

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th December 2014 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.

Present: Cllrs. P James, J Rowlands, P Lambkin, A Jones, N Price, S Jones, R Thomas, T. Van Rees, P Tonks

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

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr L Haines

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Amendments and the Addendum were acknowledged. However Cllr Rowlands felt that the final two bullet points at the end of item 7 should also have been part of the Addendum rather than part of the minutes. When this was accepted the minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr P Tonks and seconded by Cllr P Lambkin.

3. **Finance**

3.1 **Balance Sheet**

The balance sheet was presented to members by the Clerk. Members accepted the balance sheet as an accurate account. The balance sheet was proposed as accurate by Cllr R Thomas and seconded by Cllr J Rowlands.

3.2 **Budget Update**

The Clerk outlined the current budgetary position three quarters of the way through the financial year with an explanation sheet showing how any apparently large expenditure was arrived at. The final payments to Adventure Playground Wales for the Play area skews the expenditure on Dolwen Field but this is offset by the receipt of the final grant payment from ALFW. Social/ Donations and Gifts appear high but this is because it includes the Donation of £180.00 to the Twinning from Bryan Watkins Memorial Walk which again is offset in "Receipts" by the same amount.

The budget update was discussed and approved as an accurate current picture of the Town Council Finances. Proposed by Cllr A. Jones and seconded by Cllr Price.

4. **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Cllr Tonks reported that he had received three complaints concerning parking (on Station Road) of detached laden trailers with flat tyres that appear to have been there for some time. These trailers are causing congestion and obstruction particularly for disabled residents in the area who are unable to disembark appropriately. Cllr Price pointed out that a specific designated disabled parking area could be put in if Powys County Council were approached about the situation. Cllr Rowlands had received a similar complaint and offered to make contact with the daughter of the resident concerned with a view to instructing her how to proceed.

Cllr A Jones also had received complaints about parking at Berthllwyd. Cllr James submitted that as no written complaints had been received about either issue by the Town Council the situation in both areas would be monitored closely.

Cllr Rowlands requested clarification with regard the re-cycling area at the back of Victoria Hall which is currently being misused. Cllr A Jones representative of the Victoria Hall committee assured members that representations had been made to Powys County Council on several occasions regarding the issue but no satisfactory response had been forthcoming.

The Clerk offered to write to Powys County Council on behalf of the Town Council to restate their concerns. The offer was gratefully received.

Action: Clerk to write to Powys County Council re ; Recycling area.

5. Traffic Calming

The issue of the Data received from Mr I mills with regard speed of vehicles on Ffos Road was discussed .All Councillors had been sent the e-mail which contained some of the data which the strips had gathered. The data reveals that the average speed of vehicles travelling Ffos Road is generally below the given speed limit and is therefore currently not perceived as a major problem.

It was suggested that the Clerk write to the Trunk Road Agency requesting similar data gathered from the traffic strips currently in place on the A483 through the Town.

Cllr Rowlands also reminded members that The ‘Go Safe Partnership’ monitors speeding along the A483 once a year and this may be why the strips have been on the main road. It was suggested that a letter be written to them requesting this year’s report.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Dean Williams and “Go safe Partnership” requesting the above information.

6. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr Price informed members that this year’s Christmas trees had been donated to the Town by Mr G Evans. He requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Evans for his generous donation and that he would write an article of thanks on behalf of the Festival Committee to be included in the next edition of Grapevine .

Cllr Van Rees informed members that he has requested that the First Minister visit Llanwrtyd to view the proposed Green Bring Site having again been thwarted in his attempts, with Kirsty Williams’s support, to make any progress with this issue.

Cllr James informed members that a meeting had been arranged with Alastair Knox to view the Public Toilets on the evening of Monday 22nd December at 6.30pm. Cllrs Price , Rowlands and James offered to attend.

7. Planning

7.1 The Clerk informed the meeting of Ms Hurley’s reply to the “Snack Attack” enquiry with reference to section 215 of the planning laws. Her response was that she would have to consult with her manager.

7.2 Members were informed that the Clerk had received copies of all correspondence sent by the complainant to the Public Ombudsman for Wales. Identical information has been sent to the two Councillors concerned.

Cllr James wished to clarify the Town Council’s position in this matter. The Town Council having sought further advice, were instructed to inform the complainants that if they wished to pursue the issues raised then they would have to submit their complaints to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. Having done this the Town Council itself is no longer involved in the process.

7.3 Planning Application P/2014/1118.Residential Development of Land at Maes y Dre, Beulah Road.

Cllr Tonks informed the meeting that he had been approached by several members of the Community regarding this development but that he also had personal concerns. He therefore declared an interest at this point and left the meeting.

Much debate about this issue ensued with many concerns being raised but one fundamental principle emerged that members felt needed clarifying with the authorities. This was:

- were there any conditions on the original planning application when the industrial units were built indicating that the land could only be used for such units in the future?

If the above conditions did apply –have Changes to the use of land been applied for and if “yes” was Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council informed of such a change?

It was suggested that the Clerk find out the answer to this vital question.

Cllr Tonks re-joined the meeting when discussions were completed.

8. Twinning

No issues were brought to the table.

