

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th March in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute

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

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

The Chair, Cllr James welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:00pm

1. **Apologies for Absence** Cllr S. Jones
2. **Declarations of Interest** -there were no declarations of interest .
3. **Minutes of February meeting**

The minutes of the February meeting were duly considered there were no amendments and the minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr L. Pace-Avery and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes** -there were no matters arising from the minutes with all actions being done.
5. **Finance-** The February balance sheet was presented to members and considered. The clerk informed members that the first phase of the Welsh Gov. grant had been paid into the bank together with £250 from the Festival Committee as their contribution to the finger post , £18.00 from the insanity exercise group and £20.00 deposit for a pavilion booking due in August. A large sum of money had been paid out to cover costs incurred in the Public toilet refurbishment. After discussion the balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr A. Jones
5.2 Costings for the finger post were presented to members. There remain two contributors still to submit their monies. The project ,which was part funded by the Community Regeneration Fund at Powys, was within budget.

- 5.3** Pubic Toilet finances to date were presented to members – the Grant from the Welsh Government is now complete and we await communication as to what is expected over the next five years. It is hoped that the final cost of the refurbishment will remain within the budget originally accepted by Council.

Both above financial reports were considered and proposed as accurate records by Cllr. N. price and seconded by Cllr J. Rowlands.

6. **Forthcoming Elections –** The Clerk gave members a timetable for the forthcoming elections and gave each Councillor their nomination pack. Cllr Pace-Avery offered to be the person to collect nomination papers and hand them in to an election Officer at County Hall. All members agreed to this.

7. **Anti-social Behaviour –**

Reports have been made to Councillors of a man seen walking about with a glass of beer in hand talking randomly with residents and visitors in Town. This person is known to the police.

An incident was reported in the park where a man was observed exposing himself in the children's play area on Dolwen Field.. This was said to happen on Monday 13th March. There are concerns that there may be mental health issues involved with this person and concern was raised that people were being put into housing via the Mid Wales Housing Association, within the Community without the appropriate support networks.

It was suggested that a letter be written to the Chief executive of the Mid Wales Housing Association with regard to this issue.

Action: Clerk to write the above letter.

Cllr Lambkin reported that a horse rug had been taken off one of her horses in the field . The incident had been reported to police.

It was reported that there had been two homeless people sleeping rough in Llangammarch. It is understood that they have been directed to the Salvation Army either in Abergavenny, Hereford or Merthyr.

It was reported that a group of young lads had been making a nuisance of themselves on the Square just before the Council Meeting, causing traffic to slow to a stop. It was not clear if they were from the locality.

In the light of these reports Cllr James felt a visit from the PCSO Ms J Kelham would be wise and that the incident in the park should be reported to the Police.

Action: Clerk to report the incident to the Police and make contact with J.Kelham to arrange a visit with Cllr James.

8. Traffic Calming Cllr Tonks gave an update on the Go safe presence within the Town. He reported that the van had been in Llanwrtyd six times during January and that 11 vehicles were caught speeding. In February there were 4 visits with 28 exceeding the speed limit as opposed to 0 in 2016 during the same month. Cllr Tonks felt that this was due to better weather conditions this year.

With regard the CARS project he had heard nothing from PCSO Kelham and had had difficulty contacting her. Cllr James suggested that when she visits regarding the anti-social behaviour he would ask her to visit Cllr Tonks to discuss a way forward.

Cllr Van Rees requested that when the project was set up that the community Councils of Treflys and Llangammarch have access to the volunteers to carry out an exercise in those villages.

Cllr Tonks expressed his frustration at the lack of response from the second letter written to Richard Morgan regarding VA signs. Cllr Van Rees suggested writing to the First Minister expressing our concern at this lack of response from one of his Ministers. Cllr Tonks offered to write the draft letter to the First minister with copies to Elened Morgan and Neil Hamilton.

