

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th March at the Council Chambers in the War Memorial Institute.

Present: Cllrs P.James, N. Price, J. Rowlands, P. Tonks, A. Jones, S. Jones, P. Lambkin, J Davies, T. Van Rees

Visiting speakers: Mr A Knox and Miss N Davies (Powys County Council)PCSO J Kelham and PC M. Daviies

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

1. Apologies for Absence : Cllrs A Edwards, L Pace-Avery

Cllr James opened the meeting at 6:30pm and welcoming everyone, in particular Mr Knox and Miss Davies from Powys County Council, who had agreed to explain the renewal of the lease on the Public Toilets. He handed the floor to them both .

Visiting Speakers

Mr Knox was asked for information regarding legionella testing, PAT electrical testing, Asbestos and fire risk assessments and what controls the lights in the Public toilets. He informed the meeting that the Town Council should have had information about legionella, PAT testing, Asbestos and Fire Risk Assessment but he would resend to the Clerk. He informed members of the sensors which could control the lighting system but also that they might be linked to the street light in the area. He would investigate and get back to the Town Council.

The issue of boundaries was raised and Mr Knox was of the opinion that the boundary responsibility would begin and end with the actual building itself. He informed the meeting that no deeds had been found and therefore the premises would need to be registered with the land registry.

The water leak was discussed and Mr Knox felt that there should be a sensor on the male urinals to control the flush.

The licence agreement was discussed with the Town Council being given three options;

- An ongoing licence for the premises
- A more formal lease of the premises
- Freehold –where the building would be transferred to the ownership of the Town Council for a nominal fee. This would require a legal process with possible incurring of legal fees on the part of the Town Council.

The lease option would be beneficial if funding for improvements were to be made but the Town Council would have to inform Powys of any alterations done to the building.

The freehold option allowed ownership of the building and would allow for alterations the Town Council saw fit as long as it did not have change of usage.

The current document issued by Powys to the Town Council was a lease agreement with tenure of 30years from 1st April 2016.

The issue of public liability was raised and members were informed that the minimum liability cover should be £2,000,000. Current public liability cover stands at £5,000,000.

Cllr Van Rees arrived at 7:00pm . He was asked about the time that the building was built but could not put a date to the erection of the building –thinking it had been built under the old District Council then handed over to the Borough Council.

After much discussion on the pros and cons of each option it was felt that a more in depth discussion should be had with the Development Committee. The Town Council informed Mr Knox and Miss Davies that a decision would be conclusively made at the next meeting and requested that the deadline for the decision be extended to accommodate this wish. Miss Davies felt there would be no problem with this.

Action: Development committee to meet to discuss the options for the Public toilets. A resolution to be passed at the next Town Council meeting as to which option to proceed with.

2. Minutes of the February Meeting

The minutes of the February meeting were duly considered. There were no issues arising from the minutes and were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr P. Tonks and seconded by Cllr J. Davies.

The Clerk outlined the “Clerk’s report” which listed the actions from the previous minutes and the action that had been taken as a result. Members thought this was a useful development and agreed that it should continue.

3. Bank Update

Cllr James outlined the main points of discussion from the last Bank Action Group meeting. All Councillors had received the report. He outlined the rationale behind the pending visit from Mr Davies (Barclay's Regional Manager). He updated Cllrs on the present position regarding the ATM machine informing members that the owner of the premises had been approached by Barclays with a view to keeping the ATM machine within the building but did not want to pre-empt the outcome of the forthcoming meeting.

He requested that Councillors meet at 9:00am to discuss the format of the meeting.

PCSO J Kelham and PC M. Davies arrived at 7:10pm.

In order to accommodate them the order of the meeting was re-jigged to deal with the relevant issues of Anti-Social Behaviour and Traffic Calming.

4. Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr James outlined the anti-social behaviour that was happening in Llanwrtyd and in particular the events which happened over the Christmas period. He requested an update from PCSO Kelham as to actions taken.

