

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th April at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute in Llanwrtyd Wells.

Present: Cllrs; J Rowlands, P. Tonks, T.Van Rees, A.Jones, G.Rowlands P.James, B.Hodges, P.Lambkin

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

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. N. Price, L. Haines

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 19th March were scrutinised. There were no amendments to the minutes. Cllr. Tonks proposed the minutes as accurate, seconded by Cllr. Jones.

3. Finance.

3.1 The clerk presented the end of year balance sheet together with the bank reconciliation and the overall payments and receipts for the year. They were approved as accurate by Cllr Tonks and seconded by Cllr. G. Rowlands.

3.2 The proposed budget for the year 2014-2015 was distributed and discussed with the precept this year standing at £16,500.

3.3 The issue of The Legislative Reform (Payments by Parish councils and Charter Trustees) order 2014 was discussed. This Order "removes the outdated requirement for every cheque or other order for the payment of money by a Town council and Community council to be signed by two members of the council-The Two signature rule"

Whilst councillors agreed that this would be the way forward in the future it was proposed unanimously that the Two Signature Rule remain in place for the foreseeable future until it was clear how such reform would actually work with the banks. Cllr A. Jones formally proposed the motion for things to remain the same. This was seconded By Cllr. B. Hodges..

3.4 Inventory –Cllr Rowlands outlined the need for the inventory to be updated and called for a volunteer to undertake the task. He informed Councillors that Mrs C. Pritchard (former Councillor) would support the volunteer in the task. Cllr Hodges volunteered to do the inventory.

3.5 Insurance- The insurance schedule was discussed and it was felt by all that no changes needed to be made at the present but when the Dolwen play area is complete we may have to add the extra equipment to the policy. The annual premium of £2351.01 from WPS Insurers was accepted. This is the second year of a three year agreement with the Insurers.

4. Anti-Social Behaviour.

The PACT meeting took place on the 12th April but no feedback was given.

Cllr Lambkin reported an incident in relation to her horses out on Cefn Gorwedd Road where their winter rugs had been removed. This could have proved damaging to the horses given the very cold nights we have been experiencing. She had reported the incident to the Police and had been given a crime number.

She also reported that the Twinning Notice board on the frontage of the Institute had been smashed.

Action ; Clerk to write to the Secretary of the Twinning Association, Mrs H. Davies, to inform her of this . No further incidents were reported.

5. Traffic Calming.

5.1 Cllr. Rowlands informed the meeting that the new signage was in place and he was very pleased with it. Cllr Tonks had received some negative feedback regarding the removal of the 3-2-1 signs, but the general feedback was positive with the signs making a positive visual entrance to the Town. It was suggested letters be written to Mr D. Williams, Trunk Road Agency, and Ms Jo Lancey, PCC, thanking them for their support and hard work in bringing this project to fruition..

Action : Clerk to write to Mr D. Williams and Ms J. Lancey.

5.2 Victoria Road –Cllr. Tonks reported that he had been approached about the speed of the traffic on Victoria Road from the speed restriction sign to Victoria Wells Motel. He had spoken to various residents who had agreed that cars are speeding along the lane. It was suggested that the speed restriction sign be extended further up the road. After much discussion it was agreed the Clerk write to Powys County Council to effect this alteration if possible.

Action; Clerk to write to Ms J. Lancey with a view to extending the speed restriction zone.

6. Feedback from Councillors

6.1 WAG

Cllr Hodges reported the following

- The medals and the tee shirts had been ordered
- There had been a recent media “plug “on the “One Show” to promote the event.
- The WAG brochure will be ready for the Man v Horse event.
- The WAG committee are currently looking for a new treasurer.
- The website is currently being updated.
- Several sponsors have been obtained for the event with more in the pipeline but there is still a shortfall. Cllr Hodges to communicate with Cllr. Van Rees who will approach PCC for some additional financial support since the Welsh Government will only provide a grant if it is match funded.
- There will be a press release on the 28th April for the event.

