

## **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

**Present** : Cllrs P. James, N. Price, J Rowlands, A. Edwards, A Jones, S. Jones, P. Lambkin, P. Tonks, L. Pace-Avery, T. Van Rees, J. Davies

**In attendance**: L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

**Apologies for Absence** There were no apologies for absence.

### **Minutes of the January Meeting**

The January minutes were considered by members and deemed a true record of events. Proposed by Cllr N. Price and seconded by Cllr J. Davies.

### **Bank Update.**

Cllr James updated members on the work of the Bank Action Group. He informed members that to date there has been no response from the staggered letters sent to officials in London. The Clerk read and e-mail from Mr A. Davies regarding the ATM machine indicating that the machine would stay in Llanwrtyd for the foreseeable future but the siting of the machine was as yet unresolved.

Cllr James informed members that Mr Davies had offered to speak with the Town Council and this was felt to be appropriate by the bank working group as there were still questions that needed to be answered and/or clarified. The Clerk is to make contact with Mr Davies to arrange a meeting with proposed dates. The format of the meeting would be similar to the meeting held initially and the Public would be allowed to attend with questions being fed to the Council beforehand.

Members were in agreement with this plan

**Action**; Clerk to make contact with Mr Davies to arrange a meeting.

Cllr Van Rees informed members that the Brecon Credit Union was a possible avenue for the future and could possibly amalgamate with the Cambrian Credit Union. He sought approval of members to pursue the idea of arranging for representatives of the Brecon credit Union to attend the next meeting of the Town Council. This was agreed by all members.

**Action**. Cllr Van Rees to make contact with Brecon Credit Union personnel to arrange a visit.

### **1. Finance**

The issue of outstanding debt arose and at this point Cllr James declared an interest and left the room. Cllr N. Price took over the Chair. He informed members that a debt of £175.00 was still outstanding with Red Kite Events despite several invoices having been sent to Mr Delafield. Cllr Price informed members that Cllr James was prepared to speak to Mr Delafield regarding this debt in person before any further action was taken and requested approval from members for this to happen. Members agreed that this would be a positive way forward.

. Cllr James re-joined the meeting and was informed of the decision.

**Action**. Cllr James to approach Red Kite Events in person to discuss outstanding debt.

#### **1.1 January Balance Sheet**

The January Balance sheet was presented to the meeting. The Clerk informed members that the £1008.57 banked was a combination of the cheque received from the Festival Committee as their contribution to the Town Council towards the Christmas lights expenditure and the monies raised by the community for the repair of the Christmas Lights. A cheque has subsequently been issued to the Festival Committee for the amount of £545.30. The Clerk informed members that a VAT return for the sum of £617.93 had been received from HMRC. The balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Pace-Avery and seconded by Cllr A. Jones

### 1.2 Renewal of SLCC and One Voice Wales yearly subscriptions

After much discussion it was proposed by Cllr Van Rees that the subscriptions be renewed. This was seconded by Cllr Tonks.

The Clerk informed members that the sum of £49.50 would appear as a credit in the next month's figures. This is a bursary from SLCC for the ILCA course that the Clerk is currently engaged in at a total cost of £99.00. Cllr James resolved to fund the remaining amount of £45.50. This was formally proposed by Cllr Pace- Avery and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees. The Clerk gratefully acknowledged support of the Town Council in her efforts to become more qualified.

## 2 Anti-Social Behaviour

The Clerk read a letter to members, received from Mrs. D. Robinson regarding dog fouling at Ty Cae Mawr. Many members agreed that the issue had become particularly bad this last few weeks, possibly as a result of the severe weather conditions and dog owners not taking their dogs for long walks. The question asked was "are we within our rights to put up a notice asking dog owners to pick up their mess."

Much debate ensued regarding this issue. The general feeling was that as a public nuisance issue the individual was within their rights to put up a notice but it was decided that clarification be sought and a reply written to Mrs Robinson.

Action: Clerk to contact Powys regarding dog fouling signs and find the answer to the question raised. Clerk to reply to Mrs Robinson with answer to her question.

Cllr A. Jones agreed to put a notice about dog fouling into the Grapevine.

Cllr Davies reported that a resident at Bethlwyd had recently been the victim of vandalism to her car on more than one occasion. Cllr James acknowledged this incident and informed members that it was currently in the hands of the police.

Cllr A. Jones reported that as a result there remained quite a lot of glass left on the car park.

Action Clerk to make contact with Powys Housing Dept. to request removal of glass.

The Clerk reported that there had been no response from a letter that had been sent with an invoice for damage incurred at Christmas time to the Tree and the War Memorial Institute. Cllr A..Jones volunteered to speak to the resident in question and offered to take another invoice. Cllrs commended Cllr Jones for this offer.