PCSO Kelham outlined actions taken but because no-one was prepared to press charges or become involved for fear of retribution then no further action could be taken. She strongly emphasised the need to use the 101 service to report ALL incidents otherwise no action could be taken.

Cllr Van Rees informed the meeting that a letter of complaint had been made regarding the vandalism of the War Memorial Institute and that he had received a letter stating that an arrest had been made and that he would be informed of the outcome- the assumption being that the case would have gone to the Crown Prosecution service. PCSO Kelham to investigate and give an update on proceedings.

Cllr James informed the meeting that monies had been received to cover the cost of the damage but felt that the public needed to see justice being done through the law.

PCSO Kelham outlined other means of monitoring certain behaviour with the co-operation of The Housing Association and Social Services and felt it was important to work together to build up a picture of activity within Llanwrtyd and urged publication of the use of the 101 service so that each incident triggered a response to enable this picture to be formed.

Cllr Lambkin expressed concern for Llanwrtyd if people were too frightened to report issue for fear of retaliation.

It was made clear that anyone making a 101 call can choose to remain anonymous and Cllr Van Rees assured members that if a complaint is made it is a matter between the complainant and the officer involved and no-one else. Issues can be reported by a third party but if there is criminal damage or bodily damage involved then the victim must be involved.

Cllr James requested assurance of increased Police presence in Town. PCSO Kelham's response was that she continues to be involved with local groups and the Community Liaison Officer visits the Primary school to deliver a planned programme of talks with the children. Again she reiterated the need to use the 101 service which triggers a police response in the Town. She and PC Davies assured the meeting that Llanwrtyd Wells was firmly on their radar and would remain so.

Cllr Price asked what feedback there had been from the housing Association and PCSO Kelham felt that there had been excellent co-operation with both the Housing Association and Social Services.

In summing up Cllr James felt that the issue of most importance from all that had been discussed was one of Communication. He suggested an article be put into the Grapevine magazine to encourage people to use the 101 service in the knowledge that it would be confidential and invited a Police presence to the planned Picnic in the park and to any other events planned in the Town. PCSO Kelham requested that a list of major events in the Town with dates be forwarded to her to enable planning on their part. Cllr James finished by offering an open invitation to visit if they were in Town.

5. Traffic Calming

Cllr James handed the meeting to Cllr Tonks who is co-ordinating with PCSO Kelham with regard the new Community Speed Watch Scheme. Cllr Tonks began by requesting information regarding the VA signs. The Clerk read out a letter from Ms E Hart who outlined a recent review of VA signs and stated that their installation would be considered, if found necessary, in the year 2016/2017. This was contrary to her original letter which indicated installation in the year 2015/2016.

Cllr Tonks handed over to PCSO Kelham who distributed an information leaflet outlining the programme and how it will operate. She will be the point of contact and when volunteers are found training will be given and a request needs to be made from the Police Station to get the equipment. The scheme involved hand held devices that record the speed of traffic through the Town. No prosecution ensues but a letter is sent to the driver. This will aid the data in requesting VA signs as a picture builds up of the frequency of offending vehicles.

Cllr Rowlands enquired if the Go Safe data had been forthcoming but the Clerk had not received any information. Cllr Tonks offered to follow this up. He also requested that an article be written to go into the grapevine to advertise the scheme and to request volunteers. Members agreed to this proposal.

Action: Cllr Tonks to follow up Go Safe data and put an article into grapevine regarding the scheme and requesting interest in volunteering.

Cllr James thanked PCSO for their time and input and looked forward to the continuation of their quarterly meetings.

6. Finance

Cllr James handed the Clerk the sum of £175:00 from Red Kite Events in payment of a debt owed for use of the pavilion.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Delafield acknowledging receipt of the money.

6.1 Monthly Balance Sheet

The February Balance sheet was put before Council. Cllr Price questioned the bill from SSE for electricity at the Pavilion since the pavilion hasn't been used since the last bill. This was an estimated bill. Cllr Price offered to do monthly reading to keep up to date with usage. This was welcomed by the Clerk.