6.2 Other Issues

Cllr Van Rees outlined the position regarding Bromsgrove Hall. The Charity Commission has been informed in writing of the disbanding of the Bromsgrove Hall Committee and the matter now rests with Powys County Council.

The Clerk read a letter from the executive leader of Powys County Council, Mr B. Thomas, regarding the issue of Bromsgrove Hall which stated that a paper would go to Cabinet before the end of April in “respect of the long term responsibility for the above Hall”.

7. Mayor/ Deputy Mayor

Cllr Rowlands reminded Councillors that the next years Mayor and Deputy will need to be addressed at the AGM in May. No Councillor confirmed or denied that they would be putting themselves forward. He reiterated that anyone who had been appointed as a Councillor within the last year was not eligible to stand.

8. Planning

8.1 No planning applications were brought to the table. Cllr Lambkin raised the issue of building works next to the current vicarage. Cllr Van Rees and Cllr Rowlands clarified the position with regard ownership of the land behind the vicarage. Services and access are currently being developed in order to build a new Vicarage.

8.2 **“Snack Attack”** There were no further developments to report regarding this property. Cllr Jones reiterated her concerns regarding the removal of the Victorian frontage of the building.

8.3 Cllr Rowlands reported that the new planning enforcement officer based in Welshpool had been in contact regarding the property along Station Road with a water tank along the front wall. He had recently taken over the enforcement file and had noted an entry in the file about the tank and had asked if the Council had any further information. The general consensus of the meeting was that this feature at the frontage of the building concerned has already been in place for at least four years and, whilst there had been an earlier complaint, it was probably too late to pursue the matter further. Cllr Jones wondered whether the issue of ‘Snack Attack’ could be raised with the new enforcement officer.

Action: Cllr Rowlands to respond via telephone to discuss these matters with the enforcement officer. The Clerk to speak first to Ms D. Hurley who has so far been dealing with the need for a planning application to be submitted by the owner of ‘Snack Attack’.

9. Twinning.

9.1 Bryan Watkins Memorial Walk.

Cllr Rowlands confirmed that this would take place on Saturday May 10th. The walk will be a gentle 6-7 mile walk led by Mr B. Davies and Mr J. Davies. The start of the walk will be the Memorial Garden with everyone meeting at 1.30pm. The walk will finish at the Pavilion on Dolwen Field where tea/coffee /cake/biscuits will be available. There is no official entry fee for this walk but there will be bucket collections for donations along the way.

Action: Clerk to produce posters for the event and send copy of advert to grapevine for inclusion in next month's edition.

9.2 Meriel Visit

The clerk read a letter from the secretary of the Twinning Association, Mrs H. Davies, formally confirming the dates of the Twinning visit as being June 20-23rd and invited Council members to join them if they so wished.

The issue of a gift to take to Meriel was discussed. It was finally decided that a piece of stained glass be designed to depict something typically Welsh and that Ms C. Bergman and Mrs A. Bessant be approached with a view to designing and producing the piece.

Action: Cllr Rowlands to make contact with the above people.

9. Services.

9.1 Green Bring Site.

Cllr Van Rees reported that Mr I. Harris was still waiting to hear from the Trunk Road agency regarding the site at Cwrt -y- Cadno.

9.2 Riverside Toilets.

The Clerk had circulated a g-mail from Kirsty Williams which had four attachments-one being a written Statement from the Welsh government launching a Public Health White Paper Consultation from the minister of Health and Social Services Mr. M. Drayford. It was felt that the Council should respond to this consultation on the grounds that the public toilets in Llanwrtyd are essential for passing trade and provide a much needed facility for the disabled and the senior members of our community.

Action: Clerk to write a letter outlining the case for retaining the Public toilets in Llanwrtyd Wells

9.3 Abergwesyn toilets.

Mr Gaukroger responded that after their AGM he would be happy to provide us with a copy of their accounts

11.0 Dolwen Field

11.1 Play Area.

The Clerk presented the final account sheet for the play area works. We have a surplus of £827 of the money contributed by LWParc. Cllr Rowlands felt that as the Town Council will take responsibility for the upkeep of the play area that this money be retained and ring fenced for repairs and maintenance of the park. The motion was seconded by Cllr Van Rees.

Action: Cllr Rowlands to write to the LWParc committee to ask if they are happy with the suggestion.

11.2 Pavilion

Cllr Rowlands informed the meeting that Red Kite Events had booked the field and pavilion for Camping this weekend and wished to trial the use of the pavilion as their Headquarters for the event. They would use the large hall and the kitchen.

Cllr Rowlands reported that the fence was still down where the tree had fallen. It was suggested that perhaps Chris Dodds could repair it.

The tree stump is also still there. Cllr Van Rees offered to investigate its removal.

Action: Chris Dodds to be contacted re; fence

Cllr Van Rees to see if he can arrange for the removal of the tree stump.

11.3 Grass Cutting

Cllrs were informed that Powys County Council has been asked to cut the grass this year on the basis of £75.00 per cut. We have asked for 20 cuts at an annual cost of £1500. As yet we have had nothing in writing from PCC to confirm this.

Cllr Rowlands reported that he was meeting with A. Croker on Thursday 17th April to discuss the cutting of the play area and the strimming behind the Pavilion.

11.4 Running /Cycle Track

To date we have had two estimates giving overall costings for the work on the cycle /running path but as yet have not received breakdowns. It is hoped they will be available for the next Pavilion meeting due to be held on Thursday 24th April.

12.0 Town Square and Green

12.1 Cllr Rowlands read a letter received from K and D. George informing the Council of their intentions to create a café/art and crafts area in the old NAT West Bank premises. They hope to open at the end of May. Council members were appreciative of the fact that they had written to inform them and wished them well for their new venture.

Kate George had spoken earlier to Cllr Rowlands about access to the toilet in the basement of the room and wished to have disability access down the slope alongside but was concerned about cars parking on the slope. Cllr Rowlands explained that when the Town Green was re-landscaped some years ago he had established that the slope was part of the Town Green but precise ownership of the whole area could not be established. In the meantime the Town Council had assumed 'delegated responsibility' Cllr Van Rees offered to put the necessary steps into place to find out once more if the Town Green was in fact registered to a particular body.

Action: Cllr Van Rees to pursue matter.

12.2 Flagpole

Cllr Hodges reported on her investigations regarding erecting a flagpole on the Town Square giving a variety of options of sizes and price.

Cllr Van Rees generously offered to pay for the flag pole and flag as a mark of his 35years service to the Council. This was graciously accepted by all. The positioning of the flagpole was a concern and it was agreed that Councillors should meet on the Square ten minutes before the next meeting to discuss possible sites.

13.0 Correspondence

Item 3.0 Legislative reform regarding the signing of cheques by two officers-this is now not necessary.(This item was dealt with at item 3.3)

Item 9.2 Letter from the Twinning association confirming dates of twinning visit.

Item10.2 G- mail from Kirsty Williams re public toilets with four attachments ;(sent to all)

- Older people's commissioner for Wales
- Letter from public Health Wales
- Public conveniences –record of proceedings of short debate
- Written statement by Welsh Government launching Public Health White Paper Consultations

Item 11.1 G-mail to Penny Lowe from David Stevenson regarding completion of the park.

