

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2015.

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr N Price

Cllr A. Jones gave her apologies for not attending the June meeting.

Visiting Speaker

Cllr James welcomed Mrs L Griffiths (Organisational Development manager for Community Delivery) to the meeting, explaining to members that she had been invited to talk about the issue of Clustering.

Mrs Griffiths outlined her role as Manager of the Community Delivery Initiative and the position of Powys County Council in their task to make savings whilst at the same time exploring options to keep services running. There is a commitment by Powys County Council to work with Local Communities in the running of certain services.

The concept of Clustering was originally driven by the Williams Report and the reorganisation/amalgamation of Councils across Wales but as Powys remains unchanged the emphasis on clustering has been reduced.

A Local Authority cannot force Town and Community Councils to Cluster but where it is happening it is being done voluntarily and a variety of models are shaping the Local Authority's own arrangements.

Mrs Griffiths outlined seven areas identified in Powys for ease of working and co-ordination and would give support on an area basis.

The issue of how to practically set up as a Cluster was explored with one model being the setting up of a non-profit company.

The local authority is working closely with PAVO who will also provide support for the processes involved in clustering.

The following points were raised by Cllrs :

Was there to be funding made available for Volunteer Cllrs for time to attend and travel to Cluster Meetings?

Answer: There is no funding available for this.

Are there more services that are likely to be devolved that might require a cluster approach?

Answer: There is a list available of possible devolved services - Mrs Griffiths will resend one to Llanwrtyd Town Council.

Is it necessary for Llanwrtyd Town Council to Cluster with anyone since historically they made the decision to retain many of its assets?

Answer: There is no legal obligation to Cluster at present and the local authority cannot force clustering on anyone.

Would Clustering with others dilute what individual Town and Community Councils do and could it lead to a loss of identity?

Answer: This could happen but the issue of clustering occurs when smaller Councils might like to work together to provide particular services thereby sharing and reducing the cost needed to pay for that service.

Cllr James thanked Mrs Griffiths for giving of her own time to speak to the Town Council and for the enlightening talk given. Mrs Griffiths left the meeting at 7.45pm

2. Minutes of the June Meeting

The minutes of the June meeting were considered by all. No issues were brought to the table and the minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Tonks and seconded by Cllr Pace-Avery.

3. Finance

3.1 **Balance Sheet** -The balance sheet for the period 30/05/2015- 30/06/2015 was considered. There was no income recorded for this period and no unpresented cheques. The balance sheet was proposed as accurate by Cllr A. Jones and seconded by Cllr Rowlands.

3.2 **External Audit.**

The Clerk read the statement from the external auditors which said there were no matters which required further attention. The Annual return was presented to the Council and was accepted and approved accordingly. The "Notice of Conclusion of Audit" was highlighted to members and will be displayed publicly as required by the terms of the Audit.

4. Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk read a letter written by Mrs A. Edwards in response to the co-opted Councillor Notice. Members considered the letter and clarification was sought as to the terms of eligibility. It was proposed that the application be accepted with the proviso that her tenure fits the requirements of the post.

Action : The Clerk to check eligibility and write to Mrs Edwards accordingly.

Cllr Pace-Avery enquired if there were possibilities for a youth member to be elected to Council. A discussion ensued regarding the Youth Council which operated for some time in Llanwrtyd and whether the time was right to revive it which would provide for representation on the Town Council.

5. Declaration of Interest

The Clerk distributed Declaration of Interest forms to all members present requesting that they submit completed forms at the September meeting. The records will then be up to date for all members. It was also pointed out that individual declaration of interest forms should be completed at each meeting should such a declaration be made.

Cllr Van Rees left the meeting to attend Church Meeting at 8:00pm

6. Anti –Social Behaviour.

Cllr James reported a resident having to remove a concrete slab from the middle of the A483 while a group of youths looked on. This could have caused a serious accident. Although the threat was removed it was felt by members that the incident should be reported to the police 101 service to be logged.

7. Traffic Control

Cllr Tonks reported his findings with regard to the prices of VA signs which vary hugely in price ranging from £2000-£10,000 and that he had done further work with the Police.

Cllr Tonks reported that he had been asked about signage to Llanwrtyd from Builth Wells; because the A483 is a Trunk Road only major Towns will be posted.

Cllr Pace-Avery raised the issue of a pelican crossing at the Square. This has been addressed many times over the years but the response is that there are too many junctions leading onto the A483 at this point.

8. LEADER (ARWAIN) programme

The Clerk outlined that the expression of interest form needs to have a clear vision of a project before it can be submitted. The feeling was to make it a Community project and as time is running short to submit (18th September) that an article be put into the Grapevine asking for involvement and ideas to take forward.

Cllr Rowlands reported that he had submitted an interest form on behalf of the Heritage Centre.

Ideas that came from members were ;

- Development of Dolwen field for the keep fit / running /cycle track.
- Development of a tennis Court behind the pavilion.

Cllr Van Rees re-joined the Meeting at 8.30pm.

9. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr Van Rees reported that building on the Glebe field would not commence until Spring 2016 and that the new vicarage would not be built until October 2016. This meant that the new Vicar of Llanwrtyd Ms P. Beresford Webb is having to maintain her duties of serving 12 churches whilst travelling from her current home. She is therefore looking for temporary accommodation in Llanwrtyd Wells.

Cllr Tonks reported that defib and first aid training is currently on hold because Mr C Powell (NHS Wales), who is providing the training, is currently busy with the Royal Welsh Show this week.

Cllr James informed members that the defib had been connected to the electrical supply at his premises and while he was willing to pay for the electricity he would have to present a bill to the Council for its installation. He also voiced concerns about its security but the advice received from Mr Ronicle was that there should be open access to the equipment which is currently recommended by the Ambulance trust. If this changes then the town Council will be informed.

Cllr Tonks informed members that the defibrillator now needs to be registered in order for the device to be tracked.

Cllr Tonks reported that there appeared to be two abandoned cars in the car park behind the Neuadd Arms. One of the cars had been removed leaving a Ford KA registration number T446 KEP still in situ. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Police on 101.

It was generally noted by members how busy that particular car park had become and whether it was being used appropriately.

Cllr Davies queried the future of the Welsh Unit pointing out that it is not a Unit but a Welsh stream and as such is considered as a School in its own right and would require 12 months notice before any action could be taken to close it.

Cllr Van Rees outlined the Authority's position stating that the issue had been raised at County Level some months ago

Powys County Council Policy was that any Welsh stream should have at least 25 pupils in order to be financially viable. In this case there are 13 pupils in the Welsh stream. Parents had been informed of the position and they have met to discuss the matter. Head of schools Mr I Roberts is to talk to the school in the near future.

He also pointed out that the provision of Welsh in the school has always been of an exceptional standard because all staff speak Welsh with more than half being first language Welsh.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to the Governors/Headteacher of the school in support of their efforts to maintain the Welsh stream against a backdrop of falling roles, and budget reductions.

Cllr A. Jones

reported that invoices for lighting of the car park at the back of Victoria Hall had not been submitted and that they would be submitted in the very near future.

Reported that when Powys did the weeding the debris was left to accumulate on the pavements and as a result of the rain has become slippery and a danger to those walking along the pavements on Llandovery Road.

Action : Clerk to ring Llangammarch depot to find out if they should pick up after weeding/strimming?

Cllr S. Jones left the meeting.

Cllr Rowlands reported Japanese knotweed growing from the verge into a private garden on Beulah Road.

The Clerk informed members that contact had been made with the depot regarding this issue and that spraying was in hand.

Cllr Rowlands updated members on the progress of the Heritage Centre. Funding has been secured to start the exhibition design and the Centre is on schedule to be opened next summer.

Cllr Van Rees updated members on communications he had had with the planning officer and those received in response regarding "Snack Attack". An enforcement order is due to be served in the very near future.

10. Planning

1) The Clerk read a letter from Mr and Mrs Couch in response to the letter sent from the Town Council.

Attached to the letter was a copy of a letter received from Mrs Fourie regarding works on the barn at Cym

lrfon. After some discussion the Clerk was charged to speak again with Mrs Fourie to find out exactly what was happening with this application.

- 2) The Planning Application P/2015/0556 –change of use of garden room from domestic to business use and the addition of two parking spaces and turning pace at the Cedars on Victoria Road was consider by members. There were no objections raised to this application.

11. Twinning

Cllr James acknowledged the recent death of Sir Nicholas Winton .

Sir Winton visited Llanwrtyd Wells many times and was fully involved in all events related to the Czech children who stayed at the Abernant Lake Hotel.

The Town was saddened to hear of his death and he will always be remembered by the people of Llanwrtyd. It was suggested that a letter be sent from the Town Council to his son expressing our condolences.

Action ; Clerk to write a letter of condolence to son.

Cllr Rowlands and Davies gave a report of the recent visit to Cesky Krumlov. Everyone was made to feel most welcome and were involved in a full itinerary of activities during their stay. Cllr Rowlands referred members to the excellent article written by Lindsey Ketteringham in the July issue of the Grapevine. This twinning is purely a Council connection. The Town Council were given a gift of plum vodka which would be used when a Cesky Krumlov social evening was arranged in the near future.

A letter is to be written from the Town Council thanking the Mayor of Cesky Krumlov for the wonderful hospitality everyone received.

Action ; Clerk to write letter of thanks.

Cllr Davies reported that the Twinning Committee were now busy raising funds for the French visit in 2016.

12. Public Toilets

Cllr Van Rees informed members that both Builth Wells and Rhayader Town Councils had been successful in obtaining funding from the Welsh Government for refurbishment and maintenance of their Public toilets. This was received with some disbelief.

After much discussion it was decided that the Clerk write to Kirsty Williams and Edwina Hart to explore the possibilities of funding for Llanwrtyd Wells whose public toilets also sit just off the main A483.

Action ; Clerk to write letters to Edwina Hart and Kirsty Williams .

The Clerk brought to the attention of members the request for remuneration from Mr McLoughlin since he felt it was a bigger job than he had anticipated. The feeling of the meeting was that when we had funding sorted out a meeting would be held with Mr Mcloughlin to discuss the issue.

Members requested that the application for funding for the toilets from Powys County Council be held until we receive a response from the Welsh Government.

13. Dolwen Field

The Clerk informed members that the ROSPA Playground Inspection report had been received and a copy forwarded to Cllr Price. He had responded that the skate park appeared to be missing from the report and that he would approach Mr S Butcher with a view to rectifying the situation.

No other issues were raised regarding the Field.

14. Town Square and Green

Cllr Tonks reported that he had made contact with Mr Garland regarding plans for the re design of the Town Square and Green. Mr Garland has prepared a plan with documents and images for the Town council to see.

The following issues were raised regarding the Square and Green:

- It was planted as a result of a competition and as a result money was spent in carrying out the winning design.
- Would any design leave space for the Christmas tree which is a focal point in the Town during the festive season?

- After much discussion it was felt that Mr Garland should be invited to the next Town Council Meeting in September to put his plans before Council.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Garland with the above invite.

Cllr Rowlands informed members that Mr Bryn Jones's Grandson and wife had visited the Memorial Garden whilst staying in Llanwrtyd and were pleased and moved by the tribute they found there. This was well received by members.

15. Correspondence

Item 2 G-mail from Gwilym Davies forwarded by Cllr Van Rees re: "Snack Attack"

Item 2 G-mail from David Edwards re train timetables

Item 3.2 Statement from BDO regarding the external audit.

Item 4.0 Letter of application for Co-opted Councillor Vacancy

Item 8 LEADER programme

Item 9 G-mail from Mr Ronicle regarding defib security

Item 10.00 Planning application P/2015/0556

Item 12 G-mails from Nicki Davies regarding the public toilets together with the revised Grant application

Item 13 G-mails from Marion Bufton regarding the Playground Inspection together with a copy of the Inspection

Item 15 Letter from Maggie Oliver regarding provision of Broadband and the lack of service she is receiving.
(Clerk to respond)

Item 15.1 Letter from Mr and Mrs Couch in response to the Town Council Letter sent.
(Clerk to respond)

Item 15.2 Information from Public Health Wales regarding Health screening campaign through July

Cllr James wished everyone a good recess and closed the meeting at 10.04pm.

Signed.....

Signed

Date.....

Date

Date of next Meeting: **Wednesday 16th September**