Action: Clerk to scan bill and send to Cllr Price for examination of breakdown of bill.

The monies paid into the account as a result of the vandalism was highlighted and Cllr Van Rees informed that repair to the windows of the War Memorial could now be actioned. Cheques to be raised for the War Memorial Institute for repair of windows and for the Festival Committee for Christmas lights damage.

Action: Clerk to raise cheques for above.

6.2 Internal Audit

6.3 The Clerk informed members of the necessity to review the internal audit procedures and outlined review documentation to aid the process. The Town Council resolved to review its internal audit procedures and agreed that the current internal auditor be invited to continue his work with the Council.

Action: Clerk to revise document and write to the internal auditor. Present revised document to the next meeting for approval and adoption.

7. Feedback from Councillors

- Cllr Tonks reported on the gardening club and informed members that at the recent AGM all current officers tended their resignation and no others offered their services thus rendering the Club without a Committee. Cllr James informed members that he had received a letter from Jen Walsby with regard the gardening club but it was felt that the contents be reserved until the results of a recent ballot of all members were in.

Cllr Tonks will bring the findings of the ballot to the next meeting.

- Cllr A. Jones reported ;
 - a) The broken glass in the car park at Berthlywd had not been dealt with
 - b) The hedge along Llandovery road was full of rubbish
 - c) Path between Berthlywd and Bryn Awelon uneven and a trip hazard
 - d) The loose paving slab outside Victoria Hall had not been dealt with.

It was generally felt that the re-cycling lorry did not close the hatch on the plastics and were often careless in their loading of the plastic resulting in many items being blown away. As a result Llanwrtyd is littered with bits of plastic and rubbish from the lorry.

- Cllr J Rowlands:

Reported;

 - a) dangerous potholes along Ffos Road just after Plas Gwyn(Mrs Lloyds house).Also several minor potholes along Ffos Road generally.

- b) Grass verge on left hand side on Ffos road needed hedge cutting back as it was causing pedestrians to walk in the road.

Enquired:

as to whether there would be a "Bryan Watkins" Memorial walk this year. Cllr Davies offered to coordinate with Bryn Davies to organise a walk and to co-ordinate with Mrs Watkins as to a date for the walk. It was suggested the proceeds go to the co-responder funds and he would seek Mrs Watkins approval for this.

Informed:

Members that the Heritage Centre would officially open on Saturday the 14th May.

Action: Clerk to action relevant issues with Powys council via their report system.

- Cllr Van Rees informed members that he had made contact with the Planning officers and reported that the enforcement notice had been personally served to an address in Cardiff for the "Snack Attack" property. The owners have 3 months to comply and if they do not then the council have the right to do the work to reinstate the building as it was. There is a possibility of court proceedings if there is non-compliance.
- Cllr Price reported on the recent Governors meeting at Ysgol Dolafon where the budget, Powys Policies and transport for Welsh Stream pupils were discussed.
- Cllr S Jones reported that the recycling bins which should have been removed on the 10th March were still in situ.
- Cllr Davies reported that the hedge at Berthllwyd had been cut back and dog fouling signs had been erected. The street light requested has not been put back on as yet.
- Cllr Lambkin enquired as to whether the Town Council should be offering the clerk the opportunity of a pension. The Clerk is aware of the Scheme and has sent contact details for the Town Council to the Pension Regulator as required. The Town Council will be informed of its staging date between now and 2018. The Clerk informed the Town Council that although she would not be taking up the option of a pension, the Town Council still had to respond appropriately to the Pension regulator.

Action: Clerk to keep town Council informed and provide them with an outline of the scheme for future reference.

- Cllr James reported :

That there had been concern voiced by a resident at Glan -y -Afon that the access Road was, once again, being blocked by flower containers and that when an ambulance was required it had to access between Peter Cook s the Chemist and turn in a very limited space causing damage to a recently insulated wall. The issue had been reported to the Ambulance Trust and the Police.

