

## **Minutes of Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.**

**Present:** Cllrs P. James, P. Tonks, L. Pace-Avery, S. Jones, A. Jones, P. Lambkin

### **Visiting Speakers:**

- Mr S Amor (Watch Manager at Llanwrtyd Wells fire Station)
- Mr A. Sherman(Head of Co- Responders in south Powys)
- Mr G Lewis (Co-Responder manager)

**In Attendance :** L E Ball (clerk and RFO)

### **1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs J. Rowlands, A. Edwards, J. Davies, N. Price

Cllr James began the meeting by welcoming the visiting speakers and outlined the reasons why they had been invited stating that there had been many questions asked within the Community with regard to the Co-Responder vehicle. The question was asked that since the Community of Llanwrtyd Wells had raised a significant amount of money for the vehicle would it stay in Llanwrtyd.

Mr Lewis explained that the vehicle purchased will be part of a group of vehicles being purchased which has enable them to be bought at a cost of £22,000 per vehicle rather than £35,000. The vehicles, which have now been purchased, are to be fitted with equipment such as emergency lights, horns etc. From the time of purchase to the time of in-service use at the Fire Station will be 14-15 weeks. For Insurance purposes it will be included in the Fire Service fleet and there is no intention to reclaim it once it is in situ.

Cllr James expressed concern that perhaps down the line (i.e. in the future) we could possibly lose the facility as has happened with other services within Llanwrtyd. It was stated that the vehicle would need to go away for servicing but, again, members were reassured that the vehicle will remain within the Community.

Cllr Van Rees felt that there should be a Civic reception for the Vehicle and Mr Amor stated that there would be a formal acceptance and blessing of the vehicle. Cllr Van Rees requested that Council members be kept informed of progress. He congratulated Mr Amor for instigating the fund raising and Cllr Lambkin congratulated Mr Amor on his recent award.

The second question raised was regarding equipment of the vehicle and whether the equipment from the current vehicle would be transferred to the new one. It was explained that there were two types of equipment, medical equipment and equipment for the actual vehicle such as lights, horn etc.

Medical equipment would be transferred from old to new where appropriate but it was also explained that with ever changing technology equipment was constantly developing and changing and that any future new equipment would be replaced by WAST(Welsh Ambulance Service Trust).

Cllr. Tonks expressed an interest in the development of the Co-Responder Service. It was explained that, originally a pure Fire Service, it is now a Fire and Rescue Service and that the Co-Responder vehicles are a growing part of that service with over 20 vehicles to be attached to Fire Stations. The question was asked about the existing vehicle and what would become of it. Depending on its condition it could go into service elsewhere or it would be scrapped.

Cllr James asked if the Town Council could have it in writing that the vehicle would remain in Llanwrtyd to work in the area. Mr Sherman and Mr Lewis said they would have to speak to more senior officers to see if this could be done.

The question was raised regarding the amount of money raised with the original figure being £20,000 which was then raised to £25,000. The response to this was that since a number of vehicles were being bought they needed standardised vehicles and equipment. Any extra money raised would be for new training equipment for fire officers who now need to have more extensive knowledge of medical procedures and therefore more practical training using up to date manikins.

Cllr James thanked all three officers for attending the meeting and reiterated that he would look forward to receiving a letter confirming that the vehicle would indeed stay in Llanwrtyd.

Councillors both individually and collectively acknowledged the excellent work of the service and very much looked forward to the arrival of the new vehicle and congratulated Mr Amor for his work in instigating the fundraising.

Mr Sherman left his e-mail address and invited contact with him if there were concerns of any kind regarding the Fire Service itself and /or the Co-responder Service. The officers left the meeting.

## **2. Minutes of the May AGM Meeting.**

Cllr A. Jones pointed out that the One Voice Wales date had been omitted and informed members that it was Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7:00pm in Victoria Hall with refreshments being served at 6:30pm.

After consideration the May minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr A. Jones and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees.

## **3. ATM update**

The Clerk read an e-mail from Mr A. Davies regarding progress in moving the ATM machine. It indicated that negotiations were still ongoing regarding the removal of the existing machine.

## **4. Finance**

4.1 May Balance Sheet-The Clerk pointed out that this year's grant of £3000.00 for the Public Toilets had been paid into the account .No other issues arose. After due consideration the balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr L. Pace-Avery.

### **4.2 External Audit**

The external audit forms have not yet come back and there was concern that we would not be able to get them back before the 30<sup>th</sup> June which the Clerk believed was the deadline for a return and signing off. It was decided to have a special meeting which would combine the signing of the Audit forms and a Development Committee meeting. This proved difficult as Cllrs had other commitments so the Clerk was to ask the Audit Office for an extension of the deadline.

Action: Clerk to make contact with the Audit Office to discuss the above proposal.

