

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.**

**Present:** Cllrs: P James J. Rowlands, L. Haines,, N. Price, R. Thomas, B. Hodges, P. Lambkin, T. Van Rees, P. Tonks

Visiting Speaker : Mrs G. Wright (HOWLTA)

In attendance ;

Mrs L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Before the meeting commenced Cllr James remembered Cllr Gwyneth Rowlands saying that her death was an immeasurable loss to the Council and the Community of Llanwrtyd Wells. A minutes silence was held in her honour.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr A. Jones

2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Cllr Rowlands queried the amendment at 11.1 feeling that the original was more accurate –after some debate it was felt the amendment should remain .Cllr Hodges proposed them as an accurate record. Cllr Thomas seconded the proposal.

3. **Finance**

**Balance Sheet** ----- The Clerk presented the balance sheet to members outlining our current financial position. This was proposed as accurate by Cllr J. Rowlands and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees.

**Budget update** -- The Clerk presented an update of the budget up to 18<sup>th</sup> June.. This was proposed as accurate by Cllr N. Price and seconded by Cllr J. Rowlands.

**Pavilion Budget Update** ---- The Clerk presented an up to date budget sheet for the pavilion. This was proposed as accurate by Cllr R. Thomas and seconded by Cllr L. Haines.

4. **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Concerns were raised about hazardous driving through Llanwrtyd on 31<sup>st</sup> May by rally cars drivers racing between Cefn Gorwedd and Llanwrtyd Wells. At this particular time there were many children and adults in the vicinity and there were no marshals evident. Residents have since complained about the noise level and the speed at which cars were travelling through the Town.

**Action:** Clerk to write to the organisers of the Rally to find out more and raise the above concerns.

Cllr J. Rowlands expressed concern about the dumping of rubbish in the metal and plastic recycling bins at the back of Victoria Hall. This bin, which should be locked, is currently not locked and this is leading to its incorrect usage.

**Action:** Clerk to liaise with Cllr Jones to monitor the situation-also contact to PCC with regard to this fly tipping.

5. **Traffic Calming**

5.1 **Horse Signs**

The clerk read a letter from Mr D. Williams regarding reinstating the horse signs. The original sign on Irfon Road was removed in the reconciliation of traffic signs in Llanwrtyd but since representations have been made to the Council by the Pony Club it was decided that the Council pursue their reinstatement. Since the response from Mr Williams was not wholly negative it was decided to request signs to be placed at both ends of the Town on the main trunk road while Cllr Van Rees offered to make contact with Ms J Lancey at County Hall with regard to installing further signs on Dol-y Coed Road, Station Road and Cefn Gorwedd Road..

**Action:** Clerk to reply to Mr Williams requesting sign for the trunk road while Cllr Van Rees to approach Ms Lancey regarding other signage.

A letter was received from Roger and Kirsty Williams's office regarding consultation on the speed of traffic on trunk roads. After much discussion it was felt that the speed limit on trunk roads was appropriate but the issue of policing the speed of the traffic was of more concern.

Cllr Price observed that he felt since the signs with cameras had been erected traffic into the Town had slowed.

Cllr Tonks raised the issue of VA signs and wondered if it were possible to have them back in Llanwrtyd since he felt these were the most effective way of slowing traffic.

**Action:**

- Clerk , in writing to Mr Williams regarding horse signs, to also enquire as to whether we can have the VA sign s back in Llanwrtyd.
- Clerk to respond to Letter from Mr Williams and request that the Council be kept informed of any developments.

**6. Feedback from Councillors**

**6.1 WAG**

Cllr Hodges gave an update of the World alternative Games.

- All events and venues are confirmed and are to be put into a mini-brochure
- The opening ceremony is in the process of being sorted.
- They hope to make an hour long documentary and funds are being sought to do this .
- WAG attending a meeting at St Clears on 21<sup>st</sup> June with a view to promoting the event
- Heritage Walks to be confirmed
- The paid post of secretary was an internal position and was necessary for funding from Welsh Gov. to be released. K Perkins is currently in this paid position.

Cllr Rowlands reported that Ms Perkins had done a presentation for Merched y Bont who were duly impressed.

**6.2 Other issues**

Cllr Lambkin reported that she had aside the issue of the signage with the Aberwesyn Hall Committee. The Committee's perception is that the Abergwesyn Toilet belongs to the Town council and as such they should be responsible for any maintenance.