Cllr Van Rees declared an interest and left the meeting.

After some discussion it was felt that as the matter had been reported to the relevant authorities then a letter acknowledging the issue would be written to the resident in question.

Action :

Clerk to write letter above.

- The Clerk reported

the conversation had with Mr Pritchard at Powys County Council regarding the lease responsibility of Bromsgrove Hall. A meeting is to be arranged between all involved to clarify the situation.

7.1 Co-Responder Vehicle

Concern has been raised regarding the apparent increasing of funds needed to purchase the Co-Responder vehicle and whether once purchased the vehicle will actually remain in Llanwrtyd Wells(The Community having raised a vast amount of money for it) and not be pulled out for service elsewhere by the Fire Service. The Town Council would like clarification on these points and asked the Clerk to invite Mr Amor to the next Town Council meeting to clarify the current position.

7.2 Meeting re Library

The Clerk informed the meeting that after communication with Mrs K. Thomas (Head Librarian in Powys) she requested a meeting be held before the next town council meeting and offered the following dates:

Wed 23rd March

Wednesday 30th March

Wednesday 6th April

After much discussion it was felt that the meeting would have to be at the next Council Meeting since the Town Council has been having many extra meetings regarding the Closure of the Bank and it was difficult to find one of the dates offered suitable for all.

Action: Clerk to e-mail Mrs Thomas with the outcome.

8. Planning

There were four items related to planning brought to the table three relating to actual planning applications and one information.

Planning application P/2016/ 0267 – Creation of Equestrian Menage at Villa Ger-Y-Nant on Llandovery Road. This application was considered by members -no objections were raised.

Planning Application P/2016/0281- Change of use of Agricultural land for Equestrian use at Ger-Y-Nant on Llandovery Road. This application was considered by members and no objections were raised.

Planning Application P/2016/0141 –erection of a wall mounted sign and a free standing sign at the congregational Chapel on Beulah Road.

Cllrs Rowlands and S. Jones declared an interest at this point and left the Meeting.

This application was considered by members remaining –no objections were raised.

Cllr Rowlands and S. Jones re-joined the meeting.

Planning Application P/2014/118- a letter was received from Powys County Council informing the Town Council that there had been an appeal against the decision of this Planning Application for housing development on Maes y Dre Llanwrtyd Wells
Appeal reference APP/T6850A/16/3144657

9. Twinning

Cllr Davies informed the meeting that the Twinning AGM had taken place and the officers remained the same.

The date of the Twinning visit is the 19th, 20th and 21st of August and the Clerk has been charged to officially invite representatives from Cesky Krumlov and Meriel to attend.

10. Public Toilets

10.1 Caretaker /Maintenance Issues

Cllr James explained that there was a water leak somewhere in the Toilets and that the Town Council had been charged by Welsh Water to find the leak and repair it within 14 days as 60-100 litres of water were being lost per hour.

Cllr Davies informed members that he had investigated and found that a tap was continually running and probably wanted a new washer.

Action: Clerk to contact Caretaker Mr Dodds to repair the leak and to inform Welsh Water that this was being dealt with.

The Clerk informed members that Mr McLoughlin has tendered his resignation as volunteer Cleaner for the Toilets and read out his letter.

The issue of Cleaning was discussed and It was felt that the Town Council should investigate quotes from Powys Cleaning Services and from a local independent team that Cllr Davies was aware of. A meeting of the Development Committee is need to take things forward.

The Clerk read a letter from Edwina Hart which stated that due to lack of facilities for HGVs at the site it was not possible for transport funding . However she acknowledged the importance of the facility for Tourism and has asked her officials if there would be any appropriate tourism funding available.

Cllr Van Rees requested a copy of the business plan and a copy of the letter from Edwina Hart be forwarded to him .

Action: Clerk to send above to Cllr Van Rees.

