

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2015

in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.

Mr Evans did not arrive so the meeting commenced.

Present : Cllrs P James , T. Van Rees, P. Lambkin, A. Edwards, A. Jones , S. Jones, L.Pace-avery,

In attendance : LE Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Two observers were present.

1. **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs P. Tonks (he wished to have it minuted that until he had made a full recovery he would not attend future meetings . He will keep members informed of progress) J. Davies, N. Price, J. Rowlands.
2. **Minutes of the November Meeting**
The minutes of the November meeting were considered by members. The Clerk rectified an omission from the apologies for absence in the November minutes and included P. Tonks in the minutes to be signed by the Chair. The minutes were considered a true record of events and were proposed as accurate by Cllr T Van Rees and seconded by Cllr L. Pace-Avery.
3. **Bank Update**
Cllr A. Jones informed members of the online petition set up by Kirsty Williams in response to the Bank closures in the area after news broke that HSBC were closing their branch in Builth Wells and Rhayader.
Cllr Van Rees updated members on the position of the mobile banking service operated by NAT West and the Credit Union . He proposed inviting representatives from the Red kite Union and Brecon Credit Union to the next Bank working group meeting in January.
Cllr Van Rees said he would make contact with the Brecon Credit Union . The Clerk to approach Red Kite Credit Union.
4. **Finance**
 - 4.1 **November Balance Sheet**
The November Balance Sheet was presented to and considered by members .They were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by Cllr A. Edwards.
 - 4.2 **Budget update and proposed Budget for 2016-2017**
A budget update to December 16th was presented to members. The Clerk pointed out that there was a large expenditure under Dolwen Field due to the unexpected overdue invoice at the beginning of the year for £1795.20..After discussion the budget update was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr A. Jones and seconded by Cllr L. Pace-Avery.

The proposed budget for 2016-2017 was put before members with the question raised: Should the Precept increase this year? Precept request forms need to be back with the Authority by mid-January. Much discussion ensued regarding use of Dolwen field and the Pavilion. The idea of advertising camping was put forward but it was felt that the Field was for use of Local event organisers and if we began to advertise The Town Council would need to apply for planning permission as it would be considered a Commercial Business. Much debate was had under each budget heading and it was pointed out by the Clerk that if there was no precept rise the budget would be extremely tight next year.

Cllr Van Rees proposed that there be no increase in the precept as the County Council would possibly be raising Poll Tax by over 4%.All members were asked to vote with regard this proposal. All members present supported Cllr Van Rees's proposal not to raise the precept for the year 2016-2017. The motion was carried.

4.3 **Revenue Grant Applications**

The Clerk informed member that letters had been received from the Abergwesyn Hall Committee and the Victoria Centenary Hall Committee requesting their revenue Grants of £250.00 and £400.00 respectively . A request was also made for the Abergwesyn Public Toilets grant of £300.00.

Cheques were issued for the above grants and were distributed to the relevant Cllrs to take back to their Committees.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr James informed the meeting of the vandalism to the Christmas Tree . On two occasions the Tree had had its lights destroyed. The volunteers who erected the tree and lights were extremely disheartened as they had worked through pouring rain and high winds to repair the tree after the first act of vandalism. Cllr A. Jones reported that the Church had also been vandalised with one of the festival trees being dragged away disappearing for one night then and then being returned. Cllr Van Rees was informed by Mr Price, one of the War Memorial Trustees, that there had also been vandalism at the War Memorial Institute with four windows being smashed. Cllr Van Rees considered this to be a desecration of the War Memorial. All incidents had been reported to the police. The perpetrators were apprehended and released on bail.

There was a strong feeling that the Tree should be reinstated and Cllr Edwards and Cllr Pace-Avery felt there was strong Community desire to repair the damage. Cllr James delegated them both to make contact with Cllr Price who had spent a great deal of time and energy co-ordinating the buying and putting up of the lights, to see if this was viable. The Clerk would make contact with the original suppliers of lights to see if a new set could be delivered. It was felt that if Cllr Price was in agreement then the Community would fund raise to replace the lights. Cllr Edwards and Cllr Pace-Avery agreed to put the issue onto Facebook. Cllr James would also talk to all the groups who were visiting for meals at the restaurant. The Clerk would do posters to put up around town. It was agreed that a Carol service around the Tree be held on Christmas Eve as a show of solidarity for those who had worked so hard in the first instance to give Llanwrtyd a beautiful Christmas Tree.

Peter thanked members for their support in this matter and assured those present that the perpetrators would be brought to justice and that the matter was in the hands of the Police.

The Clerk reported that contact had been made with Powys County Council regarding the abandoned car in the car park behind Victoria Hall. A notice would be issued and if not responded to then the car would be towed away.

The Clerk read an e-mail forward by Cllr Van Rees regarding "Snack Attack". The enforcement notices and associated documents have been approved and were likely to be issued to the owners of the property by November 20th.

6. Traffic Calming

The Clerk read an e-mail forwarded by Cllr Tonks regarding a meeting to be held between County Councillors , the Trunk Road Agency and the Police Traffic Department with a view to discussing further ways to reduce the speed of traffic on certain stretches of the A483. In the New Year there will be individual campaigns to be undertaken by Dyfed Powys Police in different areas. Cllr Tonks has an invitation to attend such a campaign in and around Llanwrtyd Wells.

This was well received by members.

7. Feedback for Councillors

Cllr Van Rees reported that the Welsh Unit at Ysgol Dolafon would close at the end of the summer Term 2016.

Cllr Lambkin reported that she had written to HSBC regarding the opening of a Branch in Llanwrtyd Wells and that as yet she had had no reply.