9. Public Toilets

Cllr James reiterated that a meeting with Alastair Knox was imminent that he and Cllr Price would report back at the January meeting.

Much discussion ensued regarding the transfer of services from Powys County Council to Local Councils with concern coming from many quarters as to the condition of the assets that are being transferred. It was felt that if an asset is to be transferred then it should be in a good state of maintenance at the time of handover and that Town Councils should not be expected to take over assets which have fallen into disrepair whilst in the hands of the County Council and be expected to foot substantial costs of repair and /or modernisation

Cllr Van Rees wholeheartedly agreed with this viewpoint and informed members that he had said exactly the same at a full Council Meeting.

10. Dolwen Field

10.1 The Clerk reported that all dealings with Mr Stevenson at Adventure Playground Wales were complete.

Cllr Price informed the meeting that he was compiling a new Inspection schedule for the play area.

10.2 The Clerk reported that all organisations had been sent the new “Terms and Conditions” for the Pavilion.

Cllr Price reported that one or two new locks were needed and that it might be wise to purchase lockable toilet roll dispensers.

Cllr Price to liaise with The Clerk to arrange a Pavilion Management meeting for January where the “fit track” would be further discussed.

A discussion ensued as to possible funding avenues for this project and Cllr Van Rees outlined the concerns of Sustainable Powys with regard access of provision in Mid Wales. Questions were raised about the effectiveness of the Cambrian Mountain Tourism Initiative and whether in fact it was still a live issue. Cllr Van Rees had made representations to all in the area to take the venture forward but voiced his disappointment with very poor response. It was proposed that the Town Council invite someone from Sustainable Powys to the February Town Council Meeting to discuss way forward.

11. Town Square and Green

Council members unanimously congratulated the Festival Committee for the standard of Christmas Lighting in Town.

12. Correspondence

Item 3.2 Letter from Powys county Council regarding the Precept 2015/2016

There was much debate about the level of precept this year particularly in light of the reduction in Services at County level and the implications of Community Development Programme with Town Councils becoming increasingly responsible for a whole raft of services in the future. It was generally felt that there is a great deal of uncertainty about the costs of being responsible for, and providing these facilities and as a Town Council we need to be prepared and proactive in planning for increased costs with regard to a number of services in the near future.

With these considerations in mind, balanced with the fact that the precept was increased last year by £500.00, it was decided to leave the precept for 2015/2016 at its current level with no increase with the understanding that in future years it may be necessary to make a substantial increase in order to deal efficiently with pending transfers of responsibility for various services from County to Town Council.

Item 5.1 G-mail from Ian Mills with regard the traffic strips on Ffos Road together with attached data (sent to all Councillors)

Item 7.1 G-mail from Ms D. Hurley in response to our enquiries about planning at “Snack Attack”

Item 7.2 G-mail from Rob Thomas re; issues reported in the November minutes

Item 7.2 Information from The Public Services Ombudsman with regard to Planning Application number P/2014/0843 (erection of Double garage)

Item 7.3 Planning Application/2014/118 construction of 10 houses at Maes y Dre Beulah Road.

Item 9 G-mail from Alastair Knox re; meeting at Public Toilets

Item 12 G-mail from Rob Thomas re; lighting on Ffos Road

Item 12.1 Freedom of Information request from Scott Davies re Air Conditioning Certificates

Action : Clerk to respond as not applicable to this Town Council

Item 12.2 G-mail from Jeremy Patterson at Powys County Council re; Community Delivery
Cllr Lambkin expressed concern that the letter, in her opinion, showed little understanding of the impact and cost implications for services at the “front line” of delivery.

Item 12.3 G-mail from one voice Wales re; Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Item 12.4 Letter from Weights and measures with reference to Gardening allotments

Item 12.5 G-mail from Christopher Salmon Police and Crime Commissioner re; Survey re:
precept survey

Action: Clerk to forward e-mail to relevant bodies to look at the survey and respond accordingly.

13. Miscellaneous

13.1 Defibrillator.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the offer of a defibrillator had been accepted. Members felt that before the form of acceptance be sent we should seek advice as to the best location by inviting Mr S Amor to the January meeting to discuss positioning and training in its use . Cllr James proposed that the Clerk should contact Mr Ronicle to explain our current position.

Action: Clerk to invite Mr Amor to January meeting and to contact Mr Ronicle to explain the current position.

Cllr A Jones reported that she had received complaints about parking at Berthllwyd. Cllr Rowlands requested an update on the Grant paid to Ysgol Dolafon for their War Project. As governor to the school Cllr Van Rees reported that a trip to the Brecon War Museum was planned in the near future and that the pupils are busy researching families of the area who were involved in the First World War. Pupils have already visited the War Memorial Institute as part of their research. The pupils hope to publish their project in the Spring Term.

No other issues were brought to the table.

Cllr James closed the meeting thanking all members for their hard work during the year and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Signed..... (Mayor and Chair of Meeting)

Date

Date of next Meeting: **WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY 2015**

Cllr Tonks requested the following amendment:

Item 4

“ parking on Station Road of vehicles with attached trailers that were in a state of disrepair with tyres flat.”

to

.parking on Station Road of detached laden trailers with flat tyres that appear to have been there for some time. These trailers are causing congestion and obstructing parking for residents.....etc”