

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th June at 7:00pm in the War Memorial

Institute.

Members Present: Cllrs P James, P. Tonks ,I Pace-Avery,T. Van Rees, N Price, P. Lambkin.

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

1. **Apologies for Absence-** Cllrs J. Davies , S. Jones and J Rowlands all sent their apologies since they were taking part in the Twinning visit to Cesky Krumlov.
2. **Minutes of the May AGM Meeting.**
Cllr James noted the amendment and asked if there were any other issues. No issues were brought to the table and therefore the minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr P Tonks and seconded by Cllr L. Pace-Avery.

3. **Finance**

3.1 The May Balance Sheet

The budget sheet to the end of May was discussed. The Clerk outlined monies that were earmarked .The Clerk also pointed out that the cheque paid to Richard Brothers had not, as yet, been presented to the bank.

In the light of this Cllr Tonks enquired if it was possible to write a penalty clause into the terms and conditions of any order sent out in the future. Whilst this was considered to be unacceptable it was felt that the Town Council could reasonably request that any invoice for works completed should be presented to the Town Council within 31 days of the work being completed.

After some discussion about the cost of electricity for the pavilion (which will be discussed further at the next pavilion management meeting) the balance sheet was proposed as accurate by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by Cllr P. James.

Cllr Price alerted members to the fact that there might be expenditure needed on the park as a result of the pending playground report.

3.2 Other Financial Issues.

The issue of transferring money into the Reserve fund was discussed. Members considered it appropriate to hold 4mths of gross expenditure in the reserve fund which would be £5500. As this was discussed in previous meetings with full Council ,Cllr James proposed that the Clerk could go ahead and transfer necessary funds to fulfil this. All members agreed with this proposal.

Action : Clerk to transfer £1368.47 to the Swansea Building Society.

4. **Councillor Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that , despite vacancy notices and co-option notices being displayed about Town there had been no interest shown in the position of Councillor. Members were asked to give their thoughts to this issue ready for the next meeting

Cluster Arrangements and Devolution.

Cllr Van Rees informed members that the Cluster meeting he was due to attend in Builth Wells had been cancelled. He proceeded to outline the issue of Cluster arrangements being put forward by Powys County Council in the light of further devolution of services to Local Councils. The question was asked do we want to cluster with Builth Wells, go it alone or cluster with Llangammarch and Trefllys.

Much debate ensued with the following points being made:

- How would funding work?
- What benefit to Llanwrtyd would there be in clustering with Builth Wells-would we lose our identity?
- What driver is there to make this happen-is it likely to happen-are we pre-empting something that as a Town Council we have had no information about from the County Council?
- Are paid elected members of Powys County Council, as they offload services locally, expecting local volunteer members to attend even more meetings I their own time?

It was felt by the majority present at the meeting that this was an important issue that could and would shape the future of Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council and as such it should be considered by a full Council. It was suggested that we invite a member from Powys County Council to speak to the next meeting in July when all Councillors would be in attendance.

In the meantime it was suggested that an information, fact finding mission be employed by all to bring to the next meeting.

Action. The Clerk is to contact Mr Paul Griffiths to invite him to the next meeting. All Councillors present to find out as much information they can about the issue ready for the next meeting.

Cllr Lambkin thanked Cllr Van Rees for bringing this important issue to the attention of the meeting.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr Price reported further damage to the fence posting on Dolwen Field but also reported that Chris Dodds, the Caretaker, had repaired the damage and all was intact once more.

6. Traffic Control

Cllr Tonks circulated a comprehensive report to members present regarding his experience with the "Go Safe Partnership" and his involvement in "Operation Darwen" which entailed doing a saturation exercise in and around Llanwrtyd with regard speeding vehicles. Cllr Tonks felt the experience was very enlightening and reported many incidents of speeding during his time with both parties, many of which involved motor bikes.

The Clerk at this point read letters from Kirsty Williams and from Edwina Hart regarding the issue of speeding through the Town.

Cllr Tonks offered to write a further letter to Ms Williams outlining the evidence gathered from his work with the police. This was wholeheartedly accepted by members present.

Cllr Tonks reported that a future exercise would be undertaken with a particular emphasis on HGV's.

It was suggested that an article be published in the Grapevine with a view to highlighting the issue and to encourage residents to report any incidents of speeding to the police so they can be logged. It was also suggested that articles be sent to the Band R and the Mid Wales Journal, though no decision was made on this.

Cllr James thanked Cllr Tonks for the excellent work he had done and the time he had given to this issue.

Action : Cllr Tonks to write letter to be sent to Ms K. Williams AM outlining the evidence for installation of VA signs as soon as possible.

7. Feedback from Councillors

7.1 Defibrillator and First Aid.

Cllr James reported that the Defibrillator cabinet was up on the wall and that he was waiting for an electrician to connect everything.

Cllr Tonks informed members of correspondence between himself and Mr Ronicle. He has been sent contact details of a first aid provider and suggested that training be held to include members from Llangammarch and Trefllys Community Councils. This was approved by members.

Action : Cllr Tonks to organise Training in the use of the Defibrillator and basic CPR

7.2 Regeneration Monies

Cllr James and the Clerk outlined the position with the new LEADER programme Funding known as ARWAIN. As yet this is very much in its infancy with a project co-ordinator and a project leader appointed. There is an expression of interest from that the Town Council can complete which registers our interest in a project. Members agreed that it would be appropriate to complete this in relation to the War Memorial Institute. Members will be kept informed of any future developments.

