

## Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.

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

**Visiting Speakers:** Dr R. Walters (Builth Wells Practice Manager)  
Mr. A. Lowrie (Deputy Chief Executive Powys Teaching Health Board)

**Observer:** Mr P. Davies

**In Attendance:** Mrs L E Ball (Clerk to Town Council)

The Deputy Mayor Cllr Price opened the meeting at 7:00pm welcoming the guest speakers to the table. He outlined the reasons for the invitation and asked the guests to update members on the retention of the surgery in Llanwrtyd Wells.

Dr Walters updated members on how the current position had been arrived at with the local Powys Teaching Health Board taking on the lease of the surgery from September of this year. He outlined the financial position of the Practice as a result of not being eligible for the “sustainability funds” available from the Welsh Government. The taking on of the lease is now well underway and going to plan. He outlined the staffing issues with regard receptionists at the surgery. Mrs S. Davies retired and was not replaced and in September Mrs V. Hope is due to retire and will not be replaced. Re-evaluation of the services at Builth and Llanwrtyd is needed to make things more efficient and streamline. A new Dr. has been appointed on a part time basis but cuts still need to be made in running costs. Dr. Walters outlined the new services of “My Health Online” which will enable patients to book, check and make appointments to see a Dr. and order repeat prescriptions. He encouraged all who were able to use it whilst acknowledging that there would still be those who needed face to face contact. He outlined the e-consult service which would provide health information and advice, manage a condition and have online consultations which would be followed up by a GP.

Mr Lowrie reiterated the process and the timescale and clarified the position with regard the receptionist. There will be some cover with staff employed by the Health Board but they will not be available to make appointments, prescriptions or patient care.

Mr Lowrie talked about other services coming to Llanwrtyd surgery, not on a daily basis but perhaps on a monthly basis so the residents would not have to travel to Llandrindod Hospital. He also said that the Health Board was open to ideas from the Community as to other possible uses of the building which they saw as an asset to the Town.

All changes would be communicated to the Public via a newsletter to be delivered to each household in the area (copies of which he left for members to browse through and feedback to the practice)

This new way of working is due to commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

Cllr Price thanked both Dr. Walters and Mr Lowrie for their input and opened the meeting to members to ask questions. The following issues/observations were raised by members:

Closing down the phone calls would not stop the need.

**Response:** The continued need was acknowledged by the Practice. Dr Walters assured members that they were not trying to stop access to care but was streamlining the system to take account of modern technology in accessing appropriate need via e-consult and online services.

**Question:** Would house calls still be made?

**R:** Dr Walters verified that house calls would still be made where appropriate.

The issue of connectivity reliability in the area was once again raised and the suggestion made that perhaps those without connection could actually use the surgery to log on to the services.

**R: This could be viable as the surgery does have reasonable connectivity.**

Concern was raised regarding the system as it stands with the surgery often empty and patients often not able to get an appointment fast enough and being directed to Builth Surgery. There is already a three day waiting time for repeat prescriptions.

**R: Dr Walters felt that the new system would be better in that there will be a Dr for appointments in Llanwrtyd for five mornings a week and would need to remain at the surgery throughout the morning to enable the practice nurse/district nurse/auxiliary nurse to continue their work thereby complying with the Practice's "lone working" policy.**

What impact will no receptionist have on repeat prescriptions if they are done online to Builth and will need to be relayed quickly back to Llanwrtyd in order for the pharmacist to process them.

**R: Dr Walters felt that the process of repeat prescriptions would not alter greatly. The system of request would change and all requests would go to the Builth Surgery. The Dr on duty in Llanwrtyd could bring signed prescriptions back to Llanwrtyd when they come for appointments and the turnaround time could remain the same.**

**He did admit that there were likely to be teething problems with any new system and that things would have to be monitored over the first few months and was keen to have any feedback.**

How secure is the pharmacy as it appears that the pharmacist has had nothing in writing from the practice and what were the implications for the pharmacist with all these changes?

Mr P. Davies the pharmacist felt that communication of the changes had been very poor and the meeting was the first he had heard of them and could therefore not comment on how the changes would affect him. There needed to be consultation and dialogue between the practice and himself to iron out how things would work.

Mr Lowrie acknowledged that the lack of communication had been an oversight and offered to speak with Mr Davies in person after the meeting and assured him he would be included in any future consultation and/or discussions and assured members that the pharmacy continued to be an essential part of the planned changes.

What will new reception look like-how often and how long for?

