

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 20th January 2016

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

K Williams AM

1. **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs P. Tonks , A. Edwards

In Attendance: L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Visiting speaker : Mr H. Evans.

Mr Evans outlined the information he had found regarding the Arwain Project which is run through the Welsh Government. In order to put in an expression of interest form it is necessary to run the desired project through Powys County Council to see if it fits into their own LEADER programme. The initial closing date of 31st January is not possible to meet but there will be other windows of application. In the meantime the application has to demonstrate that there has been Public Consultation and approval for any project submitted. A great deal of discussion ensued as to how we could engage the public and what the project should include. After much discussion Cllr James suggested it be linked to the original refurbishment project of the pavilion and possibly name it Phase two of the Pavilion project. With the idea of attracting more use of the pavilion, funding may be sought for a computer hub which would require vehicular access. Alongside this the running track and outdoor fitness trail would provide the opportunity to improve health and well-being. It was suggested an article be written for the grapevine to invite residents to a public meeting to discuss the issue and to gather ideas from the public but with a scheme in mind to show that the Town Council are keen for this to go forward. The feeling was that it should be led by the public and all ideas taken on board. Cllr Avery felt that the way it was promoted would be key to its success and backing. Questions were raised as to whether the "Arwain" scheme was the best option for accessing the monies needed.

Cllr James thanked Mr Evans for the time and effort he had put into gathering the information and invited him to "stay on board" with the project. He reiterated that if the project came to fruition it could be a tremendous asset to the Town and provide much needed public access to a "tel-centre" and open up the area for greater use by the residents of Llanwrtyd and surrounding villages.

Mr Evans left the meeting.

2. Minutes of the December Meeting

The minutes of the December meeting were duly considered and with one amendment were deemed to be an accurate record of proceedings. Formally proposed as accurate by Cllr. T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr L Pace-Avery.

3. Bank Update

All Councillors had received a report of the meeting of the Bank Working Group on the eighth of December and as many of the Cllrs were present at the meeting of the working group prior to the Town Council Meeting it was felt there was no more to add.

4. Finance

4.1 Queries regarding budget update and proposed budget for 2016-2017

This was an opportunity for Councillors to bring to the table any issues regarding the above. No issues were raised.

4.2 December Balance Sheet

The December balance sheet was presented to members. The Clerk explained the expenditure and outgoings for the month and noted that £23.71 interest had been added to the Swansea Building Society Account. The Balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record of transactions by Cllr A Jones and seconded by Cllr T Van Rees.

4.3 Christmas Lights Monies.

The Clerk informed members that a cheque for £50.00 had been received from Cllr P. Tonks on behalf of Mr and Mrs Rickard.

Cllr James submitted £100.00 from a collection made at Charcroft Electronics who raised £75.00. This was kindly rounded up to £100.00 by Mr P. Newman.

Cllr James submitted £25.00 donation from Mr P. Garland.

Cllr Pace Avery declared the sum of £30.00 from local residents at Ty Cae Mawr and informed members that Cllr A. Edwards held the money from the Luncheon Club and Cllr donations which amounted to £340.30 making a total of £545.30.

Cllr James felt that the money raised should go to the Festival Committee who normally organise events and raise funds throughout the year to provide Llanwrtyd with its Christmas Light Display. This was agreed by all members.

The Clerk is to pay all monies received into the Town Council Account and raise a cheque for the Festival Committee.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Clerk updated members on the ongoing Police Investigation with regard the vandalism over the Christmas period but as this is still an ongoing investigation the information given by the Police was limited.

A bill for the damage has been requested by a member of the public and the Clerk has been instructed to issue an invoice for the amount required to address the damage done.

Due to a further commitment Cllr Van Rees requested that "Feedback from Councillors" be dealt with as the next item.

6. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr Van Rees

- informed members of the situation regarding the Welsh Unit at Ysgol Dolafon which is due to close in the summer of 2016. The Governors have had to accept that there would be insufficient numbers to maintain the unit under the criteria that Powys has laid down (that there should be 25 or more pupils in a unit to make it viable). He outlined the background to this decision and the difficulty Powys faces with its budget as the settlement from the Welsh Government equates to a 4.1% cut. He made it clear that Powys was fighting hard to obtain some relief from this severe settlement.
.Cllr Van Rees pointed out how hard the Governors and the Headteacher, Mrs G. Lloyd, had worked to avoid the closure.
- He also informed members of the change to the starting school age due to come into effect from September 2017 when the age at which children will start school will revert to the legal requirement of 5 years old. This generated debate as to what will happen to Nursery Education and but this has not yet been finalised.

Kirsty Williams explained the "floor" which previously operated to alleviate those Councils hardest hit but also explained that this system is no longer operating this year. She informed members of the "Rural Stabilization Grant" which, if awarded would reduce the cuts to 3.1%.

The Clerk alerted members to an e-mail received from Powys County Council informing of a Public Consultation meeting with regard the closure to be held at Ysgol Dolafon (Bromsgrove Hall) on Wednesday 3rd February at 6:30pm.

- Cllr Van Rees informed members that he had spoken to Ms D Hurley at the planning department regarding the current situation with serving notice on "Snack Attack". The owners had been tracked through the Land Registry and notice had been sent to the address given but had been returned as "not known at the address given". Cllr Van Rees urged the Planning Department to find the owners to deliver the enforcement notice as soon as possible as this issue is now over twelve months old.

Cllr Lambkin challenged proposed educational changes expressing that the right to be educated in Welsh and Education itself was in fact a mandatory service and should not be cut.

Ms Williams pointed out that the law states that Welsh-medium education is available to all children whose parents/carers wish them to receive their education through the medium of Welsh, and this within reasonable travelling distance from the children's homes. She also pointed out that the Statutory school Age of Admission was five.

Much debate ensued regarding the transport arrangements to be put into place and the appropriateness, should it arise, of small children travelling with High School children.

Cllr Van Rees left the meeting at 20.19

Cllr A. Jones voiced concern at the state of the footpath after hedge cutting stating that ,with the left debris of leaves and twigs , the path was quite dangerous to walk on. She also informed members of a loose paving slab in Victoria Square that a member of the public had brought to her attention as a "trip hazard".

Action : Clerk to make contact with PCC with a view to clearing away debris and to make paving slab safe.

Cllr Rowlands enquired about the situation with the Surgery expecting the Practice to be represented at the meeting. Cllr James informed the meeting that contact had been made with Builth Practice with an invitation to attend but the response had been that a meeting between the Health Board and the Drs was due in Mid January therefore there was nothing as yet to report to the Town Council.

Cllr Davies informed members that concerns had been raised about the overgrown hedge at Berthllwyd and also requested that the Council be contacted regarding the reinstatement of the street light outside number 4 Berthllwyd. The hedge and the lack of light in this area was an accident waiting to happen.

7. Traffic Calming

Kirsty Williams outlined the proposed CARS scheme which will allow a group of volunteers to be trained to use the hand held speed guns. This initiative is being co-ordinated through Dyfed Powys Police to address the issue of speeding across different sections of the A470 , Llanwrtyd being one of them. The initiative was welcomed by members and interest was shown in volunteering.

Ms Williams left the meeting.

The Clerk highlighted communication received from the Welsh Government, and circulated to all councillors, regarding a traffic review of the Trunk Roads through Wales. Cllr Rowlands raised the issue of the VA signs and a letter that was received some time ago from Ms E. Hart. Cllr Price suggested a follow up to find out the current situation with regard the VA signs.

Action: Clerk to find original letter and write to Ms Hart regarding the above.

8. Planning

No planning issues were brought to the table.

9. Twinning

Cllr Davies outlined the developing situation with the Twinning Association and submitted a report for inclusion with the minutes. (a copy is attached as Appendix 1).

He was pleased to report that the Cesky Krumlov Twinning had no contentious issues to report. He informed members that Howell Evans was also supporting the Twinning Committee in finding European funding for the French visit this year and asked the Town Council to endorse any applications made. Cllr James proposed that such a letter be written when it was required and this was agreed by all members. It was also requested that a formal invitation be sent to the Town Council in Meriel nearer to the visit date when it had been confirmed.

Action; Clerk to write support letter and an invitation when required. Cllr Davies will liaise with the Clerk.

10. Public Toilets

The Clerk informed members that our request for funding aid from the Welsh Government was still being considered. It was felt that a Sub- Committee should be formed to deal with the upkeep and

maintenance of the Public Toilets. After much discussion it was felt that the existing Pavilion Committee could form a Development Committee which would oversee issues relating to the Dolwen Field, the Pavilion and the Public Toilets and would be available should any other services be devolved. The Development Committee would appear as an item on future agendas and be sub-headed to include each asset.

11. Dolwen Field

All fire extinguishers in the Pavilion were tested and serviced on the morning of the 20th January. Cllr Price reported that there were no major issues of concern.

12. Town Square and Green.

There were no issues to report.

Cllr A. Jones reported that the flower boxes at the station would be repaired and paid for by the Station Working Group.

13 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made during the meeting.

10 / 11 updated "Declarations of Interest" forms have now been submitted.

14. Correspondence

Item 3 on Agenda Letter from HSBC in response to a letter written by Cllr Lambkin

Item 4.1 on Agenda Letter from Welsh Government outlining 137 expenditure for the year 2016-2017

Item 6 on Agenda Letter from Welsh Gov regarding Road Safety Review across Trunk Roads in Wales

Item 10 on Agenda G-mail from Julia Williams re Public toilet Grant

Item 14.0 on Agenda G-mail giving link for consultation on proposed closure of Welsh Unit at Ysgol Dolafon.

Item 14.1 on Agenda Information re Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations

Item 14.2 on Agenda New makeover TV series (B&B)

Item 14.3 on Agenda Cambrian Mountains Tourism Network

Cllr Rowlands volunteered to attend this meeting.

Item 14.4 on Agenda E-mail from PCC re: Consultation meeting re Closure of Welsh Unit at Ysgol Dolafon

Cllr James thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.15pm.

Signed

Date

Date of next Meeting: **Wednesday 17th February**