7.3 Other feedback from Councillors.

- Cllr James questioned the issue of High speed Broadband in Llanwrtyd Wells. He was of the opinion that it should already be in place. Cllr Pace-Avery reported that Llanwrtyd and Llangamarch are pending. She had found this information on the BT website. Cllr James is to enquire at Charcroft if they have access to high speed Broadband. He is keen that as a Town we do not get left in a technology wilderness as this will affect the way businesses run and potentially the future prosperity of the Town.
- Cllr Van Rees reported that he had written to BT on behalf of a resident as it appears that some have High Speed Broadband while others do not.

Action: Clerk to investigate with BT and Write letter requesting information and an update of progress.

- Cllr Pace –Avery reported a problem with an infestation of rats at Ty Cae Mawr. Both the Housing Association and the Environmental Health officer had visited the site but residents have been told that they would have to employ their own pest controller as the Council no longer provide this service. Cllr Van Rees found this situation highly unacceptable and requested a letter be written to the Health and Hygiene to find out what is being done. The problem arises in an area of land between Bryn Awelon and Ochr Y Bryn the ownership of which is unclear to residents.

It was suggested that Mr Evans may be the landowner.

The Clerk reported replies from Mrs D Fourie regarding “Snack Attack “ and the build at Maesybrynnar.

- Cllr James requested that a copy of the reply together with a covering letter from the Town Council be sent to Mr Garland informing him of progress with this matter.
- Cllr Price informed members that building control had visited the site at Maesybrynnar.
- Cllr Tonks brought up the issue of Japanese knotweed in the Town.

This was discussed in depth and as a result it was felt that PCC should be contacted with regard to treating it and also the Usk and Wye Federation who supported its treatment along the Riverbanks. last year.

Cllr Van Rees reported that he had made tentative enquiries regarding a bus connection for the increased service on the HOW Line. It was suggested that the Town Council write to the railway forum in Llandrindod Wells.

8. Planning

Planning application P/2015/0523,(to demolish existing outbuildings and erect a garage with ancillary accommodation at Highview Beulah Road) was brought to the table. At this point Cllrs James and Price declared an interest and left the meeting. The application was considered by remaining members. No objections were raised.

Cllr James and Price re-joined the meeting.

Cllr James presented a handwritten letter to the meeting which the Clerk read to members. It eloquently expressed a list of concerns regarding further plans with reference to planning application P/2015/0068).renovation of Cwm Irfon Barn. After much discussion it was felt that the original planning application was to convert the barn into holiday lets. Does this new plan constitute a change of use? The letter should be forwarded to The Planning department at County Hall and a letter written to the complainants thanking them for their letter and informing them of the Town Councils course of action.

Action : Clerk to write letter to Planning Department and to the complainants.

9. Twinning

As three members of the Town Council were in Cesky Krumlov there were no twinning issues brought to the table.

10. Public Toilets

Cllr James thanked Cllr Price for leading the meeting held on Thursday 9th June. Cllr Price outlined the purpose of that meeting was to look at the paper work involved in the initial licencing agreement and the grant application. It was felt that the wording of the grant application should be reworded to indicate a grant over five years and not three as stipulated in the given document. This would allow for refurbishment of the premises. The following possible refurbishments were outlined by members;

Rewiring

Doors with coin slots

Re-plastering and retiling

New window glazing

New signage

The licence agreement was signed and duly witnessed by Cllr Tonks and Cllr Pace –Avery.

Further communication is needed with Alastair Knox to get the grant application forwarded to the Clerk.

Action: Clerk to make contact with Mr Knox.

The Clerk informed members of a communication regarding the Public Health Bill and Public Toilets. As a result it was suggested a letter be written to the appropriate person to request support for funding for this issue.

11. Dolwen Field

Cllr Lambkin commented that the Field was looking well-kept after a recent cut. Cllr Price was concerned that it be kept in that condition and that the number of cuts be monitored to ensure we get the 20 cuts requested.

12. Town Square and Green

The Clerk read an e-mail from Cllr Rowlands requesting a replacement “Bryan Watkins” plaque for the Memorial Garden. He put forward a cost of £90.00. Cllr Van Rees proposed that this should be accepted. Cllr Price seconded the proposal.

13. Correspondence

Item 3.2 on Agenda Extract from Good Practitioners Guide re Transfer of monies to Building Society

Item 7.00 Letter from Kirsty Williams regarding correspondence with Edwina Hart re; VA signs

Item 8.2 Letter from Lee Price (LEADER manager) Arwain LEADER programme (expressions of interest form)

Item 8.3 G-mail -update on Snack Attack from Mrs D. Fourie

Item 8.3 Letter from Chris Davies MP

Item 8.3 Letter from Mrs D. Fourie acknowledging Councils letter with regard building at Maesybrynnar.

Item 8.3 G-mail from Kirsty Williams outlining memo to Mark Drakeford with regard the sustainability funding.

Item 9.0 Planning application/2015/0523erection of detached garage at High view.

Item 11.0 G-mail form Chris Tudor smith re; Public Health bill –provision of Public Toilets.

Item 13.0 G-mail from John Rowlands regarding the replacement plaque for Bryan Watkins.

Item 13.1 G-mail from John Rowlands regarding the weeding of adopted roads.

Item 14.0 Letter from Peter Morris re; Local development plan consultation

Item 14.1 G-mail from Jane Hutt re; budget tour

Item 14.2 Letter from Community support Group re; membership.

Items of Correspondence not discussed at the May meeting were addressed. There were no issues arising.

Signed

Date

Date of Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY

Cllr Tonks

Amendment at 7.1

“that the training be at the Neuadd and include members from..... “

Amended to “that training be held to include members from.....”