She also reported that when the Abergwesyn Hall and toilets were handed over there was a grant of £3000 paid to the Town Council with the view that thy were to give a grant of £300.00 each year for ten years.-hence the £300 pound annual grant.

Cllr Van Rees felt that this information should be challenged and as recollections differed efforts should be made to find original documents and to enquire with the previous Clerk Mrs P Dryden as to the actual ownership of the Abergwesyn toilet block.

- Action: Clerk to find out for Mrs Dryden where documents are and her recollections of events.
- Cllr Van Rees to speak to Ian Harris.

Cllr James as Chair and Mayor introduced and welcomed the visiting speaker Mrs G Wright is the Chair of HOWLTA (Heart of Wales Line Transport Association).Mrs Wright spoke eloquently about the new services on the Heart of Wales line but acknowledged that Llanwrtyd Wells fared less well and was pleased that The Council was concerned about the issue. She talked of a new franchise being in place by 2018 and handed the council a copy of the new timetable.

Questions were raised about freight and although small freight could be carried the cost of transporting major freight would cause issues with local industries and the cost would be prohibitive.

Cllr Van Rees congratulated HOWLTA on the improved timetable

Cllr Thomas enquired if there was to be new rolling stock-the response to which was that it was very difficult to find new trains in the country as a whole at the moment

.Cllr James welcomed the inclusion of a buffet trolley on the service

Cllr Hodges raised concerns about the lack of a viable service to enhance commuters to use the service for work in Llandrindod and that while the earlier train was excellent the returning train did not fit in with regular working hours.

Mrs Wright asked for the Council's support in the fight for further improvements and all members unanimously agreed that the support would be forthcoming.

Cllr James thanked Mrs Wright for her time and input and wished her well in her new role as mayor of Llandovery and she left the meeting.

## **7. Planning.**

The planning application, number, P/2014/0503, was brought to the table to be considered. At this point Cllr Price declared an interest and left the meeting. After due consideration no objections were raised to the alterations and extensions requested at 4, Leighton Close. Cllr Van Rees formally proposed no objections and this was seconded by Cllr Tonks. Cllr Price re-joined the meeting.

In response to the Council's enquiries the Clerk read out a letter from M N Pritchard (Senior Housing Renewals Officer) acknowledging the concerns of the Council regarding the use of Victoria House. Cllr James suggested that the situation be monitored over the coming months.

## **8. Twinning**

Cllr Rowlands reported that the twinning excursion was due to take place this weekend. The party would be leaving Llanwrtyd on the 20<sup>th</sup> June

He showed Council members the gift for the Council of Meriel which was a stained glass picture of the Red Kite This was mounted on a stand with a suitable plaque attached. The total cost of the picture was £107.50 which all members agreed was a fitting gift for our partners in Meriel.

Cllr Rowlands would be presenting the gift to the Mayor of Meriel. It was felt that the picture would sit well in the "Abbey" at Meriel

Cllr Rowlands also reported that he had received communication from Cesky Krumlov inviting a delegation to visit in June next year and that the Twinning Association were prepared to organise the visit.

Cllr Thomas reported that Nicholas Winton had been mentioned in the press as it was his 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was suggested that the Town Council write to Mr Winton offering congratulations.

Cllr Rowlands read out a letter from the Mayor of Cesky Krumlov offering their condolences at the death of Gwyneth Rowlands.

Cllr James proposed that this message be published in the "Grapevine".

Action Clerk to give copy of letter to Cllr Jones to put into the Grapevine.

## 9. Services

### 9.1 Green Bring Site

9.2 This is still subject to discussions at Welsh Gov level. Cllr Van Rees reported that he is due to see Ian Harris and is still negotiating with Edwina Hart. Cllr James suggested that since the Welsh Government are keen to promote sustainability that as representative of the Green Tourism Gold Award he would write a letter to Edwina Hart encouraging working together to solve this issue which has been ongoing for some time.

Action: Cllr James to write letter to Edwina Hart and forward it to Cllr Van Rees.