She requested information regarding the closure of the Bank in Llanwrtyd and Cllr James explained that Mr R Christie had written three letters to go to various people at Barclays in the New Year. These had been agreed at the last meeting of the Bank Working Group and would be transposed onto Town Council Headed notepaper. Cllr Lambkin requested to see the letters and the Clerk agreed that she would make them available to view.

No further feedback was received.

8. Planning

8.1 Planning application P/2015/0968 ., The application requested erection of a replacement extension to south barn, erection of new storage buildings between north and south barns (including demolition of existing storage shed) together with change of use of the south barns to provide additional guest facilities/function rooms, community facility in connection with the existing holiday business at Cwm

Irfon/ formation of a new access and car parking areas at Nant Y Walch Barns Cwm Irfon. This application was considered by members. The following concerns arose:

- Had there been sufficient consultation with the community as to the need for this development
- The road at this point is not a two car road as stated in the application.
- The Service community Bus does not run along this Road as stated.
- The access to the parking area will be very tight and increase the possibility of accident as this is an area where cars and logging lorries often meet already causing problems of passing. Increased activity would have a detrimental effect on road Safety. The road is unsuitable for increased traffic flow.
- The facilities would detract from facilities already available in Llanwrtyd Wells There are already two halls in the Town.
- Any commercial enterprise would be contrary to Powys county Councils Planning policy, i.e. development in open country.
- The issue of water and sewerage was raised. Where would the sewerage be taken? Increased Facilities would increase water consumption. Would this have a detrimental effect on the spring that feeds the small hamlet.
- Increase in noise could be a problem in an area of natural beauty
- The river is triple SSI drainage could have an adverse impact on the river.

A letter was read out from local residents outlining their concerns for the development. It was unanimously agreed that the above concerns should be reported back to the planning authority.

Action: Clerk to respond accordingly to the planning application.

8.2 Planning application P/2015/1057-Erection of a two storey extension at Irfon House, Irfon Crescent.
This application was considered by members.
There were no objections raised with regard to this application.

9. Twining

No issues were brought to the table.

10. Public Toilets

The Clerk informed members that the Business Plan had been sent by recorded delivery to Mr Rhodri Griffiths at the Welsh Government but as yet no reply had been received. The Clerk also informed members of an e-mail from Powys County Council announcing that they will provide 100% grant for business rates to Town and Community Councils that have taken over the operation of the public conveniences.

11. Dolwen Field –the issue of the Arwain Project was raised and the use of the Field and Pavilion had been raised at an earlier point in the meeting. It is hoped to acquire funding for the development of the field to include a running and cycle track, fitness trail and car parking facilities but there is much work needed to access funding and in gauging public opinion regarding the project.

No other issues were brought to the table.

12. Town Square and Green. Cllr Lambkin enquired about the Development of the Square and Mr Garlands input. Cllr James informed members that at the present time no further contact had been made.

13. Declarations of interest. The Clerk reminded members that there were still forms outstanding. Cllr James reiterated the importance of these forms as much to safeguard members as to abide by Standing orders.

14. Christmas Arrangements The Town Council annual meal was postponed until after Christmas as people were finding it difficult to coordinate diaries during this busy period. It was agreed that the meal be at the Drovers on Saturday 23rd January. All members present agreed.

15. Correspondence

- Item 4.2 on Agenda Letter from Powys County Council requesting Precept for 2016/2017
- Item 6 on agenda E-mail from Peter Tonks re; traffic calming

- Item 8 on Agenda G-mail from Shane Thomas re Snack Attack
- Item 8 on Agenda Planning Application P/2015/0963 erection of a replacement extension to South barn, erection of new storage building between North and South Barns. Change of use of south barns to provide additional guest facilities/function rooms/community facility in connection with existing holiday business at Cym Irfon. Formation of new access and car park area at Nant Y Walch Barns.
- Item 8 on Agenda With reference to the above planning application –a letter from Mr and Mrs Couch outlining their objections to the development.
- Item 8 on Agenda Planning application P/2015/1027 Erection of a two storey extension at Irfon House, Irfon Crescent.
- Item 10 on Agenda G mail from Nicola Davies re Grant for rates on public toilets.
- Item 16.0 on Agenda Letter from Powys County Council regarding Community Delivery. This was felt irrelevant now as things had changed since the letter had been received on the 20th November
- Item 16.1 on Agenda Revisit of communication regarding car parking at the Cambrian Factory
- Item 16.2 on Agenda Letter from One Voice Wales -invitation to Buckingham Palace for chair plus one.
- Item 16.3 on Agenda Letter from Builth Building Services offering their services in the light of devolved Services.

Round the Table

Cllr A. Jones felt that the grass cutting at this time of year caused unsafe walking areas as the grass and leaves was causing slippery pavements.

Cllr James reminded members of the possibility of no grass cutting at all in 2016.

Cllr Lambkin enquired as to whether the Depot in Llangammarch would close. She was informed that while it was no longer an operational site it was still used for storage.

Cllr S. Jones enquired about the surgery. Cllr James informed members of communication received via Kirsty Williams that the Builth Practice had had their application for the Sustainability Grant turned down. It was felt that the Town Council should invite Alan Lowrie and Dr Walters to the next Town Council meeting in January. Also invite Kirsty Williams to stay on after the earlier Bank Meeting.

Cllr James wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New.

The meeting was closed at 20.56pm.

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 20th January
 6-7pm Bank Working Group Meeting
 7:00pm onwards Town Council Meeting

Signed.....

Date.....

Amendments:

Requested by Cllr Lambkin.

At item 7 on agenda.

“Cllr Lambkin reported that she had written to HSBC regarding the proposed closure of their Branch in Builth Wells”

Changed to; “Cllr Lambkin reported that she had written to HSBC regarding the opening of a Branch in Llanwrtyd Wells”