Action ; Cllr Tonks to write draft letter . After approval Clerk to put it onto headed notepaper and send with copies to above mentioned ministers.

9. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr James reported back on the meeting with Mr Fulford when a small delegation of councillors met with him and his mother . Letters of concern from the community were shown to him and he responded that they were more than willing to show plans when they had some but due to work pressures and the need to complete a thesis the project had been on the back burner. He felt it a good idea to write a small article for the Grapevine outlining the proposals they as a family have for the project and he would get this to Cllr Jones to include in the Grapevine as soon as possible.

Regarding the well, he is intending to preserve and enhance the site, though he did say that there had been incidences of vehicles making use of the bridal path and intended to put signage up to prevent this as they were creating a mess at the well using the area as a turning spot and churning up the bridleway.

The meeting was a productive meeting with Cllr S. Jones providing useful information regarding Glastir and Cllr Davies suggesting that woodland management could be discussed with Mr G. Johnson at Trallwym.

Mr Fulford has since responded also feeling that the meeting was a productive one.

Cllr James thanked Cllr Davies and Cllr Pace Avery for their attendance at such short notice.

Cllr Price reported back to members about a meeting he had attended regarding the Electoral Review . The Draft proposals will emerge in 2018 with final proposals in Autumn 2018 new wards where necessary will come into force in 2022. The current number of county councillors in Powys will remain unchanged in the short term.

Cllr James thanked Cllr Price for attending the meeting and keeping members up to date with the issue .

Cllr Van Rees reported that ;

- due to pressures of other meetings he didn't attend the Wales franchise meeting in Shrewsbury but he would make contact with the railway forum to find out what was being proposed.
- that there had been further discussion regarding Bethesda Chapel and its future. The building is a listed building and nothing could be altered within the body of the chapel or with the structure. There has been some local interest in purchasing the Chapel but this is unsubstantiated as yet.
- that Mr Gwilym Davies was being pressed for information regarding proceedings in relation to this issue.. The building work itself did not constitute a danger to the public

Cllr Pace-Avery

- thanked Cllr Edwards for her help with the application to use the surgery for the "weigh in" and the volunteer base.
- reported to members that there had been 5 expressions of interest for Library volunteering and that forms had been given to all. The Clerk wanted to clarify responsibility for communication with Mrs K. Thomas with regard to Library issues and Cllr Pace-Avery said she would be the point of contact for communication in the future.
- brought to the attention of members a book by Jan Newton called "Remember No More" which made mention of The Abernant and the Cech children as well as other places in Llanwrtyd Wells.

Cllr Rowlands requested clarification as to who was the lead person with regard to Bethesda Chapel. He was informed that there had been a steering group set up comprising Mr G. Green , Mr R Stevens, Mr H. Evans, Mr R. Christie and Mr T. Van Rees.

- He informed members that “Countryside Protection for Rural Wales” had appointed a barrister to appeal against the Powys LDP.

He requested clarification on the objective for “Snack Attack “- was it still for reinstatement of the building as it was before. Cllr Rowlands reminded members of the press release that he was asked to write and wondered if this was to go ahead.

Cllr James brought to the attention of members the need to be consistent in contesting planning applications and the need to be wary in not pursuing some whilst pursuing others .

He proposed that the press release should, at this point in time, not be submitted for publication. All members agreed with this proposal. It was agreed to invite Cllr G. Davies to a Town Council meeting after the elections period.

Clerk to action this.

Cllr Davies reported that whilst working on the bungalows at Berthllywd workmen asked him where there was a fire hydrant but after searching they couldn't find one. He felt this was unacceptable. There was uncertainty amongst Councillors as to whether there was one situated at Berthllyd so it was suggested that Cllr Davies contact the fire officer to find out .

Action : Cllr Davies to pursue this and report back at the next meeting.

10. Planning

10.1 Planning Application P/2017/0227 Erection of summer room to replace conservatory at 1 Erw Haf After due consideration there were no objections brought to the table.