### 9.3 Public Toilets

There has been no further communication from Powys County Council regarding this issue. However Cllr Van Rees indicated that there was to be a moratorium at County level on the subject and it was felt that the issue should be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

## 10. Dolwen Field

### 10.1 Play Area

A swing whose bolts had come loose was removed by a parent and given to Cllr James. Chris Dodds replaced the swing but issues still remain with loose bolts on the "Proludic" equipment. The contractor David Stevenson has been informed and he is due to come and inspect it. There are concerns regarding warranty of the equipment once it is finished and handed over to the Town Council. Cllr Price proposed that he meet with Mr Stevenson to talk about these issues, as we are unclear as to whether this is caused by vandalism or whether there are defects with the equipment.

### 10.2 Pavilion

Cllr Price reported on the condition of the Pavilion after the Man versus Horse event. The disabled toilet cistern is once again non-operational and as this appears a regular occurrence Cllr Price has asked the contractor Mr K Burton to replace the cistern.

There is also an issue with the doors, the design of which can cause them to lock from inside. Mr Burton is to alter the bars so this cannot happen.

Cllr Price congratulated Lee Wilson on the excellent job she had done with the cleaning, however it was felt that the hirer is responsible for leaving the premises in a reasonably tidy condition and should report any defects back to the Council.

Cllr Rowlands reported that he had received a telephone call from a camper who reported that one of the toilets was broken..

Council members agreed that the event went well and it was good to see so many people in town supporting it, however it was also felt that due to the larger than ever numbers participating the issue of parking became a problem. It was suggested that Green Events should think about an appropriate place for vehicles to park without blocking the side roads in Town. Cllr James highlighted the need for availability of access for the emergency services for residents in Town should the need ever arise.

Action: Clerk to write to Green Events outlining the points above and ask if they could provide some feedback about the event from their perspective.

Discussion regarding the terms and conditions of hire ensued. Cllr Price felt that the issue be revisited ready to put into place in the new year (Jan2015) as it was felt that the bookings for this year were already in place.

The next pavilion meeting would be after the meeting about the park, when the booking system would be reviewed .Anyone not conforming to the conditions of Hire would be written to and if payment not made by return then in future they would be prevented from using the Field.

### 10.3 Grass Cutting

The Clerk read a letter from Ian Harris in response to the Council's concern over the quality of grass cutting on Beulah Road where trees, banks and flowers containers were damaged. Though he apologised for certain things he felt there was no culpability regarding the flower tubs.

It was suggested that we take photographs of the flower tubs and send them to Mr Harris.

In response to an enquiry about treatment of pavements by Cllr J Rowlands Mr Harris responded that if we send him a list of areas that need weeding this would be done. It was felt that Station Road, Ffos Road, Dol-y-Coed Road, Cefn Gorwedd Victoria Road and Llandovery Road would be priorities for weeding.

Cllr Price reported that he had had many complaints about the cutting on the Field and in the Cemetery where there appears to be no strimming done.

Cllr James voiced his disappointment at the service since the Council were promised an improved situation by Mr Harris during a Council meeting in October 2013.

Cllr Price offered to meet with Mr Harris at his convenience to discuss issues.

Action :Clerk to write a letter to Ian Harris;

- Stating our disappointment with the issues above.
- To request weeding of the above areas
- To suggest a meeting with Cllr Price

Clerk to send letter to Cllr Van Rees with photographic evidence of damage to boxes so he can speak with him with a view to replacement.

### 10.4 Running /Cycle track

Nothing to report on this issue .The pavilion meeting, when arranged, will take this project forward.

## 10. Town Square and Green

### 10.1 Flagpole

Cllr Hodges outlined the varying flagpoles and flags available and their cost.. She felt the flagpole with an internal mechanism would be most suitable because it would deter vandalism. This was agreed by all members. Cllr Hodges is to liaise with Cllr Van Rees with a view to purchase.

The cost of installation also needed to be considered.

## 11. Correspondence.

Item 5.00 Traffic Calming- Letter from Roger Williams regarding the review of speed limits on Trunk Roads.

Item 7.00- Planning Letter form Neil Pritchard in response to Council's enquiries regarding Victoria House

Item 7.00 Planning Application (p/2014/0503) for alterations and extensions at 4, Leighton Close.

### Item 10.0 Dolwen Field

Item 10.3 G-mail from Cllr Rowlands requesting clarification of pavement cleaning and weed spraying from Ian Harris

Item 10.3 Response for Ian Harris regarding above and regarding poor grass cutting complaint.

