

Minutes of the Town Council Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.

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

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

1. Apologies for absence; Cllrs p. Tonks, G. Rowlands

2. Outgoing Mayors Report

As outgoing Mayor Cllr Rowlands read his report to the meeting. It provided a comprehensive overview of his term in office outlining the achievements and issues still in progress of the Council. He thanked all members of the council for their support during his time in office.

3. Finance

The Annual Financial report was presented to Council Members and discussed. It included the overall view of accounts which are to be sent to the external Auditor, the Bank Reconciliation, a Receipt and Outgoings statement, detailed accounts of Income and Payments, the agreed Budget for 2014-2015 and an up to date Assets Register.

Cllr Van Rees proposed that Bromsgrove Hall be deleted from the asset register since it was no longer being governed by a local Committee but was in the hands of Powys County Council. A formal proposal to resign as residual trustees to Bromsgrove Hall was put forward by Cllr. Van Rees and was seconded by Cllr J Rowlands.

Cllr James queried the recent increase in price for activities at the Hall with concerns that local groups would be prohibited from its use due to these increased costs. It was proposed that the Clerk request an updated list of cost form the School Secretary.

Cllr James proposed that the Financial Accounts were an accurate record for the year .This was seconded by Cllr Jones.

4. Welcome to Incoming Mayor

Cllr P. James , former Deputy Mayor ,was duly inaugurated as Mayor of Llanwrtyd Wells with the Mayoral Chain being officially handed over to him by the outgoing Mayor Cllr J. Rowlands. At this point Cllr James took over as Chair of the meeting. His first duty was to thank the outgoing Mayor, Cllr J. Rowlands, for his hard work throughout a productive and cooperative year.

5. Election of Deputy Mayor

Cllr James invited Councillors submissions for the position of Deputy Mayor. Cllr Haines volunteered her services for this role. No other candidates came forward and therefore Cllr Haines was duly elected as Deputy Mayor.

5.1 Appointments to committees were addressed and revised (a copy is attached as an appendix to these minutes).

6. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19th April

The minutes of the April meeting were discussed. There were no amendments. Cllr B Hodges proposed them as an accurate record. Cllr T. Van Rees seconded this

7. Balance Sheet for April

The Clerk presented the balance sheet to members outlining the current position. Cllr N. Price proposed the balance sheet as an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr. R. Thomas.

8. Anti-Social Behaviour.

Cllr Haines reported that she felt the park site had not been left in a satisfactory state with plastic off cuts and wooden pieces still remaining on site.(she had picked these items up and put them in the bins).

After much discussion it was felt that the Clerk should make contact with the contractor Mr D. Stevenson to find out what still needs to be done, whether the park has been deemed safe to use by ROSPA and when we would receive the Safety Report.

It was suggested we invite the LWParc Committee to a meeting in the Pavilion to discuss :

- The warranty on the equipment
- The condition of the site
- An inventory of equipment
- The ROSPA report
- The underspend in the overall budget

In the meantime Cllr Price is to visit the site to investigate any issues of urgency.

No other issues of anti-social behaviour were brought to the meeting.

Action: Clerk to write to LWParc to invite them to a meeting.

9. Traffic Calming.

The Clerk read a letter from M J. Lancey in response to speeding on Victoria Wells stating that because the area was of low conurbation the speed limit signs could not be moved from above Newhall to Victoria Wells.

The issue of horse signs was raised. In the process of erecting the new signage to the Town the caution sign indicating horses has been removed. Those who run the children's Pony Club felt that that signs were at least a warning sign to motorists.

Action : Clerk to write to Dean Williams with a view to having the signs reinstated.

10. Feedback from Councillors

10.1 WAG

Cllr Hodges reported that the WAG brochures were now available and had been distributed.

The committee are now in the process of allocating people to run the events.

There are many PR things happening to promote the Games.

The issue of advertising using the "Bog Snorkelling Brand" by various organisations was brought to the attention of the Wag Committee who are to investigate .

10.2

Cllr. Haines reported that she and Cllr Tonks had attended the workshop "Shaping Police Future" and that the day had been a productive one but at this stage everything discussed was confidential.

Cllr Lambkin reported that residents along Station Road had complained about the state of the paths leading up to the Ty Cae Mawr Housing Development. After much discussion it was felt that the path leading to Berthllwyd was the one that needed investigating. Cllr Thomas offered to investigate both paths and report back to the next meeting.

Action : Cllr Thomas to investigate paths from Station road to Ty Cae Mawr and the path up to Berthllwyd.

