

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th December at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber of the War Memorial Institute in Llanwrtyd Wells.

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

Mr I Harris didn't arrive to speak at 7:00pm so the meeting commenced.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. R. Thomas.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on the 20th November 2013.**

One amendment at 13.1 (changed Mrs. for Miss)

The minutes were approved by Cllr P. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. B. Hodges.

3. **Finance**

3.1 The balance sheet for period 20/11/2013-17/12/2013 was submitted by the clerk and scrutinised by all. The balance sheet was approved as accurate by Cllr. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr. G. Rowlands.

3.2 Wag audit-it was requested that this item be dealt with under correspondence.

4. **Antisocial Behaviour and Vandalism**

4.1 In general there were no incidents of anti-social behaviour reported, though Cllr. Price did report that the "joints" on the Christmas tree on the square had been tampered with.

At this point Cllrs. commented on the quality of this year's lights and the impact they had as people entered the town.

Action.

Clerk to write to the festival committee to thank them for their efforts.

4.2 Cllr. J. Rowlands reported that he had attended the PACT surgery. PSCO J. O'Neil had received three visits from members of the community and was pleased with the response. It was suggested that the next meeting scheduled for the 1st February be rearranged for the 8th if possible so that the notice in Grapevine could be read in time.

Action.

Cllr Rowlands to e-mail PC J. Darby to rearrange date if possible.

5. **Traffic Calming.**

Cllr J. Rowlands reported that he has spoken again to Mr. D.Williams regarding the Towns signage. Mr Williams was positive that all that we had requested would be done in this financial year.

The clerk reported that she had spoken to the owners of the garage on Beulah Road regarding safety of exiting from the garage. Mr.Evans agreed that something needed to be done and in principal was in agreement to erecting a mirror on the opposite side of the road. He also suggested a caution sign below the garage. Cllr Van Rees suggested we write to the road Safety Officer at Powys County.

Cllr J. Rowlands reported that none of the four lights on Cefn Gorwedd Road alongside Dolwen Field up to the Pavilion entrance were working, and at night the road was pitch black. Cllr Hodges supported this concern voicing safety issues for members of the public. Cllr Price pointed out that any member of the public could report lighting issues to Powys County Council as long as they took the number from the pole. This facility can be accessed on the Powys Website.

Action.

Clerk to write to the Road Safety Officer at Powys regarding the suggestion of a mirror opposite the garage.

Clerk to write to Mr L. Williams at PCC to report issue of lights along Dolwen Field.

6. Feedback from Councillors

6.1 Bromsgrove Hall

Cllr Van Rees reported a meeting with Cllr David Jones Executive Leader of PCC regarding Bromsgrove Hall. He also reported meeting with the new Portfolio holder for education Mr Wyn Jones who said that he would see that a decision be made regarding this issue as soon as possible. Cllr Van Rees felt that at last progress was being made. The clerk reported that she also had made contact with several people regarding Bromsgrove Hall, that she had received a reply from Mr David Jones saying that he would try to move things on and that she had now been referred to Mrs. J. Thomas from whom she is awaiting a reply.

6.2 Hedge Cutting(Dolycoed Road)

The clerk read the response to the Council's concerns from Mr. J Hather (Chair of Governors at Ysgol Dolafon).It was reported by several Cllrs. that the hedge had been cut back and that visibility was now improved. Cllr Van Rees acknowledged that the grounds maintenance team at the school had done as good a job as they could. Cllr Price was also pointed out that there are speeding restrictions on Dolycoed Road and if these are observed there should not be an issue.

Action

Clerk to write to thank Mr Hather for his letter.

6.3 Retail park

Cllr Hodges raised the issue of the retail park on Beulah Road after a member of the public had raised the question as to what was being done to promote its use by local businesses. It was noted that this is a privately owned venture and that it was the responsibility of the owner to promote its use. It was believed that one unit is currently being used as a small plant hire warehouse.

6.4 Abergwesyn Hall

Cllr. Lambkin requested the revenue grant for Abergwesyn Hall . She was reassured that this would be done as soon as possible.