**R: Initially one or two people at least four days a week, employed by Powys Health Board but not there to respond to patient care queries.**

Cllr Van Rees reviewed the current position with that of eighteen months ago when The Town Council was concerned that all services at the Surgery would be lost. He paid tribute to the hard work done by the Powys Health Board, Builth Wells Practice and Kirsty Williams AM for all their hard work and dialogue in their efforts to maintain the surgery and its services in Llanwrtyd. He felt that people were generally satisfied with what had been achieved and pledged support for making this new system work.

Could blood result tests also go on line?

This was more complicated as patients would not be able to interpret the results and/or the implications for treatment and would therefore still need to see a Dr.

How can continuity of care be maintained -it is good to have the same Dr follow through with the patient who gets to know the patient and their medical history over time.

**R: Dr Walters assured members that continuity of care was their aim calling it "gold standard".**

Would it be possible to use Skype for consultations in the future?

**R: This could be a way forward in the future where patients have online consultations using Skype.**

What plans are there to communicate these changes to the public?

Dr Walters referred back to the newsletter to be sent to all households outlining the changes.

Members felt that the changes could also be communicated through the Grapevine.

Cllr Van Rees felt that one side effect of the surgery issue was that there had been open and constructive meetings with the Builth Wells Practice which he felt had been lacking in the past.

Cllr Price thanked Dr Walters and Mr Lowrie for their attendance and input which had been though provoking and informative.

Mr Lowrie offered further attendance in November to give feedback on how the system was working, to get feedback from the Town's perspective and to update members on progress regarding the different services that may use the surgery.

This offer was readily and gratefully accepted by members.

Dr Walters and Mr. Lowrie and Mr Davies left the meeting at 7:55pm.

Cllr Price asked members if there were any comments about what had been heard.

Cllr Van Rees felt that things looked promising with the doctor time available to Llanwrtyd unchanged. No further comments were made.

**Mr and Mrs Tserenia** arrived at 8:00pm. Cllr Price welcomed them to the meeting but felt that since they had not conformed their attendance the Town Council felt unprepared for their visit. A brief discussion ensued regarding the Penry Lloyd monument at Victoria Wells and its accessibility. Mr Tserenia assured members that there was open access to the monument, that the grass had been cut and he was thinking that the chain link fence around the monument could be restored. He offered to do this and the Council gratefully accepted his offer. Mr Tserenia proceeded to tell the meeting of the plans he had for the future the Wells but was currently waiting for grants to come through before he could proceed Cllr Price suggested that when they had plans available the town Council would be interested in seeing them and invited Mr and Mrs Tserenia to a future meeting. Mr and Mrs Tserenia agreed to this and were keen to work with the Council and ask how the Town Council could help them.

Mr and Mrs Tserenia left the meeting at 8:10pm.

Cllr Price returned to the main agenda.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs S. Jones, A. Jones and P. James had sent apologies.

**2. Minutes of the June Meeting**

After due consideration the minutes were proposed as an accurate record of events by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr. P. Tonks.

**3. Finance**

3.1 June Balance Sheet-The clerk outlined expenditure and income for the month of June. Green Events have donated £200.00 towards the running of the public toilets and monies was received from the honesty box at Abergwesyn though this will be the last payment after agreement for the Committee to keep the monies and pay for any minor repairs themselves.

The balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr L. Pace-Avery.

3.2 External Audit-The Clerk informed members that the external audit report had not yet been received. This item will be deferred until the September meeting by which time the report should have been received.

3.3 Adoption of new Financial Regulations.-due to certain changes in legislation the Current financial Regulations need adapting and altering . It was suggested that the same working party that put together the regulations last year (Cllr P.Tonks, A. Jones and the Clerk Lynn Ball) revise them this year. These revised regulations can then be adopted at the Meeting in September

**4. Anti-Social Behaviour.**

Cllr Van Rees informed members that residents causing anti-social behaviour at Berthlywd had moved away from the area. Cllr Van Rees had worked with the Housing Association to resolve this

issue. The housing association are keen to fill the house and requested help with information as to who in the area would be eligible.

The caretaker had informed the Clerk that the gate and the posts on Dolwen Field had been torn off again and were in the process of being repaired.

Cllr Lambkin informed members that the outside tap at the pavilion had been damaged. Cllr Price has been aware of this for some time and declared the tap and the sink redundant since the Field was no longer being used for camping. He instructed the clerk to ask the caretaker to remove the outside tap and sink. He also requested that contact be made with our neighbourhood Police officer PCSO J Kelham to alert her to the vandalism on the Field.

Action Clerk to instruct Caretaker to do the above and to contact PCSO Kelham.

It was reported that some residents on Station Road had complained about increased noise levels and blamed Manor Adventure for this. Cllr Van Rees felt that this was unjustified and had always found that the Adventure Centre had good control over the visiting children and were not overly noisy in his opinion.