Action: Clerk to send Cllr Jones a copy of the invoice sent and Cllr Jones to deliver it by hand.

Cllr Van Rees updated members regarding Police involvement with the above, stating that the case was being taken to the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Clerk informed members that a "Car Abandonment" notice had been put on the car in the recycling car park.

Cllr Tonks reported disturbing news of mistreatment of animals within the Town . On two occasions reports that cats had been tortured with one being found in a bin with a broken leg. No details were available and Cllr Price felt that if residents had concerns of this nature they should immediately be reported to the Police on 101.

Members felt that this should be brought to the attention of the Police.

Action: Clerk to contact PC J Kelham and inform.

## 3 Traffic Calming

The Clerk highlighted the e-mail sent by Kirsty Williams which had a grid of expected works on the A483 with Llanwrtyd Wells included. It was felt that although this indicated work to be done there was no specific timescale and members felt it prudent to write to Edwina Hart requesting clarification particularly in the light of the letter received from her in February 2015 and more recently December 2015.

Cllr A. Jones enquired as to the status of the CARS project. Cllr Tonks informed members that due to a recent operation he was unable to attend the meeting at Sennybridge but assured members that he had asked to be kept informed of any progress. He will follow up and report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Lambkin informed members that there had been a regular presence of the Police van in recent weeks.

Action: Clerk to write letter to Ms E Hart with regard action on VA signs.

Cllr Tonks to follow up CARS project and report back at the next meeting.

#### **4 Feedback from Councillors**

- Cllr Van Rees outlined an issue with drainage on Dol-y Coed Road . The issue of responsibility was in question with Powys County Council abdicating responsibility for the maintenance of the ditch when documents are available showing that drainage at the site in question was in fact included in the Flood Alleviation scheme some years ago. After much debate, representatives from Powys County Council are now prepared to attend a site meeting.
- Cllr Rowlands reported that the hedge on Ffos Road at Brynawelon was very much overgrown and needed cutting back . It was causing pedestrians to step out into the road because the hedge in question is a hawthorn and could cause damage to eyes.  
He also requested an update on the surgery and asked whether we had had any feedback from Builth Practice regarding a meeting to discuss the sustainability Grant, that should have taken place in January .Cllr Van Rees reported that at recent cabinet meeting the Local Health Board were congratulated for the support given to maintaining the surgery in Llanwrtyd and was assured that the Surgery was indeed safe.
- Cllr Lambkin reported that the caravan behind the Neuadd Arms had been removed.  
She also reported a great deal of rubbish outside Abergwesyn Hall. Cllr S. Jones reported that the said rubbish had been cleared and that the Abergwesyn Hal Committee has resolved to have the recycling bins at the site removed.  
Cllr Lambkin also expressed continuing concern about the safety of Ysgol Dolafon in the light of the pending closure of the Welsh Unit.  
Cllr Van Rees assured members that there was no threat to the future of the school  
Cllr Lambkin was also concerned about the transport of children to other facilities. After much discussion it was felt that Cllr Lambkin should consult with the representative for the School Cllr Price, who would relay any further concerns , to the Governing Body at the school . In fairness to the Authority it was said that there have been consultation meetings and that the Council are prepared to meet with individuals or groups to discuss transport issues.  
On the issues of schools Cllr Van Rees briefly outlined possibilities for reorganised Secondary Education in the area.
- Cllr A. Jones reported that a lorry had turned around at the junction of Cefn Gorwedd Road leaving huge troughs in the verge. She requested that Powys be informed to repair the damage.  
Action: Clerk to contact the relevant authority at Powys to get verge repaired.
- Cllr James reported a large pothole on the slip road off the A483 on the edge of Town. It was felt to be a Health and Safety issue for both vehicles and the elderly residents who use this road regularly.  
Action: Clerk to report with a view to repairing pothole.
- Cllr Davies enquired about the grant for the Public Toilets and whether ,if we did manage to get funding this year that it would have to be spent in this financial year in which case we will not have a great deal of time to implement any action.  
Action: Clerk to get in touch with Rhodri Griffiths at Welsh Gov. to put this case.

#### **5 Planning.**

The Clerk informed members that Powys would no longer be issuing paper copies of Planning Applications.

There was one electronic planning application received which had been sent to all Cllrs via e-mail. The issue remains as to how the Council communicates any applications with those who do not have the internet. After some discussion it was felt that one copy should be printed by the Clerk to bring to the meeting.

Planning application P/2016/0107, change of use of former Barclays Bank into a one bedroom flat, was considered. There were no objections brought to the table, however it was noted that the ATM, on the new plans was not included. This was something that needed to be addressed with Mr Davies if he were to agree to attend a meeting.