10.2 Planning Application P/2017/0101 Alterations to original Planning Application regarding ground development behind Victoria Hall. After due consideration members felt that the original objections submitted still stood.

Action: Clerk to inform Planning of this decision.

10.3 Planning application P/2017/0231 Alterations and extensions at Maes Y Gwaelod. #after due consideration, there were no objections brought to the table.

11. Twinning

Cllr Davies reported to members that the AGM of the twinning Association had taken place with the election of officers as follows:

Chair : Mr B Davies

Deputy Chair : Mr J . Davies

Secretary; Mrs L.Morris

Treasurer: Mrs J Curtis

Minutes Secretary ; Mrs. R. Stickland

Website manager : Ms S. Greenhough

He informed members of forthcoming events ; A music quiz night on April 6th At the Belle Vue and a table top sale on Saturday 20th May.

Cllr James asked how things were progressing in Meriel after the resignation of Nicole Cabon. Cllr Davies reported that at present she was acting president and that things were very quiet. He would report back when he heard who the new President would be.

The Clerk read out a letter from Madame Cabon which thanked The Town Council for their letter following her resignation.

12. Surgery

Cllr James outlined the meeting between members of the Town Council , Mr A Powell of the Health Board, members of Buith Practice and the Pharmacist.(Notes from this meeting were circulated to all members before the meeting). Cllr James informed members that it was a very positive meeting and that there would be no further meetings needed as all that had been promised had been fulfilled or was in progress. There were teething problems acknowledged by Buith Practice, with the “Health Online” system but these were being ironed out..

Action : Clerk to write above letter.

It was felt that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr A. Lowrie for his support in securing a future for the surgery in Llanwrtyd.

Clerk to action this

The Clerk informed members that Mr Lawrie would be attending the next council Meeting in April.

13. **Library** Cllr Pace-Avery offered to contact Ms K Thomas regarding volunteer training.no further issues were brought to the table.

14. **Public Toilets** The Clerk informed members that the licence agreement was due to be sent in .Cllrs agreed that it should be returned.

The issue of the plaque was raised and it was felt that it should read "Refurbished by Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council" with the date of opening. It was suggested that research was done on what other councils had done. Cllr James brought up the issue of a cleaner and put it to members that Mr MaCloughlin had expressed an interest in taking the position as a paid person. Discussion then ensued as to whether we would be employing him and as such would need to comply with pensions and workers rights. The issue of tendering was raised and then the question does a contractor become an employee? It was felt that the Council needed clarification on this matter and asked the Clerk to contact One Voice Wales for their views.

Whoever cleans the toilets in future would need to be COSH trained .

Action: Clerk to contact One Voice Wales.

15. **Dolwen Field** The field has a mole infestation. The quote obtained by the Clerk was quite expensive and Cllr Davies suggested that Mr Croker could deal with them. After some discussion members agreed that this was the best option.

Action: Clerk to contact Mr Croker.

Grass cutting The Clerk informed members that, after formal tendering, there had been one response for the grass cutting contract . This was considered against the quote from Powys County Council ,who would charge £124.68 per cut of the field, and compared with overall costs of one contractor as opposed to three separate bodies being responsible for different areas of grass cutting as in previous years. The overall saving by using one person instead of three bodies to do the cutting would be approximately £250.00 After much debate it was proposed by Cllr Davies that the contract be awarded to Mr A. Croker.This was seconded by Cllr. P Tonks.This was unanimously agreed by members.

Action Clerk to write to Mr Croker offering him the post.

Inspection of Play area -members agreed that the forms should be completed to action this.

