

hMinutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2017 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.

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

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

1. **Apologies for Absence :** Cllrs P. James , J. Davies Cllr Pace Avery to arrive late due to prior engagement.
2. **Declarations of interest-**

Cllr P Tonks and E Edwards declared an interest in relation to a letter being written to the Welsh Government about the development at Maes y Dre.

3. **Minutes of the December Meeting**

There was one amendment requested by Cllr Edwards i.e. that her name be included in members present. The Clerk apologised for the omission and agreed to amend accordingly. No further amendments were requested and therefore the minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr. T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

ATM Machine- the Clerk read the response from Mr A Davies regarding the unreliability of the ATM machine. In it he promised to find out when the machine would be moved and if planning permission had been granted. Councillors were of the opinion that Mr Davies was not informed about the ATM machine and requested a letter be written to him asking who to correspond with in the future regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to e-mail Mr Davies with regard the above issue.

Letter re Train Franchise -The Clerk requested clarification of the issues to be addressed in this letter After some discussion it was felt that the letter be sent to Mr K. Skates at the Welsh government requesting information on the forthcoming franchise bids and what was on offer before any decisions were made and to request that any decisions ensured parity of service for Llanwrtyd Wells which was commensurate with other Towns along the line. A copy of the letter to be sent to Powys County Council. The Clerk thanked members for their support in this issue.

Action ; Clerk to complete letter and send with copies to Cllr Van Rees , and Powys County Council.

Letter to Welsh Government regarding Development at Maes y Dre- Cllrs Edwards and Tonks declared an interest and left the meeting.

The Clerk read a draft letter to members regarding this issue and asked for some background information and history of the site. Members were helpful in giving this background history and were happy for the letter to be written and sent . The Clerk was appreciative of members support and knowledge of this issue.

Action: Clerk to write letter to Welsh Government regarding above issue.

Cllrs Tonks and Edwards returned to the meeting.

5. **Finance**

- 5.1 December Balance Sheet- the Clerk outlined income and expenditure for the month of December. There were many un-presented cheques since the revenue Grants were distribute late in the month. There were no issues raised about the statement and it was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.
- 5.2 Issue arising from budget update and proposed budget for 2017/2018 as discussed in December meeting. There were no issues arising.
- 5.3 Funding for finger post – The Clerk gave members a breakdown of costs and possible income for the fingerpost. There is a small surplus of £45.00. The cost of installation still needs to be found. It was suggested that the stonemason, Mr Evans, be approached with a view to installation. It was also suggested that it be placed on the current circle near the fence on the Town Square.

Cllr Rowlands offered to send a high-resolution picture of the Town Logo to the Clerk to be sent to manufacturers.

Cllr Pace Avery arrived at the meeting.

6. **Volunteers**

Cllr Pave-Avery outline the project of setting up a volunteer bureau in Llanwrtyd. She had spoken to Mr M. Bleses at PAVO regarding the issue of volunteers with a view to attracting young volunteers between the ages of 15-24.

The way forward was to have a volunteer bureau and to provide for volunteers a structure to work within in order to advance their own skills and expertise whilst volunteering for different roles needed within the community.

Cllr Pace Avery felt that a reward system could be set up to encourage participation and to recognise the contribution of the volunteer. In order to do this, there needed to be a space to work and to this end Cllr Pace Avery had contacted Cllr Edwards who, in turn, had negotiated with Mr A. Lowrie with a view to using a space in Llanwrtyd surgery from which to operate. Cllr Edwards reported that Mr Lowrie was keen to support this idea.

A data base would also be set up to store volunteer details and discussions ensued regarding data protection and the safe keeping of any such data. It was suggested that an external hard drive be used for this specific project which would be portable.

Cllr Pace Avery suggested that it would be the Town Council taking the lead with this project. Members thanked both Cllr Pace -Aver and Cllr Edwards for all the work done so far and suggested that Mr M. Blees be invited to the February meeting to give his perspective on the issue of Volunteers and provide guidance and support with a way forward.

Action; Clerk to write contact Mr Blees to invite him to next meeting. Cllr Tonks offered to send contact details to the Clerk which was gratefully accepted.

The Clerk informed members that Ms S. Ling from Powys had requested to attend the next meeting to talk about the Well Being Act. which would benefit and fit into the Dolwen field project. It was felt that as Mr Blees was to be invited to the February meeting that Ms Ling could be invited to the march meeting.

Action ; Clerk to contact Ms Ling to discuss.

Cllr Edward informed members that there would be an informal, non-profit making group coming together at the surgery on a regular basis for a "weigh in". This could develop into a local self-help group and once again could form part of the Dolwen Field project which aims to improve health and fitness across all sectors of the population of Llanwrtyd and the surrounding areas.

7. Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr Tonks reported substantial fly tipping behind Victoria Hall. A discussion ensued as to why the bins had not yet been removed, as had been promised by Powys County Council, the argument being that if the bins were not there it would discourage such tipping. Cll A. Jones informed members that Powys had been contacted on several occasions to get them removed to no avail . She would contact them about the fly tipping and get the items removed.

The Clerk also offered to report the fly tipping via the Powys website in an effort to get things moving. Cllr Van Rees requested a copy of the report.

Action : Cllr Jones to contact Powys

Clerk to report via Powys Website and send copy to Cllr Van Rees.

The question was raised as to whether anything should be done at community level as this was a Community problem that continues to occur?

Cllr Lambkin reported to members that Police Officer had been in Town recently.

8. Traffic Calming

Cllr Tonks informed members of the latest "Go Safe" statistics which indicated that the incidents of speeding through the town increased considerably between April and September.

He informed members that the "Go Safe" vehicle had visited Llanwrtyd on 82 occasions.

There was little progress to report with the CARS project but he would keep council informed of any developments. Cllr Van Rees reported that speeding through Cefn Gorwedd had been raised at Llangammarch Community Council and enquired if there would be the opportunity to join forces with the CARS project. It was felt that they should have their own set of volunteers but these could be interchangeable and Cllr Tonks was prepared to go and speak to the Community Council about the project. Cllr Van Rees welcomed this and agreed to liaise with Cllr Tonks further.

9. Feedback from Councillors

Councillor Lambkin informed members of a meeting to be held in Bethesda Chapel regarding its future. The meeting to be held on the 24th January.

In relation to this issue **Cllr Van Rees** informed members that he had written to the conservation officer Ms D Lewis expressing the concern of the Town Council for the future of the building and that if it is sold it should be done sympathetically. He informed members that the whole of the building was listed and could only be delisted with the approval of Cadw who are involved with the issue. Discussion ensued as to what the building

could be used for. It was decided that nothing further be done by the Town Council until the meeting on the 24th had taken place.

Councillor S. Jones informed members that she had been approached by a member of the Community with concerns about the Loftwen Development. Cllr Jones informed members that there were several loopholes in regulations which could be exploited by Tilhill and that National Resources Wales do not have to divulge plans to the public. There was nothing she could find that would inhibit the owners planting how they wanted the only area with SSI status being the river.

Much discussion ensued-if there was to be heavy extraction of wood then roads would have to be built and they would require planning permission and this would come before the Town Council. Large diggers were reported to be seen on the land. Improvement of the buildings would also need planning permission.

Cllr Price felt it pertinent to address two letters received relating to this issue. The Clerk read out letters from Mr G. Green requesting that the plans be made available to the public and a letter from Mr C. Pritchard which expressed concern about the future of the spring at Ffos fign which was once the Town's water supply.

Cllr Van Rees felt that when Mr Fulford addressed members in November 2016 the attitude was co-operational and not confrontational and that any future planning applications relating to the development would have to be considered by Council.

Cllr Price acknowledged everyone's contributions and advised that he would speak to the Mayor as to a way forward. It was suggested that Mr Fulford be invited to speak at the next meeting to outline the plans for the development.

Councillor Van Rees informed members that he was due to meet with members of the Powys Planning namely Ms J Foxley to discuss progress with the property "Snack Attack". Cllr Rowlands had already sent a draft press release to Cllr Van Rees which has been used. If there is no progress made, then the article would go to press.

Cllr A. Jones enquired whether the road to the "Watkins" farm had been done. The Clerk informed members that the job had been done at the instigation of Cllr Van Rees. Mrs Watkins was very grateful for the swift action taken and for the results.

Cllr Tonks enquired as to the progress regarding tenure of ownership of the Land at the Town Square. Cllr Van Rees replied that it was currently in hand.

Cllr Rowlands requested a follow up to the issue of lights between Ty Cae mawr and the station

Action: Clerk to contact Leigh Williams to get an update.

10. Surgery

The Clerk informed members that the Newsletter from the Health board had been received and was to be put into the "Grapevine". The question was raised as to who would pay for its publication since it was a two-page spread. It was pointed out that the Powys Teaching Health board had been very proactive in working with the Town Council and had taken on board the concerns and comments of the Town Council and the publication of the newsletter should fall to the Town Council. Members agreed with this point of view and it was agreed that it should be the town Council's responsibility to get the newsletter published in the Grapevine. The observation was made that since the Grapevine is a Community magazine whether an information article of this nature should be charged for at all.

Cllr Van Rees proposed that this one-off newsletter should be paid for by the Town Council and members agreed with this proposal. It was also requested that a letter be sent to Mr A Powell thanking him for the newsletter.

Action: Clerk to write above letter.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr and Mrs Stokes in response to the letter sent by the Town Council last month. It acknowledged the actions of the Town Council with regard the Surgery and outlined their thoughts for the future security of the surgery.

The Chair pointed out that the Surgery is a privately owned and any future negotiation should be between the Health Board and the private owner and would have nothing to do with the Town Council.

11. Planning: There were no planning issues brought to the table.

12. Twinning.

At the last Council meeting it was agreed that the town Council donate £100.00 towards the Czech memorial in Prague to recognise the courage of the Parents in giving up their children to safety during the second World War. The Clerk requested information as to who to write the cheque to and who to send it to. Cllr Rowlands

offered to co-ordinate all donations from Llanwrtyd, i.e. from the Twinning Association, the Heritage and Arts centre and the Town Council and send them all to lady Milena Grenfell Baines. In total the sum of £300.00 is to be sent to the Czech Republic to support this project.

Cllr Van Rees informed members that children from Meriel were due to undertake a pilgrimage to Passchendaele.

13. Library

The Clerk informed members of the information gleaned from One Voice Wales with regard the use of volunteers. As Powys County Council remain the employer then any liability would lie with them. There were many models of service provision that made use of volunteers. Whilst the issue of loss of a substantive post remained an area of contention and whether the new post of librarian for 5 hours had been advertised by Powys Library Service, it was felt that this issue needed moving forward.

Cllr Van Rees proposed that contact be made with K. Thomas with a view to holding a meeting to discuss the model proposed and that a letter be written accepting the 50% contribution from the Library Service equating to 5 hours paid Librarian and using volunteers for a further 5 hours thus keeping the Library open for 10 hours per week. Cllr Tonks seconded this proposal. Members were asked to vote with a show of hands. 7/9 agreed with the proposal. There were 2 abstentions.

Action; Clerk to contact Mrs Thomas to set up a meeting and prepare a letter of acceptance ready for that meeting.

The question as to whether there were volunteers available to man the library was asked and if there had been an advert for such volunteers. The response was that there were available and willing volunteers who had come forward of their own volition.

14. Public Toilets

Cllr Price updated members on the progress of the refurbishment stating that there had been some issues that needed ironing out but they were well in hand. He informed members that both he and the Mayor were in regular consultation with the contractor. All the demolition work was now complete and they were beginning to rebuild according to the plans.

15. Dolwen Field.

The issue of grass cutting was raised and Cllr Price suggested to members that an expression of interest be put into the Grapevine with a view to cutting all areas within the Town. This was agreed by all.

Action; Clerk to put together an item for the Grapevine to go into the February edition if possible.

Cllr Van Rees asked if Mid Wales pest control had been contacted regarding the moles on Dolwen field and requested details their details.

Action Clerk to contact above and send details to Cllr Van Rees.

16. Town Square and Green

Having discussed the issue of the finger post earlier on in the meeting there was nothing else to add. There were no more issues brought to the table.

17. Correspondence

Item 4 on the Agenda - e-mail from Adrian Davies re ATM machine

Item 10 e-mail from Mr A Powell re ; newsletter for grapevine.

Item 10 letter from A and C. Stokes re; surgery

Item 12 Cards from Cesky Krumlov and Meriel

Item 17 Correspondence

1. Letter from Mid and west Wales Fire Service re; Co-responder vehicle

Cllr Van Rees congratulated the town Council on the stance taken with regard this issue and felt that the letter was reassuring.

2. e-mail from Mr C. Pritchard regarding the Spring at Loftwen

This letter outlined concerns for the preservation and future of the natural spring just below Ffos Fign

Action; Clerk to respond

3. Letter from Cenfaes Charity

This letter explained that the Cenfaes Charity had sanctioned the replacement of a large window in the Abergwesyn Hall and as the Town Council were responsible for the building we would be liable for the bill.

Attached to the letter was a cheque for the sum of £1100.00 to cover the cost of the window.

Action; Clerk to respond to letter thanking them for e notice of impending works and the funds to cover the cost.

4. e-mail from Sandra Matthews re; Powys Electoral review 2017

Action:

Cllr Van Rees to attend this meeting and will report back to Council at the next meeting.

5. Letter from Gordon Green re Lofftwen Development.

This letter requested information as to when plans for this development would be available.

Action: Clerk to respond.

Councillor price thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : WEDNESDAY 15th February