## **5. Anti-Social Behaviour**

There are still continuing episodes of anti-social behaviour up at Bethllywd with one resident having his car scratched all along one side. This had been reported to the police.

Councillors have received complaints regarding the anti-social behaviour of a resident of a Council House owned by Powys County Council.

Action Cllr Van Rees to investigate the matter at PCC level.

## **6. Traffic Calming**

Cllr Tonks reported on the CARS project. He now has a team of 8 volunteers established and he has received the relevant application forms from PCSO J. Kelham. These forms have to be verified by the police and have to be taken in person to the police station with appropriate identification to be verified. The project is not likely to start in Llanwrtyd until late this year or early 2017, though he did say that the CARS project in Newbridge on Wye would be commencing in the Autumn of this year.

The scheme would require a minimum of three people operating the equipment and there would be road signs indicating that it was in operation. Cllr Tonks will keep member updated on the progress of this initiative.

Cllr James thanked Cllr Tonks for his continued work and Police liaison with this issue.

## **7. Feedback from Councillors**

The Clerk read an e-mail from **Cllr J. Davies** in his absence. His concern was regarding a bench at Berthllwd that was in need of repair and requested its replacement if this was possible.

**Cllr James** reminded members that two benches donated to the Town by his mother Mrs E. James in memory of her late husband, were looking uncared for . He requested that Mr Dodds be asked to have a look at all three benches with a view to repair and refurbish. The three benches identified were situated at Berthllyd the Primary School and outside the surgery.

Action; Clerk to contact Mr Dodds regarding the above.

**Cllr T. Van Rees** reported the following;

- Snack attack –He informed members that he had requested a meeting with head of Planning, Mr G Davies, after receiving news that the officer in charge of the case was on maternity leave.
- Transport of children to the Welsh Unit in Bulth –this issue was still ongoing
- He had approached Trefllys Community Council with regard the library situation and their response was the same as Llangammarch that they were served by the mobile library but that if things changed they would consider supporting the library in Llanwrtyd Wells.
- He was still waiting for a response from the X-Servicemen's Housing Association with regard purchase of the War Memorial Institute.

**Cllr L. Pace Avery** informed members that the launch of the Kathy George writing competition was held at the library on the 28<sup>th</sup> May with members of her family present and that there would be an open day at the

library on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 10am-1:00pm when they would relaunch the competition which is Powys wide and has the full support of the Powys Library Service.

She also informed members that it was early days for any application for an advice worker from any Social Services and Well Being Fund but she would keep the Council informed.

**Cllr P. Lambkin** informed members that there was a tourism meeting at Cradoc Golf Club and asked if there was a representative from Llanwrtyd attending. Cllr James felt that Llanwrtyd would be well represented by other members of the Community but invited Cllr Lambkin to make contact with Cllr Edwards who is Cllr currently responsible for Tourism.

Action: Cllr Lambkin to make contact with Cllr Edwards to inform her of the above meeting.

**Cllr James** expressed concern that many properties have been bought by the Tserenia family with no apparent development. He requested that a letter be sent inviting Mr Tserenia to the next Town Council Meeting to outline his proposals for the development of the many buildings he now owns in Llanwrtyd.

**Cllr S. Jones** informed members that the Urdd Eisteddfod is due to take place in Builth Wells on the Showground in the year 2018 and indicated that Llanwrtyd should look inviting to visitors and should show a particular Welsh atmosphere and flavour. Cllr James thanked Cllr Jones for the information which gives the Town Council ample time to respond and prepare for the event.

The Clerk read an e-mail from **Cllr J. Rowlands**, in his absence, outlining his position regarding the Gardening club, the request for a grant and the state of play with regard to the flower boxes in Town.

This e-mail caused much heated debate :

Cllr Tonks objected to the language used in the e-mail and felt that the work done in the past by members of the club was being denigrated. He explained the current financial situation of the gardening club and informed members that wood had already been bought ready to make up replacement boxes through the Town. He also read a letter to members from J Walsby regarding the Club.

Cllr A. Jones felt aggrieved that the e-mail had been sent to the Town Council without prior consultation with the Gardening Club members.

Cllr Lambkin felt that the e-mail was not meant in a derogatory way or an attack on the gardening club but a passionate plea for work to be carried out so that the Town once again looked good enough to enter the Wales in Bloom Competition. She felt that responsibility for the Town flowers were not part of the Town Council remit.

Cllr Van Rees also felt that the Gardening Club was not within the remit of the Town Council and asked the issue to be deferred until the next meeting.

Cllr James pulled the discussion together and felt that because there was no one specific (ie a chairperson) to deal with the issue was becoming a source of frustration with too many people involved and was beginning to cause friction and misunderstanding between all concerned. He suggested a letter be written to the Gardening Club with a view to electing a Chairperson who could then be appropriately communicated with.