16. **Town Square and Green**

- The Clerk read out the e-mail from Mr A Davies regarding the ATM machine. The breakdowns appear to be the result of vandalism to the card reader. Cllr Edwards enquired whether there was any CCTV on the Square. Whilst the Neuadd Hotel has CCTV it is not directed onto the Square. She suggested that the police be informed and they could monitor the area.
- Cllr Rowlands enquired as to the whereabouts of the benches from the Square which need to be put back in place ready for the Tourist season. Cllr Davies offered to collect the benches if necessary from Mr Dodds the caretaker. Cllr James offered to investigate and get back to Cllr Davies if need be.
- Cllr Price informed members that the electric box on the square which is needed for the Christmas lights would need replacing in the very near future as it was coming to the end of its life . Cllr James offered to investigate with the electrician currently working on the public toilets.
- The issue of repainting the fencing and bollards on the square to match the new fingerpost was proposed. After much debate it was put to the vote. 8/10 voted for the proposal. The motion was carried.
- Cllr Rowlands informed members that the bus shelter just off the square needed cleaning.

17. **Correspondence**

Item 10 on Agenda –

- Letter from Welsh gov. Re; Development at Maes y Dre

Action : Clerk to send duplicate letter to Lesley Griffiths as suggested in the letter.

- Planning application p/2017/0213 Alterations and extensions to dwelling at Maes y Gwaelod
- Planning application P/2017/0101 Alterations and extensions to existing storage buildings behind Victoria Hall and e-mail from Mr R Hancock regarding the above
- Planning application P/2107/0227 erection of summer house to replace Conservatory at 1 Erw Haf
- Letter from Clarke Telecom re : proposed base station installation at Ty Cae Mawr.

Item 11 on Agenda - Letter from Nicole Cabon in response to letter sent from Town Council.

Item 13 on Agenda- e-mail from Kay Thomas re library

Item 14 on Agenda -- Letter from Powys Re agreement for Public toilets

Item 15 on Agenda--

- Letter from Powys re safety Inspection of Playground
- Letter from Dwr Cymru re water meter at Dolwen field
- Tender quote from Mr A Croker re grass cutting for 2017-2018
- Letter from Powys re grass cutting for 2017-2018

Item 17 Correspondence

17.1 E-mail from A Davies re ATM machine

17.2 Letter from Ken Skates re Train franchise

17.3 Letter from Powys re; electoral arrangements for the County of Powys

17.4 e-mail from lee Evans at Powys re; Powys Newline

17.5 e-mail from "One Voice Wales" re; training during March

17.6 Letter from Welsh Gov re: the 2018 review of parliamentary constituencies in Wales

17.7 Howlta Spring newsletter and renewal of subs for the year.

It was agreed to renew this subscription

17.8 e-mail from Community Health Care with letter and press release for Dementia Care (to be posted on notice board)

17.9 letter from Mr Ronicle asking for ideas to fund

There were many ideas in response to this letter and a request made to scan the letter to both Cllr Edwards and Cllr Pace-Avery.

Clerk to action this.

Cllr Tonks reported that the Abergwesyn notice board had disappeared.

Cllr Jones informed members that the Station is celebrating its 150th birthday this year and asked Council for funding to support a Station Tea Party. After some debate Cllr Van Rees proposed that the sum of £150.00 be donated to this cause (one pound for every year). The proposal was seconded by Cllr James and the motion was unanimously carried.

Cllr Jones reported that the path on Llandovery Road continues to be a hazard because of rotting leaves which were not cleared when Powys cut the hedges.

Cllr Van Rees offered to speak with those concerned.

Cllr Rowlands enquired about the litter pick and voiced that the Town was looking better than it has for a while.

Cllr James felt that while the litter pick was successful that the Town Council should have been informed and/or invited to take part since the Town Council have done it over many years.

Cllr Van Rees informed members:

- that Council Tax would be rising by 3.9%
- that the day centres would remain open and
- that the Leisure centres had been reconciled.
- Adult social care was still a big issue for the council.
- He also expressed concern that several experienced County Councillors were leaving.

Cllr James thanked members for their input and their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.57pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING; WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL

