interview with him in London. The Clerk read the letter to all present. After some debate it was agreed by all that the letter should be sent on Town Council headed notepaper and should be signed by Cllr James as Mayor of Llanwrtyd, by registered Post, and should be signed for. A copy of the letter should also be sent to Mr Derek French. Mr Green felt that with the right people attending Mr McFarlane would not refuse. Mr Green reported that he had a contact in London and that parking for a coach could be made available in Billingsgate Market, a place which is visible from Barclay's Offices. He suggested taking banners and a coach of people to have a show of action.

3. Where are we Going?

Cllr Edwards informed the meeting about the "thunderclap" and how it worked. She has registered an account and drafted a message but felt that a video was needed to go with the message, possibly with a quirky song as well. Cllr James suggested contacting Mrs Keeble who has experience of putting videos together. Cllr Davies agreed to contact Mrs Keeble.

Karen Perkins informed members that the surveys the Action group had circulated were proving a success and that the data received was currently being analysed and would be a great asset in taking things forward. She felt the results would show what Barclays have not done.

The point about security in the transport of monies was raised should we lose the bank and it was suggested that a letter be written to the Chief Constable outlining the potential of increased crime as a result of the Bank closing.

It was agreed that Cllr James and the clerk draft such a letter.

4. What needs to be done.

- a) Letter needs to be sent from Town Council to Mr McFarlane and Mr French
- b) A letter to the Chief Constable regarding safety in transporting cash.
- c) A letter to be written to the Post Office with regard Local Plus provision and what it actually means for the services provided and the implications for those who work in the garage..
- d) Cllr Davies to contact Mrs Keeble regarding the making of a short video for the "thunderclap".
- e) Cllr Edwards to pursue the organising of the "Thunderclap".
- f) Cllr Van Rees to be involved in the meeting with Mr P Griffiths regarding the development of Credit union Facilities.
- g) Nat West Mobile Banking to be pursued to find out more about when and what they can offer their services.

Ms Williams informed the meeting that a meeting was arranged for the 30th October at 11.30am in the Watergate Offices in Brecon with the Post office Representatives and invited members of the meeting to attend if they so wished. Cllr Van Rees and Cllr Pace Avery volunteered to attend on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Rowlands, in his capacity of Chairperson of the Heritage Centre, put forward the idea of writing to Mr Davies with a view to have one day opening at the current Branch, using staff from Llandovery or Builth to provide an interim service whilst we endeavoured to secure other provision.

Cllr Edwards thanked Kirsty Williams for all the hard work she has done on the Towns behalf regarding the issue of the Bank and all concurred..

Cllr James briefly recapped on actions to be taken and actions carried out so far and set the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 10th November, giving time for some response from Mr. McMcfarlane.

He thanked all for their hard work and input and closed the meeting at 8:10pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Date of next Meeting: **TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER** in the Big Room at the War Memorial Intitute.