7. Planning

A Planning application was received from Powys County Council for a single storey extension with loft space (planning application number P/2013/1151). No objections were made by councillors.

Action

Clerk to write to PCC Planning Officer stating there were no objections to this request.

8. Twinning

It was reported that the visit of members of the Twinning Association to Meriel's Christmas Fair was a success and enjoyed by all who went.

9. Services

9.1 Green Bring Site.

Cllr. Van Rees reported that he had written to Edwina Hart AM requesting a meeting be set up with the Welsh Trunk Road Agency to discuss their reasons for turning down the green bring site along Beulah Road.

As Mr I. Harris had been unable to come this evening Cllr. Rowlands suggested that we invite him to the next meeting. Cllr Hodges agreed to coordinate this.

Action.

Cllr Hodges to invite Ian Harris to the next meeting.

9.2 Public Toilets.

The Chairman summarised events since the Public Meeting held on 4th December and the ensuing communications via Facebook about the issue. Letters had been received from J Walsby and from B. Benton regarding the issue. These letters had been circulated to all members of the Town Council.

Following the meeting Mr B. McCloughlin had been to see him to volunteer to clean the toilets. Cllr Jones said that Mr A. Parr had also offered to volunteer to clean them. Having received Mr

McCloughlin's offer Cllr Rowlands had then written to the three event organisations in town with a view to

getting their support for the financial running of the toilets. He reported that all three event organisations replied in support of keeping the toilets open and were willing to contribute to the cost. Cllr Jones said that Mr Gordon Green had also spoken to her about the possibility of putting together a committee in town to manage them. With this new possibility of forming a voluntary group to manage the toilets the clerk was able to obtain a further extension from PCC until 31st March 2014.

The Chairman also reported that Roger Williams and Kirsty Williams are continuing to fight the proposals to close public toilets in Powys and that Roger had recently received a response from Edwina Hart to his concern about the closure of the Llanwrtyd Public Toilets promising to review the Welsh Government's policy on its support for public toilets on trunk roads in the new year.

Cllr Van Rees insisted that the Town Council should not be responsible itself for managing the toilets. He was happy for the Council to be a facilitator in arranging for a voluntary group to take them over and ensuring that appropriate legal matters were dealt with and written agreements were in place. With potential further cuts in services provided by PCC expected next year councillors were reluctant to recommend any increase in the precept at this stage.

Following further discussion on such matters as the possibility of purchasing the toilets, the need for COSH (Care of Substances Hazardous to Health) training for cleaners and health and safety and risk assessment issues it was agreed to set up a meeting early in the New Year to which councillors, event organisations and an officer from PCC would be invited to attend.

Action

Clerk to contact Alastair Knox to find out when he or a counterpart would be available.

10. Open Spaces

Cllr James arrived during this item.

10.1 Dolwen Fields/Play Area

10.1.1 LWParc

Cllr J. Rowlands reported that the clerk was continuing to handle funding payments for this project. The work will be completed in January and the final payment made on completion.

10.1.2 Pavilion

Cllr Price reported that there were a couple of small repairs to attend to in the toilets following the recent Real Ale Wobble camping. The issue of waste disposal was raised by the clerk having received a letter from PCC on the matter. Cllr J. Rowlands reassured members that waste disposal was being correctly dealt with and that the green trade bags were being used.

10.2 Town Square and Green

10.2.1 Nectar Tree Scheme

The clerk reported that we had been granted 9 trees to plant in Llanwrtyd. Three trees were to go to Abergwesyn and six trees for Dolwen Field to be planted near the pavilion. It was agreed that Cllr Lambkin would take responsibility for coordinating planting at Abergwesyn and that Cllrs. Rowlands and Price together with Mr C. Dodds would meet to decide where to plant the trees at the Dolwen Field.

10.2.2 Riverbank update

A draft report on the feasibility study had been received by the Gardening Club. The Gardening Club would consider the report and it was suggested that Cllr Tonks report to the next Town Council meeting. Cllr Tonks agreed to do this.