### Item12.00

12.1 G-mail from Jean Michelle expressing his condolences at the passing of Gwyneth Rowlands.(Cllr James felt that this should be published in the Grapevine with the message from Cesky Krumlov)

12.2 Letter from Chair of Governors at Ysgol Dolafon , Jon Hather, requesting the revenue grant for Bromsgrove Hall.(It was strongly felt that money from this year's precept should not be used to subsidise a Powys County Council run establishment and as there was no allocation in the Council's budget this year for Bromsgrove Hall it was felt that this grant could not be awarded. Cllr Van Rees reported that he was attending a meeting with the Governors of Ysgol Dolafon, and Powys's finance officer, Mr G. Jones regarding the issue of Bromsgrove Hall. He would report back at the next meeting. it was decided that discussions would ongoing and will be discussed at the next Council Meeting to reflect the outcome of the meeting at Ysgol Dolafon.

12.3 Letter for PCC (John Powell) outlining their ranking scheme for undertaking minor works after representations from a number of County Councillors.

12.4 Letter from the office of Edwina Hart in response to the Council's enquiries regarding the Heart of Wales Line increased services.

12.5 G-mail from Brian Hanwell regarding a drop in event for the public in Llanwrtyd .

12.6 G-mail from Jason O'Neill at Dyfed Powys Police regarding concerns about an access road that runs outside the property of a Llanwrtyd Resident .(After much discussion it was felt that a letter should be written to highways at Powys County Council to determine the status of this lane and where responsibility lies.)When a response is forthcoming then a member of the Council will make contact with the resident concerned. Cllr Rowlands offered to do this.

Action Clerk to write letter to Mr A.Knox regarding the lane.

## **12. Miscellaneous**

### Cllr Tonks;

- enquired if letter had been sent to Mr Rattcliffe and whether there had been a response. The clerk assured Mr Tonks that a letter had been sent but as yet no response was forthcoming. Cllr Tonks requested we follow up on the first letter.
- asked for an update on Japanese knotweed and what action was being taken. The clerk assured Cllr Tonks that the issue would be followed up and that original contact with the Wye and Usk Federation, who have said they will assist us in the Autumn, would be resumed towards the end of August ready for September treatment.
- .thanked Cllr James, as Mayor, for opening the gardening club plant sale and reported that despite the dreadful weather the sale had raised £320.00.

### Cllr Haines

- Reported that she had been monitoring the pedestrian traffic through Llanwrtyd with regard the signage issue. She showed Council members photographic evidence of signage around the Town square and Green and reported that there did not appear to be a safety issue for pedestrians even with pushchairs .It was agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored

### Cllr Lambkin

- reported that the Abergwesyn name sign has letters missing
- reported that there was fly tipping on the Road out to Cefn Gorwedd and that she had reported it to Powys County Council but no action had been taken. Also fly tipping by the Old Church at Abergwesyn.
- reported that a Stanley knife had been found in the grass near the station
- she informed Council Members that our Vicar Lucyann Ashdown would be leaving Llanwrtyd in the near future.

### Cllr James

- Reported concerns from a resident about the condition of the access Road up to the once Vicarage. This is an unlit road and potholes that have appeared as a result of works vehicles could cause serious injury to elderly residents who use the road.
- Action Cllr Van Rees to take the matter up with Ian Harris.

Signed.....

Date.....

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7:00pm

LEBall (Clerk and RFO)

Amendments requested by Cllr Rowlands

6.2 Cllr James as Chair and Mayor introduced and welcomed the visiting speaker Mrs G Wright who until very recently was chair of HOWLTA (Heart of Wales Line Transport Association).

Replaced with;

Cllr James as Chair and Mayor introduced and welcomed the visiting speaker Mrs G Wright who is the Chair of HOWLTA(Heart of Wales Line Transport Association).

10.2

“Cllr Rowlands reported that he had received a telephone call from a camper who reported defects.

Replaced with :

Councillor Rowlands reported that he had received a telephone call who reported that one of the toilets was broken.

12 “Vicar Lucy Ann Downes”

Replaced with;

Vicar Lucyann Ashdown

Amendments requested by Cllr A. Jones

10.3Grass cutting

That Llandoverly Road be included in the pavement weeding list.