## **5. Traffic Calming**

Cllr P. Tonks reported that the Go Safe van had visited Llanwrtyd five times this month and had apprehended 54 speeding motorists. He gave an update on the CARS programme observing that personal checks were taking a long time. He reported that Newbridge on Wye project would begin in the Autumn and other projects would follow on from this.

## **6. Feedback from Councillors**

### **Cllr Lambkin reported**

- that the ATM machine had not been working for three days when many visitors were in Town. She had had feedback from some members of the Community indicating that this was having an adverse effect on business and the way people saw the Town.

Cllr Davies felt that the Council should be logging the dates when it was not operating as evidence for the future should Barclays claim lack of usage.

The Clerk agreed to send the "fault reporting sheet" to all Councillors and to laminate a copy to attach to the machine itself.

Action; Clerk to do the above.

- The bench outside the surgery was facing the wrong way and requested that it be turned round

Action : Clerk to ask the caretaker to turn it round

The fruit trees on Dolwen Field were being swamped by the undergrowth which needed cutting down.

Cllr Price disputed this but agreed to investigate.

### **Cllr Pace Avery reported**

- that Mid Wales Housing had sent someone out to deal with the continuing and ongoing problem of rat infestation at Ty-Cae Mawr. Mid Wales housing would report the issue to Powys county Council.

### **Cllr Tonks reported**

- that he had received a complaint from a resident who had travelled to Hereford hospital for an injection and was told there was no longer any funding for injections. Cllr Price felt that this was not a Town Council issue and advised that the resident should complain to the Health Board.

It was reported that the seat at Berthllywd had not been repaired. The Clerk informed members that the caretaker had looked at this bench and felt that it was in such a bad state that it needed replacement. He also

was of the understanding that the bench belonged to Powys County Council. Cllrs felt it belonged to the Town Council and Cllr Price felt that if it was in such a bad state it should be removed to avoid an accident.

Action; Clerk to contact Mr Dodds and instruct him to remove the bench.

### **Cllr Rowlands reported**

- That the grant which had been applied for from the Welsh Tourist Fund had been unsuccessful but that the person dealing with the request (Ms Gwawr Price) had offered to speak with those responsible for Tourism on the Council with a view to developing a marketing strategy for the town as a whole. He requested that this meeting be set up between himself Cllr Pace Avery, Cllr Edwards, Cllr P Lambkin then report back to full Council at a future date. Cllr Van Rees proposed that this should be done.
- That he had had a meeting with the manager of Manor Adventure (Mr P Griffiths) who was keen to use the Heritage Centre for visiting children.

The issue of parking difficulty at the site, raised by Cllr Lambkin, was acknowledged by Cllr Rowlands.

### **7. Planning**

The following planning applications and notifications were duly considered by members:

- ✚ Planning application P/2016/0715(erection of a single wind turbine at Llanwrthwl.
- ✚ Planning Application P/2016/0625 Extension to existing garage at Bwlch Gorllwyn Uchaf Abergwesyn
- ✚ Planning Application P/2016/0687( Change of use of land with domestic curtilage to allow for caravan for holiday accommodation at Doliar Abergwesyn)
- ✚ Planning application P/2016/0376 Notice of appeal Erection of Porch to front elevation of North Barn, Glanirfon
- ✚ Planning application P/2016/0751Erection of carport, replacement porch, external insulation and vehicular turning area and erection of 1.13 m high wall at Llwyn Neuadd,

There were no objections raised with regard to any of the above.

### **8. Twinning**

The Clerk read an e-mail received from Zuzanna Krapkova of Cesky Krumlov which informed the Town Council that neither she or the Mayor would be attending the Twinning meeting but that Mr Radim Rouse might attend and she would keep us informed.

Cllr Davies informed members that plans for the French visit were well underway but they were still struggling to house the visitors. They will arrive on Friday evening and return on Sunday. There will be an evening of entertainment on Saturday evening and tickets were available if Cllrs wished to attend.

The official meeting of the Council and Representatives of the French party would be on Saturday morning at 10:00am in the Council Chambers. Cllr Davies suggested that the Clerk make contact with Bryn Davies to find out what issues needed to be addressed at the meeting.

Cllr Rowlands informed members that a visitor from the Czech Republic, whose mother had stayed at the Abernant, would be visiting Llanwrtyd and a programme had been arranged with a visit to the Heritage Centre and to the Abernant Lake Hotel.

### **9. Library**

Cllr Van Rees outlined the communications he had had with Mrs K Thomas regarding possible contributions to maintaining the Library. With reduced opening hours to 10 per week and rates taken out of the equation the running costs would be £9989 with a required 50% contribution from the Town Council of £4994.00.

It was felt by members that professional supervision would be needed at the library and posed the question as to whether it would be possible to reduce to 6hrs opening time to suit the Community's needs.

The Clerk read a letter received from the portfolio holder Mr Graham Brown which urged a solution to be found before the issue went to cabinet in September. If no solution was found, then the closure of the Library would have to be considered. Members felt that the tone of this letter was somewhat threatening and asked if the Clerk could

communicate with Mrs Thomas with regard queries that had been made regarding the mobile Library Service and to invite both Mrs Thomas and Mr McIntosh to the September meeting.

Action ;

Clerk to write to Mrs Thomas and Mr McIntosh re above issues.

#### **10. Public Toilets**

10.1 The Clerk outlined the change of conditions of the grant and sought approval from the Town Council to proceed with acceptance of the grant on the basis of claiming on a cost incurred basis. All members agreed that the Clerk should proceed.

10.2 The issue of tendering for the work to refurbish the Toilets was discussed. Cllr Price felt it prudent to circulate expressions of interest posters. In the meantime, the Development Committee should meet to discuss issues and to put together a job specification for the refurbishment. Expression of interest posters to go into "The Post" in Llandovery and into the Grapevine.

10.3 Cleaning and maintenance –the Clerk informed members that Mr McLoughlin had now finished cleaning the toilets and we were waiting for a quote from Mr I Hammond at Powys County Council regarding a possible cleaning contract. It was suggested that the Clerk make contact with Mr Dodds to enquire as to whether he would clean the toilets 2 or 3 times a week until a more permanent solution was found.

Cllr Tonks also mentioned making contact with someone in Llanwrtyd whose name and contact details he would pass on to the Clerk.

10.4 The Clerk outlined the response from Ms N. Davies regarding the up to date testing and informed that the Town Council that they are now in possession of the most recent documents and should we proceed with the Freehold agreement? It was suggested that the Land Registry issue was not yet resolved and that the Clerk should write to Powys County Council to enquire as to why it was taking so long.

Action ; Clerk to write the above letter.

#### **11. Dolwen Field**

11.1 The Clerk informed members of an e-mail received regarding Arwain funding in the wake of Brexit-that things should carry on as normal until we are informed otherwise.

11.2 Vanadialism –this issue was dealt with under anti-social behaviour and need no further discussion.

11.3 Rospa Report- Cllr Price informed members that the reports had been received for the skate park and the Play area. He requested that the reports be sent to all those in the Development Committee and this would be an item for discussion at this meeting.

Action: Clerk to send copies to all members electronically where possible.

11.4 The issue of grass cutting was discussed with grave concern being expressed with regard to the quality of the grass cutting on Dolwen Field. Clarification was sought with regard to who was responsible for what in terms of grass cutting on and around the field. Cllr Price felt this should be an item for discussion at the Development Committee.

In the meantime, it was proposed that a letter be sent to Powys County Council expressing the Town Council's concern that the number of grass cuts and the quality of the cutting this year so far was way below the standard expected.

Action; Clerk to write letter to Mr B. Price (contracts and Programmes manager) regarding this issue.

#### **12. Town Square and Green**

12.1 Finger post and Flag pole –The Clerk informed members that she was currently filling in an application to the Powys Community fund for financial support in providing a finger post for the centre of Town and asked the Town Council permission to proceed. After discussion of cost it was agreed that the application go ahead.

Planning permission was also being investigated but Cllr Van Rees felt that planning permission may not be required. The Clerk agreed to investigate this issue further with Powys Planning Authorities.

12.2 Flagpole – after a short discussion on information regarding the pole it was decided to defer the issue to the next meeting.

12.3 Commonwealth Flag Day March 2017-The Town Council Agreed to fly a flag for Commonwealth Day in 2017 and asked the Clerk to make contact with the relevant person to inform them of the Council's decision

Action : Clerk to e-mail Cllr B. Grew Chairman of One Voice Wales

The issues of the gardening club was raised and the question asked if a letter had been sent requesting the appointment of a chair. The Clerk had not written such a letter and was unclear as to who to send it to.

Cllr Tonks reiterated the feelings of the Gardening Club. Cllr Rowlands was not prepared to discuss gardening club issues in the council meeting but posed the question to the Town Council –is the Town Council concerned about the appearance of Llanwrtyd and the impact that appearance has on visitors. Cllr Van Rees voiced that the Town Council did care but was of the understanding that the gardening club had things in hand.

Cllr Price suggested that until the gardening club approach the Town Council indicating they can no longer provide the planting within the Town then the Town Council are powerless to act.

13. Declarations of interest –there were no declarations of interest.

#### **14. Correspondence**

Item 3 on Agenda Finance regulations updated to take account of Welsh Gov. changes.

Item 6 on Agenda

- ✚ e-mail from Mrs M. Lewis re: issues at Berthlywd.
- ✚ e-mail from Ms J Walsby regarding concerns about proposed forestation of Loftwen Farm.

This issue was discussed at great length but with little certainty as to who had bought the property and for what purpose. Cllr Van Rees advised that before any work could be done there would need to be planning permission in place and if Tilhill were involved then there would have to be Community Consultation before anything could happen.

Mr G Green is aware of the situation and will pass on any further information he can glean.

Item 7 on Agenda

- ✚ Planning application P/2016/0715(erection of a single wind turbine at Llanwrthwl.
- ✚ Planning Application P/2016/0625 Extension to existing garage at Bwlch Gorllwyn Uchaf Abergwesyn
- ✚ Planning Application P/2016/0687( Change of use of land with domestic curtilage to allow for caravan for holiday accommodation at Doliar Abergwesyn)
- ✚ Planning application P/2016/0376 notice of appeal Erection of Porch to front elevation of North Barn, Glanirfon
- ✚ Planning application P/2016/0751Erection of carport, replacement porch, external insulation and vehicular turning area and erection of 1.13 m high wall at Llwyn Neuadd

Item 8 on Agenda e-mail from Zuzanna Krapkova , Cesky Krumlov , in response to invitation

Item 9 on Agenda

- ✚ Letter from Mr S.,McIntosh regarding Library consultations
- ✚ e-mail from Mrs K Thomas to Col Van Rees re; Library situation and Cllr Van Rees's response
- ✚ letter from Cabinet portfolio holder Graham Brown re. Library Service efficiencies 2016-2017

Item 10 on Agenda

- ✚ Letter from Cabinet regarding Community delivery funding change.
- ✚ e-mail from Ms L Kinsey (Welsh Gov.- regarding new conditions of Public Toilet grant
- ✚ e-mail from Ms N. Davies in response to letter sent by Council
- ✚ e-mail from Ms N. Davies regarding Condition survey of Public toilets
- ✚ Copy of letter sent to Carwyn Jones from Cllr Van Rees

Item 11.1 on Agenda Newsletter from Arwain regarding funding post Brexit

Item 11.3 on Agenda ROPSA Reports from Powys for Play Areas on Dolwen Field.

Item 12 on Agenda

- ✚ Letter from Heritage Centre re: funding of Finger post.
- ✚ Letter from Arriva Trains Wales Re; Above
- ✚ Letter from Mr B. Grew regarding Flying Commonwealth Flag

Item 14 on Agenda--- Letter from residents of Glan-Yr-Avon re: Access

**Cllr Van Rees declared an interest and left the meeting.**

The Clerk read out a letter received from the residents at Galn-yr-Avon regarding blocking of the main highway with gardening paraphernalia. This issue was discussed at great length and the Clerk outlined the suggestion made by Cllr P. James ,in his absence , that a meeting should be convened with all parties involved which h was prepared to chair. Contact to be made with the PCSO and with Highways to agree a meeting date. This to be facilitated by the Clerk.

Action: Clerk to make contact with all concerned as above.

- 1) Letter from Mr J Seed (Treasurer of Gardening Club)
- 2) Letter from Mr S. Amor –update on Co-responder Vehicle
- 3) Letter from Future Generations and Well Being Commissioner outlining new workshops.
- 4) Letter from Welsh Gov. regarding collection and management of Devolved Taxes.
- 5) E-mail from Nathan Davie Regarding Powys War Memorial Project
- 6) E-mail informing of Tour of Britain on 7<sup>th</sup> September
- 7) Letter from Welsh Gov. re: appointment of independent members to Health Boards
- 8) Letter from Barclays re: Finance Compensation Scheme changes.
- 9) Annual Report of Ombudsman 2015/2016
- 10) Annual Report and Accounts from Brecon Advice Centre
- 11) One Voice Wales Conference notification

Cllr Price thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9:57pm.

Signed .....

Date.....

**Date of next full council meeting ; WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER**

(Clerk to communicate date of Development Committee Meeting –probably third Wednesday in August)

**Amendments**

**P Lambkin requested the following amendments**

Mr and Mrs Tserenia at page 3 inclusion of the following;

but was currently waiting for grants to come through before he could proceed

**Agenda item 6- Feed back from Councillors**

He requested that this meeting be set up between himself Cllr Pace Avery, Cllr Edwards, and Mrs P Dryden .....

be amended to;

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