Item11.2 Letter from PC regarding the ROSPA Inspection of park equipment.(This was followed up. Mr Stevenson will contact Powys to do Safety check therefore the Council do not need to pursue this)

Item 13.0 Letter from PCC regarding Bromsgrove Hall

Item 13.1 Letter from David Cameron regarding new tax cuts and benefits for businesses and charities. (Cllr James was aware of this issue and reported that all businesses would have been informed)

Item 13.2 Letter from Roger Williams-nominate a good cause in Brecon and Radnorshire. (Cllr James suggested we nominate the Community Cycle/Running Path project)

Item 13.3 Rate Bills from PCC for Victoria Hall and Abergwesyn toilets.(no rates payable on either premises)

Item 13.4 Code of Conduct training (G-mail)-

Item 13.5 One Voice Wales area committee meetings-representatives from Council to attend.(Cllr Jones and Cllr Haines usually represent the Council at this event. Since Cllr Haines was not present Cllr G. Rowlands offered to attend if Cllr Haines was not available)

Item 13.6Joint One Voice Wales /SLCC Event 15th May in Llandudno. It was felt that this was too far to travel. However it was suggested that the Clerk write to One Voice Wales /SLCC to gauge the possibility of a resume of the issues to be brought to a local venue for the smaller Councils in the area.

Item 13.7 Letter from Glan Irfon Health and Social Care outlining the opening of the short stay care unit.

Item 13.7 Consultation on Powys's Common Housing Allocations

Item 13.8 European Parliamentary Elections (posters to be put up around Town to promote event due to take place on the Thursday 22nd May.

Item 13.9 BBC Wales Cymru –looking for people to house swap (sent to all)

Item 13.10 Have a field Day. This information has been forwarded M P. Lowe of the LWPARC committee as they are planning an event for the official opening of the Park.

14.0 **Miscellaneous**

Cllr Tonks reported an incident involving a Computer Scam with an elderly resident.
Cllr Van Rees informed the meeting that he had e-mailed the Mid Wales Railway Forum regarding the omission of Llanwrtyd Wells in the increased services which will operate from Llandovery to Swansea and from Shrewsbury to Llandrindod with no extra provision for Llanwrtyd Wells. It was agreed that strong representations be made via e-mail and letter to the following people voicing the Councils outrage at this omission which would appear to contradict EEC Directives for inclusivity.

Mr P Jackson (Rail transport officer)	Mr D Edwards (HOWLTA)
Mr D. Price (Cabinet portfolio holder for Regeneration)	Mr J Powell (County Councillor)
Kirsty Williams	Roger Williams.

Action: Clerk to write to all above and send copy to Cllr Van Rees

Cambrian Mountain Initiative --Cllr Van Rees informed the meeting that he had written to all representatives of the "Necklace of Towns" with a view to holding a meeting. To date he has had two positive responses and will keep Councillors informed of future developments.

Cllr Van Rees outlined progress with the refurbishment of the War Memorial Institute. Architects have submitted their initial bill. He is hopeful that some monies will be made available via the MOD and he is currently seeking further funding streams to support the project.

Cllr Rowlands gave an update on the Heritage Centre. Phase one is now complete and funding is currently being sought for phases two and three with a grant of £10,000 already having been gained from The Ashley Family Foundation. It is hoped to open the Centre in the Summer of next year. The History Resource Group is due to move out of Charcroft at the end of June. Cllr Rowlands requested use of the Police office at the War Memorial Institute for a temporary office. Cllr Van Rees agreed to this request. There is a planned open morning on the 17th May in the former Congregational Chapel to allow residents to see the changes that have been made.

Cllr Rowlands extended an invite to Councillors to attend the Civic Service at Builth Wells on Sunday 11th May to which he and a guest are invited.

Cllr Rowlands brought the complaints forms to the attention of new Councillors. This provides a necessary record of any complaint from a resident of the Town and of any subsequent action taken.

As Cllr Rowlands term of office is coming to a close he suggested writing an article for Grapevine outlining what the Town Council has achieved this year. Cllrs agreed to a cost of two pages in the June issue of the Grapevine.

Signed.....

Date.....

Date of Next Meeting (AGM) Wednesday 21st May

Lynn E Ball 17/04/2014