11. Planning

11.1

Planning Application No. P/2014/0375 –change from shop to delicatessen at the Old NAT Westminster Bank on Irfon Terrace by Mr George. This was discussed and Cllr Van Rees proposed no objections as to change and was agreed by all members

Concerns were raised, however, as to the positioning of signage on the Town Square as to whether they posed a Safety Hazard and whether a precedent was being set which would allow others to place signage there.

Cllr Rowlands suggested that the Council monitor the situation and report back at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Haines to monitor the situation to report back at the next council meeting.

11.2

Planning application reference P/2014/0473 –refurbishment of the War Memorial institute to create Town Council meeting rooms on the Ground floor and to convert the first floor to residential flats.. Application made by the trustees of the war memorial institute.

Cllr Price and Cllr T. Van Rees at this point declared an interest and left the Chambers. After much discussion no objections were raised.

Cllr Jones proposed moving the Council meetings downstairs and this was seconded by Cllr Thomas .Cllrs Van Rees and Price re-joined the meeting. Cllr Van Rees suggested The Council delay the move downstairs until planning permission had been granted and funds had been secured for the refurbishments.

11.3

Update on "Snack attack"

The Clerk outlined a conversation with Ms D Hurley regarding the property. She is our main point of contact and therefore it is not necessary to deal with Welshpool. At the present time there are no further developments with the property. Planning applications still have not been received but there have been no further working on the building. She will keep us updated.

12. Twinning

12.1 Feedback from Walk

Cllr Rowlands reported that despite the appalling weather many people turned out to complete the Bryan Watkins Memorial walk raising a total of £180.00 which is to be donated to the Twinning Association. He also reported that Bryn Davies wished to pass on his thanks to the Town Council for organising the Walk and providing refreshments.

12.2 Gift for Meriel

Cllr Rowlands reported that he had made contact with Ms C. Bergman regarding the design and making of a piece of Stained Glass as a gift. He showed the design to all members who agreed it would make an appropriate gift for Meriel. The Cost of £60.00 was approved by all.

13. Services

13.1 Green Bring Site

No further developments were reported on this issue. Ian Harris had not had a response from Mrs E. Hart regarding the Cadno site and negotiations are still ongoing with regard an appropriate site.

Cllr Rowlands commented that the re-cycling area behind Victoria hall is often untidy due to the banks being full .He enquired as to who was responsible for their emptying. Cllr Jones reported that it was Powys County Council who

emptied the banks which should be done every two weeks. However this is not consistent and members of the Victoria Hall Committee often have to ring Powys to remind them that they need emptying.

13.2 Riverside Toilets

No further developments were reported .The issue at Powys county Council Level is still in a state of deferment and as yet the Town Council has had no communication from PCC regarding the issue.

13.3 Heart of Wales Line-

The Clerk read the responses from Mr D. Edwards (Development Officer for Heart of Wales Line),Mr Williams(MP) Ms K. Williams (AM/AC) and Mrs M Hardwick acknowledging the Councils letter to Ms E. Hart, regarding the increased services on the line and Llanwrtyd's exclusion from these services. The response from Mr D Edwards outlined "the limited availability of resources for use on the line and the length of the route."as being the main reason for decisions made.

Having spoken to Mrs G Wright (Chairperson HOWTLA) Cllr Rowlands proposed that we ask her to attend the next Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to write to invite G. Wright to the next Council meeting.

14. Dolwen Field

14.1 Play Area- no further issues were brought to the table regarding this issue which was discussed at point 8.

14.2 Pavilion

Cllr Price reported that there were a few repair issues that needed doing but no major repairs were outstanding The Clerk voiced concern over the latest electricity bill for the pavilion. Cllr Price and Cllr James proposed that an itemised bill be requested and enquires regarding the tariff.

Several issues relating to Pavilion booking were raised and discussed briefly but it was felt that matters arising were best dealt with by the Pavilion Management Group who were to call an urgent meeting to discuss and reassess the booking system.

Action : Clerk to investigate tariff and itemised billing with SWALEC regarding the pavilion.

14.3 Grass Cutting

The Clerk informed members that the quote from Powys County Council had been taken up under a revised scheme whereby the Town Council pay "per cut" for 20 cuts throughout the year. Cllr Price observed that Powys were now in a "catch-up situation".

Mr A Croker had been awarded the contract to cut the play area and to cut behind the pavilion three times during the year.

Cllr Rowlands reported that a request had been made By Ms P Lowe of LWParc to cut back the hedge to fence height on the side of the play area overlooking the skate park. It was felt that it was too late to do it this year (due to birds nesting) but could possibly considered for next year.

14.4 Running /Cycle Track

Cllr Price reported that two further tenders had been sent out and a telephone call made to a third possible contractor but that no responses had been forthcoming. No further developments were raised but a meeting to discuss the way forward with this project was proposed by Cllr Rowlands.

15. Town Square and Green

Following the gathering on the square before the meeting it was decided that the Flag Pole should be placed in the flower beds on the side of the slope leading down to the disabled toilets facility at the new "Sosban Café"

Action ; Cllr Hodges to pursue the costing and purchasing of the pole and flag in communication with Cllr T. Van Rees who has kindly agreed to foot the bill for this project.

15.1 Wales in Bloom

It was proposed that this year the Town would not enter the Wales in Bloom competition as it was felt the Town was not in a position to enter. Cllr Rowlands had consulted all parties usually involved and the Station Committee and the Gardening Club were in agreement with the proposal. All members of the Town Council agreed with the proposal. The issue of the grant to the Gardening club was raised but it was felt that any request for this year would be considered when an application was made.

A request was made to the Clerk by Cllr Tonks to revisit the issue of Japanese Knotweed through the Town. The feeling of the members was to reconnect with the Usk and Wye Federation to remind them of the issue and their promise of their support in September.

15. Correspondence

Item 9.1 Response from Jo Lancey regarding speeding on Victoria Road

Item 11.00 Planning application (application reference P/2014/0357) change of use from Shop to café and delicatessen at Old National Westminster Bank on Irfon Terrace by Mr D George

Item 11.00 Planning (application reference P/2014/0473)-refurbishment of ground floor Town council meeting rooms, change of use of first floor to create a residential flat. Made by trustees of the Institute.

Item 13.3 Responses from Roger Williams MP, Melanie Hardwick on behalf of Welsh Cabinet Ministers, David Edwards (Development Officer for Heart of Wales Line) and Kirsty Williams (AM/AC) regarding increased services on the Heart of Wales Line.

Item 16.00-G-mail from Peter Tonks regarding an enquiry from residents on Erw Haf regarding scrub land on the site which belongs to Ratcliffes Builders. Also the issue of Japanese knotweed through the Town.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Ratcliffe regarding a clean-up of the above area of land.

Item 16.1 G-mail from Pat Lambkin regarding he missing toilet sign at Abergwesyn

Action: Cllr Lambkin to take this issue back to the Abergwesyn AGM to enquire whether a new sign could be paid for out of the grant they receive from the Town Council)

Item 16.2 G-mail -Survey regarding the Remuneration Panel for Wales.

Action: Clerk to respond positively to survey

Item 16.3 – Telephone request for information regarding the whereabouts of the military medal awarded to William Stanley Davies (awarded 1915).

Action: Clerk to send information and photograph to Mr Rees

Item 16.4 G-mail newsletter from Natural Resource Management (sent to all)

Item 16.5 –Response from Shrewsbury regarding extra post box at Erw Haf/Ty Cae Mawr

In the light of there being five post boxes within a half mile radius of the requested site the application was refused.

Item 16.6 G-mail –Invite to become involved in Shaping Policing's Future (sent to all)

Cllrs Tonks and Haines attended this forum and Cll Haines reported that it had been a very positive experience but at this point in time much of what was discussed was confidential.

Item 16.7 Course on Planning training at Beguildy.

17. **Miscellaneous**

- Cllr Price brought to the attention of members that there was a housing vacancy on Berthllywd with no one currently on the waiting list –Could Cllrs be vigilant as to who might be eligible.
- Cllr Van Rees reported that the children of Ysgol Dolafon were to do research on those who had fought and died in the First World War together with those who returned to Llanwrtyd. He proposed that a grant of £100.00 be awarded by the Council to support this History project with a view to visits to Brecon War museum which he himself was prepared to facilitate. This was seconded by Cllr R. Thomas.
- Cllr Jones requested clarification of parking issues outside Victoria Hall. Cllr Price offered to speak to the grant officer involved to shed some light on the issue.
- Cllr Hodges reported that she had almost completed the Inventory and would present the finished document at the next meeting.
- Cllr Rowlands reported that the Heritage Centre Open Day went well with a good response from the many who attended.
- The Clerk informed the meeting that the Financial Audit would be available for Public scrutiny on request from the 2nd - 27th June and that notices to this effect had been placed on the Town Council notice board and in the Library.

Signed
LE BALL (Clerk and RFO)

Date.....

The following amendments were requested by Cllr Haines:

8. Anti-social behaviour :

“Cllr Haines reported that she felt the park site had not been left in a satisfactory state with large stones still remaining on site “

Replaced with:

“with plastic off cuts and wooden pieces still remaining on site.(she had picked these items up and put them in the bins)”.

11.1 Planning

“Action : Councillor Haines to approach Spar and Café Sospan re; signage on a thoroughfare and to monitor the situation to report back at the next council meeting”

Replaced by;

“Cllr Haines to monitor the situation to report back at the next council meeting.”