Cllr Van Rees updated members on Snack Attack but since the last meeting contact with the person dealing with this issue has been impossible. Cllr Van Rees voiced that he would speak to the Head of Development to find out what progress has been made in issuing the enforcement notice. He will report back at the next meeting.

## **6 Twinning**

Cllr Davies reported that there had, as yet, been no further development with the situation in Meriel. There were no further issues brought to the table.

## **7 Public Toilets**

The Clerk informed members that there was still no response from the Welsh Government regarding the Council's request for funding to support the Public Toilets. Concern was raised that as the end of the financial year arrives it would give us little time to implement any works in order to spend any grant should we receive one.

The Clerk informed members that the current licence for the Public Toilets was now due for renewal. The documents received had been circulated to all Cllrs. Cllr Price pointed out that there was no plan of boundary or any reference as to who was responsible for the boundary. To date there has been no "Condition of Building Survey" been done, though one was requested several months ago.

There were issues in the new agreement that needed clarification and it was decided to invite Mr Knox to a meeting to discuss the document before signing.

**Action :** Clerk to make contact with Mr Knox to arrange a meeting

## **8 Dolwen Field**

11.1 Cllr James updated members on the project for the Dolwen Field informing them of meeting that had taken place with the children at Ysgol Dolafon and the senior citizens of the Thursday club. The public meeting was due to take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February in the Victoria Hall at 6.30pm. He felt the project was a worthwhile project which could generate use of the pavilion. He informed members that from the meeting held so far the main issue for use of the Pavilion was access to the building by car. It was suggested that the Communities of Beulah, Llangammarch and the high School be included in the discussions as to what they needed.

Proposals were made regarding an event on Dolwen Field in recognition of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It was suggested that a "picnic in the Park" type event would be a good idea.

It was also proposed by Cllr Van Rees that congratulations be sent to The Queen from the Town Council.

**Action:** Clerk to make contact with Beulah, Llangammarch and Builth Wells High school to arrange meetings.

Clerk to find out dates for the Field Event and report back at the next meeting.

Clerk to put together a Congratulatory message to the Queen from the Town Council.

### **11.2 Grass Cutting**

The issue of the contract for grass cutting was raised. After much discussion it was resolved to maintain the contract with Powys, if the terms were reasonable, and if we could keep the same agreement as last year and pay for a specific number of cuts. Clerk to make contact with Powys regarding new contracts.

It was also agreed to invite Mr Croker to submit his bid for the remainder of the grass cutting. This would be discussed at the next meeting. The issue of the hedge cutting Cllr Price offered to sort out in consultation with Mr Croker.

## **9 Town Square and Green**

Cllr Tonks reported that Mr Garland had made contact and he would arrange to meet to speak with him the next time he was in Llanwrtyd.

There were no other issues regarding the Town Square and Green brought to the table.

10 Declarations of interest.

There was one declaration of interest during the meeting by Cllr James.

One declaration of interest form is outstanding.

**11 Correspondence Agenda February 2016**

Item 3 on Agenda E-mail from Mr A Davies in response to contact regarding ATM machine

Item 7.1 on Agenda E-mail from Cllr Van Rees asking for issue to be added to agenda

Item 8.0 on Agenda Information from Powys county council regarding paperless Planning Applications  
Application P/2016/1070 Application for change of use to Barclays Bank

Item 10.0 on Agenda E-mail from Nicola Davies at Powys CC regarding expiry date of Public Toilet lease.

Item 14.0 on Agenda New Year’s Greetings card from Meriel

This was welcomed by all members.

**Item 14.1 on Agenda** Letter requesting copy of letter under FOI regulations

The Clerk read a letter from Mrs J Price at Maes Y Gwaelod requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act. This was duly acted upon. Cllr James asked on two occasions if any members around the table had had any form of communication with Mrs Price (letter , discussion , telephone call , e-mails).Cllr Lambkin (on a personal level with regard to cleaning horse rugs) , Cllr Van Rees and Cllr Edwards declared that there had been communication with the above.

Item 14.2 on Agenda Letter and Disc from Powys County Council regarding Powys Development Plan 2011-2026.

Item 14.3 on Agenda Letter from PCC outlining new procedures for Purchase and Supply of Goods

Item 14.4 on Agenda Letter from one voice wales regarding February Training Sessions

Item 14.5 on Agenda Letter from Talgarth Male Voice Choir

Item 14.6 on Agenda Letter from SLCC regarding changes to their Legal Status

Cllr James thanked everyone for their attendance and their contributions to the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

**Date of next meeting: WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

## **Amendments**

P. Lambkin requested the following amendment:

At 14.1 to be inserted after Cllr Lambkin.....(on a personal level with regard to cleaning horse rugs)

She also requested that the follow should be included;

- Recognition by the Council of the Queens birthday
- Possible event on Dolwen Field in celebration of above

All of the above have been included.