## **8. Planning**

The Clerk read an e-mail from the Powys Planning and monitoring officer which stated that the Town Council would be sent fortnightly reports of all planning decisions made within the area.

Planning application P/2016/0525 was considered, having been sent to those members, who have access to e-mail, prior to the meeting. This application was for "Erection of building for hunt kennels and associated works (retrospective) at Gilfach Farm, Llanwrtyd Wells". No objections were raised regarding this application.

## **9. Twinning**

The Clerk read a letter from Mr Delannoy, Mayor of Meriel, which formally accepted the invitation to Llanwrtyd in August and looked forward to the visit. Cllr James reminded members that there would be an official Council Meeting to receive the French contingency which would probably take place on Saturday or Sunday morning. He asked members to think of some issues that might be discussed at the table for this meeting.

Cllr Pace Avery kindly offered a sampler for a gift to the delegation which was gratefully accepted by Council members. Cllr James thanked Cllr Pace-Avery for her generous gift.

The Clerk read out an e-mail from Zuzana Krapkova of Cesky Krumlov which requested information about any High School which was interested in taking part in an exchange visit.

Cllr Van Rees suggested I copy the e-mail to Builth Wells High School who operate a number of exchange visits and might be interested.

Action: Clerk to forward e-mail to Builth High School and to Cllr Van Rees in order to bring it up at the next Governing Body Meeting.

## **10. Public Toilets**

The Clerk read an e-mail from Mr Gaukroger regarding the Abergwesyn toilet repairs and the honesty box. Questions were raised as to who owned the toilets at Abergwesyn and what the grant, issued by the Town Council on a yearly basis with two years still to run, of £300.00 was used for. Cllr A. Jones reported that the

whole of the toilets needed refurbishing while Cllr S. Jones stated that if the grant is to run out in two years' time then the Town Council should consider how these Toilets would be maintained.

Cllr James suggested writing a letter to the Abergwesyn Hall Committee to enquire about the current running costs for the facility so in order to gather information for future years with regard maintenance.

**Action:** Clerk to write a letter to The Abergwesyn Hall committee regarding the above.

The Clerk informed members that a new Electricity provider had been sought since the contract with British Gas expires on the 8<sup>th</sup> July and the prices for renewal were, in comparison to other providers, very expensive. The provider for a year is to be EON .

Cllr James thanked the Clerk for pursuing this matter and acknowledged that it would be a saving for the Town Council.

The Clerk informed members that an e-mail had arrived confirming a grant from the Welsh Tourism Support Fund to refurbish the Public Toilets in Llanwrtyd. The official documents are to follow.

Cllr James thanked the Clerk and Cllr Van Rees for their efforts in securing this grant to refurbish the premises.

The Clerk raised the issue of Sanitary removal bins as there are none currently in situ, also issues still remain with excess use of water and blockages in the ladies cubicles through mis-use of toilet paper.

An e-mail was read out from Mr Knox regarding these issues and also an e-mail from Mr Pritchard the Valuer at Powys County council informing the Town Council that the Portfolio report for transfer the Freehold was underway.

Members felt that everything was happening at too fast a pace when, as yet we have not received an Condition Survey Report and although the Town Council is operating the Toilets under Licence many issues regarding "handover in a good condition" remain.

Cllr James felt that a letter be written to Alastair Knox, with a copy sent to Mr Pritchard, outlining the position of the Town Council.

**Action :** Clerk to write the above letter.

Questions were raised as to who had responded regarding a contribution to the running of the Public Toilets in the future. To date Green events have pledged their support. It was suggested by Cllr Lambkin that Spa and the Heritage Centre be approached.

As part of the Public Toilet project Mr Len Thomas, Chartered Surveyor, and Mr D. Mills, Architect, had been approached to draw up plans and a costing schedule. Payment for this work is now due and Cllr James asked members for approval of the sum of £400.00 (£100.00 to Mr L. Thomas and £300.00 to Mr D.Mills) when appropriate invoices had been received. After some discussion it was unanimously decided to go forward with payment. This was proposed by Cllr P.Tonks and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.

## **11. Dolwen Field**

11.1 Cllr James reminded members that Mr L. Thomas (chartered surveyors) had drawn up a rough feasibility study for a three lane running track and visibility splay in preparation for installing access and parking at Dolwen Field. This was at a cost of £250.00. Cllr James asked approval for payment of this bill when an invoice arrives. Payment was proposed by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by Cllr L. Pace-Avery and unanimously agreed by all members present.

Cllr James informed members that there was very good support for the project and had received a donation of £30.00 from Maggie Eyley, Claire Overell and Yvonne Kiley. It was suggested that a letter of thanks to go to all three ladies expressing the Council's thanks for their support for the project.