11. Dolwen Field

11.1 Leader funding

Cllr James updated members on the meeting had with Miss Carter regarding the leader programme in Powys and informed members of the consultations with the community . Meetings have been held with the Thursday Club, the Communities of Llangammarch and Beulah and the Primary School Children at Ysgol Dolafon. It is planned to speak to the high School children from Llanwrtyd on the 6th April at Builth High School.

11.2 and 11.3 Hedge and Grass Cutting

The quotes for grass cutting from Mr Croker was put before members of the Council Mr Croker quoted £8.00 a metre for the hedge running between the Skate park and the children's play area. After much discussion it was agreed that Mr Croker be written to accepting the quotes given.

Action : Clerk to write letter of acceptance to Mr Croker.

11.3 Picnic in the Park

Cllr James outlined the proposal for a Community Picnic in the Park on Bank holiday Monday 30th May in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday. Cllr Van Rees and Cllr A Jones to investigate mugs to give out to the Children of Llanwrtyd .

The LW PARC committee will kindly donate £200.000 for the day and Cllr Price would ask if the Festival committee would like to get involved with the Day.

The question was raised as to whether flags would be flown in honour of her birthday on the 21st April. Members decided that the Union Jack, the Welsh flag and the flag of David are to be flown outside the War memorial Institute.

It was proposed that a working party be set up to organise the event and to publicise it in good time. The Clerk and Cllr James to meet to decide a date for such a meeting.

A card is to be sent from the Town Council wishing Queen Elizabeth a Happy Birthday for her 90th Birthday in April.

12. Town Square and Green

Cllr Rowlands informed members that the moles had returned. No other issues were brought to the table .

13. Declarations of interest.

There were two declarations of interest through the meeting :

- Cllr J Rowlands and S Jones with regard signage for the Heritage Centre
- Cllr Van Rees with regard issues at Glan-y Afon.

14. Correspondence

<u>Item 4.2 on Agenda</u>	Documents relating to Internal Audit review
<u>Item 4.3 on Agenda</u>	Insurance Schedule from WPS
<u>Item 6.0 on Agenda</u>	E-mail from Edwina Harts office acknowledgement of letter sent re VA signs.
<u>Item 6.0 on Agenda</u>	Letter of response to above (arrived 14/03/2016)
<u>Item 7.2 on Agenda</u>	E-mail from Kay Thomas Request for meeting before April re library
<u>Item 8.1 on Agenda</u>	Planning application P/2016/0267
<u>Item 8.2 on Agenda</u>	Planning application P/2016/0281
<u>Item 8.3 on Agenda</u>	Planning application P/2016/0141
<u>Item 8.4 on Agenda</u>	Letter informing Council of planning appeal P/2014/1118
<u>Item 8.5 on Agenda</u>	E-mail sent to Cllr Van Rees re update on Snack Attack
<u>Item 10.0 on Agenda</u>	E-mail from Alastair Knox re new lease +letter from water board re leak in toilets
<u>Item 10.2 on Agenda</u>	Letter from Kirsty Williams received from Edwina Hart re; funding for toilets.
<u>Item 11.0 on Agenda</u>	Letter from Powys outdoor recreation officer regarding Annual Inspection of Play Equipment.
<u>Item 11.3 on Agenda</u>	Grass cutting quotes from Anthony Croker
<u>Item 11.4 on Agenda</u>	Information re commemorative medals for Queens birthday.
<u>Item 14.0 on Agenda</u>	Letter from Brian Mcloughlin re; termination of volunteering
<u>Item 14.1 on Agenda</u>	Letter from Resident re; monies for vandalism.
<u>Item 14.2 on Agenda</u>	Letter from Planning Inspectorate
<u>Item 14.3 on Agenda</u>	Howlta Newsletter (winter 2016)
<u>Item 14.4 on Agenda</u>	Letter of acknowledgement of OVW membership and request for details of representatives.

Councillor James thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10:00pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Date of next Meeting ; WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL

