

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th April 2017 at the Council Chambers in the War Memorial Institute.

Members Present ; Cllrs P.James, J Rowlands, J. Davies, A. Edwards, P. Tonks, P.Lambkin, T. Van Rees A. Jones , S. Jones

Visiting Speaker ; Mr A Lawrie (Deputy Chief Executive /Director of Primary and Community Care)

In Attendance; Mrs L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Visiting Speaker

Cllr James opened the meeting at 6.35pm, welcoming all to the meeting and in particular the guest speaker Mr A. Lawrie (Deputy Chief Executive/director of Primary and Community Care). Cllr James recapped on the meetings with Mr A Powell and the Bulth Practice stating that all that had been requested had been achieved with the exception of the sound proofing of the wall which is still in hand. Cllr James felt that although the initial meeting had been heated at times the outcomes were positive and as a result the second meeting was a very positive meeting for all concerned. Cllr James offered Mr Lawrie the opportunity of recapping events from his perspective.

Mr Lawrie agreed that the initial transition had been difficult but acknowledged that things had moved on and many of the issues raised had been dealt with. He addressed the issue of the wall and said that bureaucracy within the system was holding things up and that he would go away from the meeting and try to speed things up. The same bureaucracy was influencing the time taken with the application for two groups to use the building. He informed members that there was MIND clinic held at the surgery

He felt that Mr Powell being based in Llanwrtyd was a very positive move and he was an excellent access point for the Town Council and the Community

Cllr James opened the discussion to the table with the following points being raised;

- The introduction of other services into the building with the aim of reducing the number of car journeys to Bulth and/or Llandrindod Wells thus reducing the carbon footprint.

This was felt to be an important issue especially for the senior citizens of the Town who often rely on family members to take them to appointments or get taxis because they themselves are unable to drive.

- It was felt that the practice nurses who attend the surgery could do tasks such as changing dressings, take out stitches etc and the question was raised as to what they actually did do when in attendance.
- The type of services that would benefit the Town would be a chiropody clinic, a fall clinic, a hearing clinic.
- It was felt that a "meeting and greeting" place had been lost with the loss of a receptionist and the new automated checking in service and whilst progress and the need for change was recognised it was felt that in terms of wellbeing and seeing familiar faces within the surgery environment that a valuable asset had been removed.

The issue of the wellbeing drop in Centre was raised. This is based at the Station and provides such a facility where people can drop in for a chat and a cuppa. It was suggested that perhaps one of the wellbeing sessions could be held at the surgery.

Mr Lawrie was keen to investigate the role of the visiting practice nurses as there had been an agreement with the practice that they should come to Llanwrtyd to provide a service. He would investigate further and come back to Council with his findings.

He was also keen for the building to be used to its potential and, in principle, was in agreement with the above mentioned clinics coming to Llanwrtyd but there would have to be some data analysis done to justify the clinics in terms of need and numbers involved. He would endeavour to do the analysis and forward the information to the Clerk.

The point was made that many of the members didn't know of the current services available at the surgery and station and that public awareness of services was a key issue.

Cllr Van Rees felt that the partnership between the Town Council and the Health Board had become stronger in dealing with retaining Surgery provision in Llanwrtyd Wells and congratulated Mr Lawrie for his proactive approach and negotiating skills.

After much discussion and questioning there were no further issues raised and Mr Lawrie finished by saying that he would take away all the comments made, would do some investigation and research and get back to the Council in due course. Cllr James once again, thanked Mr Lawrie for giving of his valuable time to attend the meeting in person and looked forward to working closely together in the future.

Mr Lawrie left the meeting at 7.15pm.

The agenda was resumed.

1. **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs N. Price and L. Pace-Avery sent their apologies.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – there were no declarations of Interest.
3. **Minutes of the March Meeting-** the minutes of the March meeting were duly considered and, as there were no amendments and no issues raised, they were proposed as an accurate record of proceedings by Cllr P Tonks and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes** – the Clerk read an e-mail from Mr L Williams regarding the lighting of the path between the station and Ty Cae Mawr . It stated that because the development was not yet complete that Powys had not adopted the footpath. This was contested by members and Cllr T Van Rees felt that there were sufficient grounds for adoption on partial completion since this path was well used by the public. He requested a copy of the e-mail and would investigate further.

Cllr James updated members on the issue of a member of the public exhibiting anti-social behaviour in the play park and related issues which involved the Mid Wales Housing Association. The issue was put into the hands of the police who were investigating and liaising with the Mid Wales Housing Association to maintain clarity. Cllr James is currently liaising with the police regarding this matter and is waiting for feedback from them. He will report back at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to send above e-mail to Cllr Van Rees

5. **Finance**

5.1 **End of year Balance sheet-** The Clerk outlined the payments and receipts for the month of March . There was substantial income of £8525.00 which was the second part of the Welsh Government Grant and the Powys Regeneration Grant and equally substantial outgoings of £14536.24 due to the refurbishment work on the public toilets. After due scrutiny, the balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr A. Jones and seconded by Cllr S. Jones

5.2 **End of year budget update-** the end of year budget was presented to members by the Clerk. After due scrutiny the end of year budget was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by A. Jones.

5.3 **Bank Reconciliation -** The end of year bank was presented to members. The final amount in the bank was commensurate with the March balance sheet and tallied with receipts and payments . The total assets balanced a £18867.00. After due scrutiny the Bank reconciliation was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T Van Rees and seconded by Cllr P. Tonks

5.4 **The Audit Return and Governance Statement.** - The Audit return was considered by members. Members acknowledged that the figures of last year, in accordance with instructions from the auditors, were restated. The figures corresponded with the bank reconciliation and the end of year budget statement. The audit return was proposed as an accurate reflection of the accounts of the year by Cllr T Van Rees and Cllr A. Edwards. Members completed the Annual Governance statement for the audit .

6. **Elections and the way Forward**

The Clerk read a resignation letter from Cllr. P. Tonks which was sadly received and acknowledged by members.

Cllr James, Chair and Mayor, thanked Cllr Tonks for all his hard work during his term of office and in particular his commitment and perseverance in pursuing the cause of reducing speeding traffic through the Town. He wished Cllr Tonks well for the future and hoped he would not lose contact with Council members.

Cllr James also commended the Deputy Mayor, Cllr N. Price for the support he had provided to the Mayor during his term of office and indeed the support over many years to the Town in general as part of the Festival Committee and the Christmas Lights team. Cllr James expressed his disappointment that he was standing down and felt that he would have been an excellent Mayor had he decided to take on the post.

Finally, Cllr James extended his thanks to Cllr A Edwards for her input during the year stating that her concise and clear thinking had facilitated dialogue between the Town Council and the Health Board. In her short term as Councillor she had brought expertise and a common sense, pragmatic approach to issues raised and she would be missed at the table. He wished her well for the future in her new role as Health Manager for the North of the County.

Cllr James thanked those members who were nominated for their continued support.

The election was an uncontested election and therefore there will be no voting on the 4th May in Llanwrtyd. Councillors officially stand down on the 8th May and newly elected Councillors assume office on that day.

Cllr James outlined the process of co-option but stated that this could not occur until newly elected members were officially accepted into office at the next Town Council Meeting to be held on the 17th May.

Cllr Van Rees informed members that he had been returned unopposed to the position of County Councillor for the next five-year term. Members congratulated Cllr Van Rees on his appointment and were pleased he was to continue in this role.

7. Anti-Social Behaviour

The Clerk reported that a member of the public had reported fly tipping just off the Cefn Gorwedd Road and that it had been reported to Powys. This information instigated a discussion about the closure of recycling centres and the rules laid down as to what vehicles could drop off and the increased cost of Powys's services to remove six items which has more than doubled in price. It was felt that the probability of increased fly tipping in the wake of the changes would be inevitable. The question was also raised as to what happens to the garden waste which is bagged in orange bags (and will not be accepted if bagged in black bin bags) -does it go to recycling or does it go to landfill? The issue of recycling plastic film was also raised and questions asked as to why Powys cannot recycle this waste since others are doing so at a profit.

Cllr Van Rees volunteered to take these concerns back to Powys and would report back at the next meeting.

Cllr S. Jones reported that on Saturday 15th April fifty or more Skateboard "freeriders" were using the public highway to freeride and were camping in the area. No notification from Powys has been received by the Town Council and it could only be assumed that they were doing this without permission and causing considerable obstruction to vehicles using the road. Pictorial evidence was available and Cllr Van Rees requested a copy of the picture and would investigate at county level.

Action: Cllr Jones to send picture to Cllr Van Rees and Cllr Van Rees to investigate.

No other issues were brought to the table.

8. Traffic Calming

Cllr Tonks reported that there were no "Go Safe" STATs. He read out a letter that he had compiled to the first Minister, Carwyn Jones, and asked members to sanction its sending. All members agreed that it was a good letter and should be sent. Cllr Van Rees requested a copy of the letter stating that he too, would add a letter and send to other ministers asking for this issue to be brought to the attention of the Senedd. Cllr Rowlands suggested a deputation to the Welsh Government regarding this matter.

Discussions ensued as to what had changed since the original promise of action in 2015/2016 and that the cost of installing VA signs were insignificant when the average cost of a fatal accident was one million pounds. It was suggested that BRAKE be contacted to enlist their help, and that Wales today be informed.

Action: Clerk to get in touch with BRAKE and Wales Today

Cllr Van Rees to send Cllr Tonks letter with letters of his own to the First Minister.

9. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr Van Rees reported that he had dealt with the issue of leaves on the Llandoverly Road and Cllr A.Jones agreed that the situation was slightly better.

He gave a brief update on what was happening with Bethesda Chapel. There are no interested buyers to date though there are some leads with regard to carrying out a feasibility study on its potential use. If there are no buyers it might come to the table to support an application for it to be demolished. It was felt by members that until we hear from the steering group it was a little premature to think about demolishing it.

Cllr Lambkin reported to members that the Fire Station open Day was a big success and a good time was had by all.

She reminded members of the drop-in centre at the Station and that the Station itself was celebrating its 150th Anniversary of opening this year. Cllr A. Jones who is one of the Friends of the Station reminded members that they were organising a tea party at the Station on the 6th May.

Cllr Rowlands raised the issue of the brown tourist signs for the Cambrian factory and requested, since the Cambrian Factory is now closed, that they be removed.

A discussion ensued as to whether the weaving had in fact finished.

Cllr Van Rees declared an interest and left the meeting at 8.35pm.

It was finally suggested that the Clerk write a letter to Mr Nixon, the owner, to find out his intentions.

Action: Clerk to write above letter.

The signs are causing problems with Tourists as they stop at the Cambrian Mill to find it all shut up. Some members felt that this was not a good advert for Llanwrtyd and does not give the right tourism message.

Cllr Van Rees was asked to re-join the meeting.

Cllr P. Tonks requested that, in the light of previous discussions on refuse and recycling, a letter be sent to Powys expressing the Council's concerns about the reduction in service.

Action: Clerk to write above letter.

Cllr Davies informed members that he had been told that the War Memorial Institute was up for sale but this was refuted by Cllr Van Rees who informed members that he trustees were still waiting to hear back from the Mid Wales and West Housing Association.

10. Planning -The planning application P/2017/0007 for the installation of a Telecommunication's Mast at Ty Cae Mawr was raised since notification had been issued by Powys County Council.

The issue was raised at the March meeting on the 15th because the Town Council itself had had notification from the Company involved in its installation on the 9th March. The Town Council felt that this could only enhance the quality of the broadband connections in the area and so saw no objections. As soon as the Powys notification was received on the 31st March 2017 the response was immediately referred back to Powys that there were no objections from the Town Council.

The Clerk informed members of an e-mail received from a Mr N Bufton suggesting that the Town Council had discussed the matter and responded before the application was posted to the Public.

Action: Clerk to respond to Mr Bufton explaining the events as laid out above.

11. Twinning -Cllr Davies reported that the Committee were in the process of applying to the Lottery fund to support 4 people who were hopefully coming to Llanwrtyd to do work experience. Cllr Davies enquired as to whether Lady Milena Grenfell Baines was coming to film on the 27th April. Cllr Rowlands offered to send an e-mail to her to find out.

The Clerk asked if Cllr Davies had contact with Radim Rouce as the Town Council have sent two e-mails to him and got no response which was very unlike him. Cllr Davies to make contact with Mr Rouce via facebook and report back.

Action: Cllr Rowlands to contact lady M Grenfell Baines

Cllr Davies to contact Mr R Rouce

12. Surgery - there were no further issues brought to the table since all aspects had been covered in talking with Mr A Lawrie..

13. Library update -in the absence of Cllr Pace Avery there was nothing to report. however comments have been received by Councillors about the difficulty in actually becoming a volunteer with a great deal of paperwork to be completed by volunteers beforehand. Also training had been arranged during employment time and some volunteers found it impossible to attend. The question was asked why the training had to be in Llandrindod and not in Llanwrtyd where the volunteers will eventually work?

Cllr Van Rees reported that the cleaning issue was in hand.

14. Public Toilets Update- The toilets are near completion and are looking tremendous. Cllr James suggested an official opening date of Monday 1st May at 2:30pm on the Square. The press are to be invited. Invitations to go to all those who have made donations to attend on the day. Also notification to go into the Grapevine about the Event. Cllr James asked if Mr Croker could be informed and cut the grass on the Town Square prior to the event. Clerk to action this

The question was raised as to who would be collecting the monies from the coin operated doors. Cllr James was happy to collect this on a regular basis. It was also suggested that a notice be made indicating that there would be regular collections of monies.

The issue of a cleaner for the toilets was discussed and it was felt that a notice be put into the grapevine inviting expressions of interest in the post.

Actions: Clerk to send out invitations and and invite press to event and put together the above notices for the grapevine and send them to Cllr A Jones for inclusion in May's edition.

15. Dolwen Field

15.1 The Clerk informed members that Mr Croker had dealt with the moles on the field and that it was now in a fit state to start cutting.

15.2 The Clerk informed members that the Pavilion project was on hold until after the AGM . The intention being to apply to the Wales lottery for funding. Several letters needed writing to various bodies to gain their support. This would be done shortly. It was decided that a meeting of the development group meet up after the AGM and confirm the way forward .

16. Town Square and Green

Cllr Rowlands informed members that the pavements on the Square and up Ffos Road were in need of weeding and enquired as to whether Powys was still doing the weeding . If not it was suggested that Mr Croker be asked if he could do it.

Action : Clerk to check with Powys as to what their policy is.

Cllr Rowlands also reminded members that the bus shelter still needed cleaning and whether Mr Dodds could be contacted with a view to cleaning it.

Action : Clerk to contact Mr Dodds to find out if he is able to do them.

17. Correspondence

Item 4 on Agenda e-mail from Leigh Williams re lights at Ty Cae Mawr

Item 6 on Agenda

- letter of resignation from Cllr Tonks
- Letter from J Patterson returning officer
- Copy of the Good Councillor guide 2016

Action : Clerk to download guide for all Councillors onto their memory sticks.

Item 8 on Agenda

- letter from Richard Morgan re; VA signs
- Copy of letter sent to Dafyd Llewellyn from K. Skates office

Item 10 on Agenda---

- Planning Application P/2017/0007- installation of mast and equipment cabinets at the junction of Ffos Road and Ty Cae Mawr
- e-mail from Mr N. Bufton regarding the above application

Item 14 on Agenda--- e-mail from Nicola Davies re; Freehold of public toilets

Item 16 on agenda - e-mail from Kirsty Williams re; mobile banking

Item 17 on Agenda

- 1) Welsh water weed wiper trial (do we want to register?)
- 2) Tree Charter(do we want to go ahead with this?)
- 3) Recycling plastic film
- 4) Letter and posters from Powys county council regarding the changing of admission age
- 5) Letter from Powys telling the Council that bank details are held at Powys's systems
- 6) Letter from Powys regarding new venture to deliver property services
- 7) E-mail from Tracey Smith (programme officer) re: postponement of Renewable energy(LDP prog)

- 8) Letter from Powys re ; training of New Councillors
- 9) E-mail from One Voice Wales re; Training for new Councillors
- 10) Letter from Dyfed Powys Police outlining changes in policing Structure
- 11) Letter from Builth Wells Community Support requesting funding

Cllr James thanked all for attending and asked them to think about the AGM and the appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. He closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Signed

Date.....

Date of the AGM Wednesday 17th May