**Action:** Clerk to write above letters.

The Clerk read letters of support from Strata Medical (Claire Bidgood) and from Robin Bidgood who had taken the time to put together some ideas on how to develop the site. These letters were well received by members. The Clerk informed members of an Arwain Roadshow at the Royal Welsh Showground on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June .but was unable to attend herself. Cllr Tonks and Cllr A. Jones volunteered to go this drop in Session and the Clerk agreed that she would furnish them with questions to take along.

An e-mail from Brecknock Play network was read out. They are hoping to run an Open Access play session at Dolwen Field in the summer holidays for 8-13 year olds and requested a booking form

**Action:** Clerk to make contact with Brecknock Play Network to agree workshops.

### **11.2 Picnic in the Park Feedback**

Cllr James reported that there had been very positive feedback from the Community. The afternoon went with a swing with many activities available for all ages, culminating in the presentation of mugs to school aged children by Cllr T. Van Rees and Cllr A. Jones.

Cllr James heartily thanked Cllr Van Rees for his generous donation of the mugs which were a beautiful design and commemorated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He also thanked Cllr A. Jones for ordering them and for collating a list of recipients.

He thanked all members present for their hard work in making the afternoon such a success voicing that it had been a truly collaborative effort. There had been many pictures taken and it was suggested that they be put forward for the "Best Have a Field Day" competition run by Fields in Trust with nominations opening in August. It was suggested that the Picnic in the Park become a bi-annual event.

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

A letter had been received from the Friends of St David's stating that they were unable to provide financial support for the requested finger post in Town as they are a registered Charity and any money raised needed to be spent on the Churchyard.

No other issues were brought to the table.

## **13. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Lambkin declared to members that she would be a polling clerk on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Llangammarch. There were no further declaration of interest.

## **14. Correspondence**

- Item 3 on Agenda                      E-mail from Mr A Davies regarding the ATM machine
- Item 7.0 on Agenda
- E-mail to Mr seed from Cllr Rowlands
  - E-mail from Cllr J Davies re; seat on Berthllyd
- Item 8.0 on Agenda                      e-mail from Mr R Edwards planning and monitoring officer at Powys re ; Planning application decisions .
- Item 8.1 on Agenda                      Planning Application P/2016/0525
- Item 9.0 on Agenda                      e-mail from Zuzana Krapkova re High School Exchange Programme
- Item 10.0 on Agenda
- e-mail from Mr Gaukroger in response to e-mail from Town Council re: Abergwesyn toilet repairs.
  - Information re: renewal of electricity contract for riverside toilets
  - e-mail from Mr Manley confirming monies for Capital expenditure on Public Toilets
  - e-mail from Alastair Knox re; several issues regarding the toilets
- Item 11.0 on Agenda
- Letter of support for Dolwen field project from Robin Bidgood
  - Letter of support from Strata Medical re; Dolwen Field project
  - e-mail from Brecknock Play Network regarding open access play session on Dolwen Field
- Item 11.2 on Agenda                      e-mail re; Arwain funding Roadshows
- Item 13.0 on Agenda                      Letter from Friends of St David's Church re: fingerpost monies
- Item 14.0 on Agenda                      Letter from M. Oliver regarding condition of her steps
- The Clerk read the letter to members. It was felt that it should be copied to the Clerk at Llangammarch. Cllr Van Rees requested a copy and would pursue the matter at Powys County Council Level. Clerk to reply to her letter suggesting that she could get help from Disability Powys.**
- Item 14.3 on Agenda                      Invite to attend Annual General meeting of Builth Wells Community Support
- Item 14.4 on Agenda                      Invite for 2 representatives from council to attend Royal Agricultural Show Reception. **It was felt that two representatives should go. Cllr Pace Avery said she would like to attend. The Clerk also will attend after being offered the second place.**
- Item 14.5 on Agenda                      Letter from Welsh Government inviting Volunteers for Community Health Councils
- Item 14.6 on Agenda                      e-mail from Heritage lottery fund for Wales –looking for two new members
- Item 14.7 on Agenda                      Letter from Kirsty Williams in response to letter from Town Council
- Item 14.8 on Agenda                      Letter from School s Service re; closure of Welsh Unit at Ysgol Dolafon
- Cllr A. Jones brought the Mid Wales Health Collaboration drop in sessions to the attention of members. It is to be held in Victoria Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> July with two sessions 2-4:30pm and 6-8.30pm.
- Cllr Tonks thanked the Clerk for her efforts in making it to the meeting after a long journey back from Nottingham.
- Cllr Pace Avery reported that the rats had returned at Ty-Cae-Mawr
- Cllr Lambkin informed Cllr A. Jones that the horse manure had been removed from the station forecourt after the Man v Horse race.

Signed.....

Date.....

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 20th JULY**