The clerk reported that she had made contact with the Usk and Wye Federation regarding knotweed in the River Irfon. Mr. MacDonald-Ames had replied to say that they would be willing to help but this would not be until September next year as this was the best time of year to tackle the problem.

11. Correspondence

WAG Audit Report

A summary report was presented to Council members by the Chair. However, this was considered insufficient and that WAG should be asked for a detailed profit and loss account. Cllr Lambkin said that it was important that not only the Town Council but also members of the community were reassured that public money had been appropriately spent.

- 11.1 Communication via e-mail from Mr Brown, Cllr David Jones re; Bromsgrove Hall (see 6.1)
- 11.2 Letter from Dr. Jon Hather re; hedges at Ysgol Dolafon (see 6.2)
- 11.3 Letter from Gemma Bufton (PCC) re; Planning application ref P/2013/1151 (see 7.2)
- 11.4 Letter from Jen Walsby received 23rd November via e- mail regarding the public toilets. (This was before the public meeting) (see 9.2)
- 11.5 Letter from Bernice Benton received on 6th December via e-mail regarding the Public Meeting and the closure of the Public Toilets. (see 9.2)
- 11.6 Letter from Roger William's Office regarding closure of toilets. (see 9.2)
- 11.7 Letter from Edwina Hart re; Public toilets (see 9.2)
- 11.8 Letter received from PCC regarding disposal of waste from the Pavilion and our responsibilities as we are classed as a business. (see 10.1.2)
- 11.9 Nectar tree scheme letter received the 28th November outlining the number of trees allocated and at which sites. (see 10.2.2)
- 11.10 Letter of thanks from Pat Dryden, received on the 7th December, for her leaving do and presents.
- 11.11 Email received from June Newman on 7th Dec. thanking Council members for her invitation to Pat's leaving do.
- 11.12 Letter from Robert Hay (Local Government Finance and Public sector Performance Division) received 4th December via e-mail regarding "Section 137 Expenditure" limits for 2014-2015.
- 11.13 Letter from highways department, received 29th November, granting consent to erect maintain, operate and remove Christmas decorations.
- 11.14 Letter from Cllr. Lambkin with three queries/comments: Information required re precept and what it covers; request made for repair of notice and observations on future council funding and cuts.
Cllrs J. Rowlands and Van Rees outlined what the precept covered. It was suggested that Chris Dodds be asked to mend the plaque for Hafren Wells. Discussion ensued about potential PCC cuts. Cllr. James proposed that as a Town Council we meet each issue, including the present matter of the public toilets as it arises.
Action Clerk to speak to Chris Dodds.
- 11.15 Reply Peter Davies in response to our letter re: Cambrian Mountain Tourism Initiative.
Cllr Van Rees proposed that we invite Peter Davies to the March Town Council meeting.
Action Clerk to write to Mr Davies in the new year.
- 11.16 Letter of acknowledgement of our letter to Alun Davies re; Cambrian Mountain Tourism Initiative.
- 11.17 Email from Neil Delafield asking for support from the Town Council for the Sainsbury's Sports Relief run a mile to be held in Llanwrtyd on 23rd March 2014 and suggesting that members may like to take part.

12. Miscellaneous

Cllr Van Rees was disturbed about that deteriorating state of the "Snack Attack" and asked if the owners could be contacted regarding their intentions.

Action. Clerk to make contact with Mrs Abson to get update.

Clerk requested access to Victoria hall to get Christmas cards printed. Cllr Jones suggested contacting Kate Jones to obtain key and to help with printing.

A resident at Erw Haf has asked if a request could be made for a post box on the corner of the Erw Haf and Tai Cae Mawr estates.

Action Clerk to write to the Post Office to assess feasibility of this request.

The clerk requested a larger notice board to be placed in the entrance of the Memorial Institute as there are so many public notices that need to be displayed. All councillors agreed to this.

Action Clerk to cost a piece of "sundealer" board.