

Minutes of the Town council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th November at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber of the War Memorial Institute in Llanwrtyd Wells.

Present: Cllrs: J. Rowlands, B. Hodges, L. Haines, R. Thomas, P. Lambkin, P. James, T. Van Rees, P. Tonks
There were two observers at the meeting
In attendance- Mrs Lynn Ball

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs: N. Price, A. Jones, G. Rowlands

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October

No amendments were made. The minutes were approved by Councillor T. Van Rees and seconded by Councillor P. Lambkin.

3. Finance

3.1 The balance sheet for period 16/10/13-19/11/13 was submitted by the clerk and scrutinised by all. The balance sheet for period 18/09/13-15/10/13 was revisited for approval. Both balance sheets were approved by Cllr. R. Thomas and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees.

3.2 The current position with regard to LWParc finances was explained by Cllr. J. Rowlands

3.3 WAG Audit – a statement from K. Perkins was read to the committee regarding this issue. It was requested that this remain in the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Anti-social Behaviour and Vandalism

No issues were brought to the meeting.

Cllr Rowlands reported the following items;

- that contact had been made and relevant information had been forwarded to Mrs. S. Abson regarding the issue of “Snack Attack” premises.
- that Mr. C Dodds had recently cleaned the bus shelter but had requested that this cleaning be done more than once. All members agreed to this proposal.

Cllr Rowlands reminded members of the forthcoming PACT meeting on the 7th December at 1:00pm at the Neuadd Arms Hotel.

Actions

Cllr Rowlands to inform C. Dodds of new arrangements re bus shelter cleaning.

5. Traffic Calming

Cllr Rowlands reported that he had spoken to Jo Lancey again regarding signage for the town and all was “in hand”. The issue of TA signs was raised but it was felt that this could be something we could pursue at a future date after the road signage was completed. It was felt that any further requests might delay or jeopardise the existing arrangements.

No Actions required

6. Feedback from Councillors

6.1 Cllr Van Rees reported that he has sought further clarification of the position regarding Bromsgrove Hall from Powys County Council and has made representations to Ms. M. Alexander (Cabinet Member for Education) regarding this issue. Council members were disturbed to find that this issue is still ongoing without any foreseeable conclusion and that Cllr Van Rees himself was paying for insurance on the building. It was proposed that a letter from the Council be sent to the relevant body at Powys County Council voicing our concerns. This was agreed by all members.

Action

Clerk to write letter to PCC.

6.2 Concerns still remain regarding the hedge outside Ysgol Dolafon which obstructs drivers' views of oncoming traffic. In an earlier letter from Richard Hobbs regarding this issue it was stated that the hedge was the responsibility of Powys Education Department and that we should contact Mr. A. Bates at County Hall if we still have concerns.

Actions

Clerk to write to Mrs. Lloyd copy to Mr Bates to highlight the issue and request cutting back of the hedge.

6.3 Cambrian mountain Initiative

Cllr R. Thomas gave a comprehensive summary of the meeting which was held at Victoria Hall on Thursday November 7th. Eight councillors attended this meeting which was addressed by Mr. Alun Davies, Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Mr Peter Davies, Chairman of the Cambrian Mountain Initiative

Cllr James pointed out that whilst the seminar had indeed been useful this was the third of such meetings which he had attended, and that so far nothing "concrete" had come out of the Initiative in the form of a positive plan that was of benefit to communities. Discussion ensued regarding whether the area should be designated as an area of outstanding beauty and whilst some agreed others felt it was important to maintain a balance between promoting tourism and preserving the area. Cllr Van Rees outlined his thoughts on the need for a full-time, non-seconded secretariat and better marketing and signage that demonstrates to visitors that they are entering the Cambrian Mountains Area. He suggested we write a letter outlining the Council members' concerns to Mr Alun Davies and Mr Peter Davies and possibly also to HRH Prince Charles.

Action

Clerk to compose a letter regarding above to be sanctioned by Cllrs Rowlands, James and Van Rees before sending

Cllr Tonks reported that he had had a communication from a member of the public regarding the spread of Japanese knotweed along the river Irfon. Cllr Van Rees suggested contacting the Wye and Usk Federation. For knotweed on road sides he suggested contacting PCC.

Action

Clerk to make contact with the above.

7. Planning

No issues were brought to the table.

8. Twinning

Cllr Rowlands attended the last twinning meeting and reported that:

- A delegation would be visiting Meriel in December to attend their Winter Fair.
- Mrs Lloyd had sadly not been able to get interest from children to participate in an exchange this year.
- Since the link with Cesky Krumlov was essentially a Council to Council link the twinning committee had suggested that we write to Cesky Krumlov to gauge interest in an exchange in 2015. This could be done in the New Year.

9. Services.

9.1 Cllr Hodges gave an update on the green bring site and reported that she had invited Ian Harris PCC to the next meeting in December and he had agreed to attend. She also showed a photograph to demonstrate the size of vehicle required to deal with green waste.

Cllr Van Rees reiterated his concern regarding the Welsh Trunk Road Agency with regard the original site off the A483 on the Beulah side of town and had written to Edwina Hart AM (copied to Kirsty Williams) asking why the Agency had made this decision when everyone else thought it an ideal site. Acknowledgement of his letter had been received but he awaits a reply.

9.2 Riverside Toilets

The Chairman reported that a letter had been sent to Lesley Griffith AM, copied to Kirsty Williams, Roger Williams, Richard Hobbs, Cambrian Mountain Initiative, the Chief Executive at PCC Jeremy Patterson to emphasise the significant position of the public toilets on a trunk road and its importance not only to travellers on the A483 but also the impact closure would have on the town's tourism industry. The Welsh Government has retained some responsibility for certain other facilities on trunk roads. Kirsty Williams and Roger Williams had also written letters in support. The transcript of a debate at the Welsh Government on the topic had been received and circulated to all members of the Council. We were awaiting a reply from Lesley Griffith but in the light of her response during the debate Cllr Rowlands was not optimistic.

Cllr Van Rees outlined proposals for the refurbishment of the Memorial Institute and put forward the idea of including toilets within this facility and whilst this was widely accepted it was appreciated that the timescale could be quite long. In the meantime the issue of the existing toilet facilities in Llanwrtyd needed to be addressed. The Chairman proposed that a public meeting be held in December in Victoria Hall. This was agreed by all members.

Actions

Cllr Rowlands to approach Cllr A. Jones with a view to booking Victoria Hall for the meeting.
Clerk to produce notices for the meeting when date is finalised.

10. Open spaces.

10.1 Dolwen fields/ Play Area

10.1.1 LWParc

Cllr Rowlands outlined the LWParc project and the clerk distributed plans and photographs of the work to be done and the equipment to be installed, which had been compiled by Penny Lowe. All members were impressed by the plan and felt this would greatly improve play facilities at the field. The hard work of the LWParc committee was recognised and it was proposed that a letter be sent to the committee offering the Council's congratulations. This was unanimously approved. The Council is now in a position to draw down money from the Aggregate Levy Fund to enable the next payment to be made once the money had been received.. The project is due to start on Monday 25th November and should be completed within three weeks.

Action

Clerk to write official letter

Cllr Rowlands to e-mail Penny Lowe to personally thank her for producing the plans ready for the meeting.

10.1.2 Management of the Pavilion

Cllr Rowlands reported that after the Real Ale Wobble camping the field had been left in good condition with no rubbish being left. He was thankful to Green Events for their vigilance in this respect.

He reported that prior to the event, in order to enhance facilities for campers, an outside sink had been installed together with two outside spot lights at a cost of £250.00 and £200.00 respectively. He sought retrospective approval for this work. Cllr Van Rees proposed and Cllr. Thomas seconded this proposal.

Cllr Rowlands outlined the second questionnaire to be distributed to the community with regard to further development of Dolwen Field and distributed samples for members to peruse. He proposed that when large quantities of photocopying were required as on this occasion the Victoria Hall facilities for photocopying be used as the Clerk did not have the capacity to do this herself. All members agreed to this.

Action

Cllr Rowlands to get photocopying done and distribute questionnaires.

10.2. Town Square and Green

10.2.1 Nectar tree scheme

Clerk gave update on the scheme. Now waiting to find out who owns the land near station. Cllr Hodges was thanked for producing the maps and providing grid references for the application. Cllr Hodges proposed that Town Councillors have a planting day when the trees arrive.

Action

Clerk to contact Cllr A Jones for clarification on ownership.

11. Heritage Centre

Cllr Rowlands updated members on the progress of work on the future heritage centre. Refurbishment of the house will soon be finished and the house should be ready for renting out in February 2014. Once the present refurbishment of the Chapel is completed further funding will be needed for the fit-out phase. To this end the trustees have a consultant working with them to help both with the design of the new centre and the preparation of the application for additional Heritage Lottery Funding. The trustees hope to open the new centre in 2015. He also reported that Mrs S. Price had been successful in securing 130 "Friends" thereby raising a substantial amount of money. This will be used for renovation of the area at the back of the house including the felling of two large trees. He invited all members to attend the AGM to be held in Victoria Hall on the 29th November to begin at 6:30pm.

Cllr Hodges asked if Powys Archives were involved and Cllr Rowlands reported that they are. He also reported positive feedback from the community who were pleased that the building was being put to good use.

12. Training

The issue of funding for training was raised. The feeling of members was that the present system should remain unchanged – that councillors were generally expected to pay themselves for training.

13. Correspondence

Item 3.1 A request made in writing from Miss. P. Lambkin for the Abergwesyn Hall revenue grant.

10.1.1 E-mail from Mr R. Dobbins, Aggregates Levy Fund, to the effect that they will fund the whole of the LWParc project.

10.2 Letter from Mr. D. Williams , Trunk Road Agency, confirming permission for the planting of beds at the gateway signs.

10.3 E-mail letter from J. Walsby re: Japanese Knotweed.

11.0 Letter from Mrs.S Abson re: Details of Landowners

11.0 E-mail request for information re: Housing enabler project

Action

Clerk to write letter advise them to contact Cllr Rowlands

14. Miscellaneous

Corporate Christmas card list.

This was revisited. An amended list is to be sent to all members for them to suggest additions or deletions as appropriate.

List regarding buffet attendance addressed. Cllr P. James to forward cost of buffet to clerk . Council members asked for £5 contributions towards cost of present.

Cllr Thomas reported a concern from a member of the public regarding the state of the station (lots of bricks lying about). It was reported by Cllr Van Rees that new planters were being installed.

Cllr Thomas reported his concerns about access to the main A483 from the garage as visibility was very poor due to parking of vehicles obstructing sight of oncoming traffic. The possibility of a mirror on the opposite edge of the road was suggested.

Cllr Van Rees reported excessive mud on road at Devil's staircase and Llan-y Carver. It was suggested that the depot at Llangammarch be contacted to rectify the matter.

Cllr Hodges asked for an update on the Radio Wales programme on the Czech children evacuation to Llanwrtyd. Cllr Van Rees commented that he had spoken to Mr Groves and that a few local people with recollections had been contacted.

Cllr Rowlands reported that half a dozen young people seem interested in re-forming the Youth Council. Cllr Hodges expressed an interest in attending a meeting with them which Cllr Rowlands gladly accepted.

Clerk reported that Mr Dodds still had a lot of equipment in his barn from when the pavilion was being refurbished. Cllr James suggested contact be made with L. Ketteringham regarding Archery Club equipment and Mr H. Evans regarding the Cricket Club equipment.

Actions

Clerk to circulate revised Christmas card list to all members

Clerk to contact Llangammarch Dept re: mud on roads

Clerk to contact relevant people re: sports equipment

Clerk to speak to Mr T. Evans on the possibility of a mirror opposite the Garage.

Date of next meeting; Wednesday 18th December

Signed Date.....