

Minutes of the AGM meeting of Llanwrtyd Town Council held on the 18th May in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.

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

In Attendance: L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs P. Tonks, N. Price

The Clerk read an e-mail from Cllr Tonks which gave his apology for not attending and thanking the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk for their work throughout the Year.

2. Mayors Address

Cllr James thanked all Councillors for their support and hard work throughout a challenging year during which there had been many meetings over and above the planned monthly Council Meetings. The issues of the Surgery, the Public Toilets and the closure of the Bank had dominated the year and required resilience and determination on the part of all. He also thanked the Clerk for the support and effort made throughout the year. He particularly thanked Cllr Rowlands for his excellent leadership of the Heritage Centre team and expressed his thanks for the invitation to speak at the opening event. He felt that the Centre would be a tremendous asset to the Town and wished the venture continued success and development. The Mayors address was well received by all Council members who agreed that it had been a busy and taxing year for the Council.

3. Finance

- 3.1 The Clerk informed members that the internal auditor had completed his work and had filled in the relevant parts of the external Auditors form.

A document outlining the financial year was given to all members. It included the Annual Accounting Statement for the external auditor, a receipts and payments summary, bank reconciliation, copies of all income and expenditure for the financial year 2015-2016, a copy of the Asset register and the budget for the financial year 2016-2017. The Clerk explained the External auditor's Accounting Statement and requested members for acceptance of the document. All members agreed to accept the end of year financial records. Acceptance of the financial accounts of 2015-2016 were formally proposed and deemed accurate by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr A Jones.

- 3.2 The Town Council completed the Annual Governance Statement for the External Auditor and the Mayor (and Chair) agreed to sign all supporting documentation for the External Auditors .All documentation is to be returned to the Auditors by the 6th June.

There were some questions regarding the Asset register and it was proposed that the asset register be reviewed and clarified at the next meeting.

4. Welcome to the Incoming Mayor.

Cllr James asked the Clerk to read an e-mail received from Cllr Price, the Deputy Mayor. This e-mail informed members that due to pressures of time he (i.e. Cllr Price) would decline the post of Mayor but would be willing to stand for Deputy Mayor for a second term if members so wished.

Cllr James offered to remain as Mayor if there was no one else wanting to take the role. He then opened the table to offers of the post asking three times if anyone would like to put their name forward for a ballot. No names were brought forward. Cllr Van Rees expressed his gratitude to Cllr James for the offer and proposed that he remain as Mayor of the town council for the year 2016-2017. Cllr Pace –Avery agreed that in the light of all that is currently happening that continuity would be a good thing and endorsed Cllr Van Rees's proposal. All members were asked to vote on the issue and 7/8 voting members present voted to retain Cllr James as Mayor. There was one abstention.

Cllr James was duly elected Mayor for 2016-2017 and took over the Chair.

5. Election of Deputy Mayor

Cllr James asked if members were happy that Cllr Price remain as Deputy Mayor. The point was made that perhaps someone round the table might like to take on the role particularly in view of the fact that the same thing might happen

next year and no Deputy would be trained up to take over the position. Cllr James opened up the position for members to come forward if they so wished but there were no offers made. Again Cllr James asked if members were happy for Cllr Price to maintain the role and asked for a raising of hands. 7/8 voting members present voted in favour of retaining Cllr Price as Deputy Mayor. There was one abstention. Cllr Price was duly elected as Deputy Mayor for the year 2016-2017.

Cllr James reflected that next year would be an election year and all Cllrs would need to stand down in order for a new Council to be publicly elected.

Whilst discussing elections Cllr Van Rees proposed that a letter be sent from the town Council to Kirsty Williams congratulating her on her recent victory and her retention of the Brecon and Radnor Constituency.

All agreed with the proposal.

Action: Clerk to write letter to Kirsty Williams

5.1 Appointments to Committees-this was addressed and changes /additions made where necessary.A copy of the revised responsibilities of Cllrs on Committees is attached to these minutes (Appendix 1)

The issue of the Tourism Committee was raised and while Cllrs were interested in liaising with members of this committee it became clear that there was uncertainty as to whether this Committee was still functioning within the Town. Much discussion was had regarding the promotion and marketing of the town and it was widely felt that that Tourism committee would be an excellent means of such promotion. The Town council will notify Catherine Ketteringham at the Neuadd that our representatives are available to attend meetings. In the hope that a co-ordinated effort be made to promote the Town.

6.0 Minutes of the April Meeting

The minutes of the April meeting were discussed. Cllr Edwards asked for a follow up regarding the co-responder Vehicle. Cllr James informed members that Steve Amor had been invited to the meeting but he was unable to attend and hope to attend the June meeting. Cllr Davies updated members, informing them that the fund- raising for the vehicle itself was complete and the vehicle ready to be bought. The vehicle also had to be fitted with equipment. Cllr Edwards enquired as to whether the Ambulance service had been asked for a contribution to the vehicle and/or equipment. It was felt that many questions needed answering and that Mr Amor be asked to give some sort of update in writing. Cllr James suggested that he go and speak to Mr Amor personally to get some answers to questions that had been raised in the community and within Council .Whilst not wishing to diminish the efforts made by all in securing the funding for such a worthy cause.it was felt that assurances were needed as to the security of the vehicle within Llanwrtyd itself. All members were in agreement with this proposal.

Action: Cllr James and Clerk t o visit Mr Amor at the Fire Station.-date to be agreed.

No further issues were raised and the April minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr J. Davies and seconded by Cllr S. Jones.

7.0 Balance Sheet for April

The April Balance sheet was explained to members by the Clerk. The first instalment of the 2016-2017 Precept had been put into the bank and there were no other significant issues .The Balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.

8.0 Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr lambkin reported that a resident, who wished to remain anonymous, had reported an incident to the 101 service.. Victim support had been provided and the response was made in Welsh. The resident was impressed with the response and support received by the Police.

There were no further issues brought to the table .

Cllr James enquired as to the cost of vandalism for this month. The Clerk informed members that it was difficult to pinpoint costs for vandalism within the invoices received from Ratcliffes but March / April costs were approx. £30.00. Clerk to identify caretaker costs to add to material costs.

Action: Clerk to give this information to Cllr Jones to be printed in the Grapevine.

9.0 Traffic Calming

Since Cllr Tonks was not at the meeting to give any input it was decided to wait until the June meeting to discuss this issue.

Cllr James congratulated Cllr Davies on the success of the recent tractor run but Cllr Davies informed members that in fact the event had been organised by Aled and Rachel Hughes to raise money for the Co-responder Vehicle. The event raised £556.36p.

Cllr James asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Mr and Mrs Hughes for organising the event for the benefit of the Community .

Action: Clerk to write above letter.

10.0 Feedback from Councillors

Cllr S. Jones

- informed members that the AGM of the Abergwesyn Hall and Toilets Committee had taken place and that issues had arisen regarding the maintenance of the Public Toilets which needed new toilet seats and the Hall which needed replacement windows. The Town Council provide an annual maintenance grant of £300.00 to the Committee and this will be sustained for another two years. They also receive an annual revenue grant though it was unclear as to how long this would be provided for by Powys within the precept.

Much discussion was had regarding the payments made to the Town Council from the Honesty Box at Abergwesyn Toilets. The proposal was made that the Committee keep the proceeds from the Honesty Box to use for such running repairs as are necessary. After much discussion it was felt that this was a common sense way forward and was agreed by all members. Cllr James asked the Clerk to write to the committee with the above proposal.

Cllr Van Rees suggested that the Church Fund be approached regarding support for the replacement of the windows.

Cllr Jones would take all the information back to the Committee.

Cllr A. Jones informed members that the next One Voice Wales meeting would be held in Victoria hall on the 4th July at 7:30pm . The Victoria Hall committee would organise the event.

Cllr L. Pace-Avery informed members

- the Wales Alternative Games has now finalised the programme of events and it will be published shortly
- that the Cathy George memorial writing competition was going ahead. It would be Powys wide and would be launched at the library in Llanwrtyd..

There will be two categories a) 7-11 and b) 12-15 age group. Cllr Pace-Avery is currently liaising with Powys Library Service to promote the competition and she will keep Councillors informed. An advert will go into the Grapevine and be put onto the Llanwrtyd Town Council Website.

Action Cllr Pace -Avery to send details to the Clerk for the website and to Cllr Jones for the Grapevine.

- The Social Services and Well Being Act could have major repercussions for the Community and how we support the vulnerable. She enquired about applying to Arwain to fund a support worker that could be available to deal with local enquiries regarding available services. She was prepared to take this forward and Cllr Edwards offered to help.

Cllr T. Van Rees gave the following updates;

- Snack attack-he is pressing for a summons to be issued to the owners by the planning authorities. The time given for the owners to comply with the enforcement notice is now expired and the planning authority does have the power to charge the owners and they can apply to the Courts to sell the property.

School transport for Welsh stream pupils- the welfare of future Generations Act is aiding the case which is ongoing.

- Institute-Proposals for refurbishment of the Institute have been costed by the Ex-Servicemen Housing Association who will make contact with the Trustees within the next few weeks. Funding will then be sought to carry out the refurbishments. Cllr Van Rees suggested that the Military Covenant Committee would give assistance.
- Library-he has sent an e-mail to Mr Macintosh indicating that any contribution to the running costs of the Service in Llanwrtyd could not exceed £4000.00.Llangamarch Community Council had been approached with regard a donation to support the library but Llangammarch is currently served by the Mobile library Service .It was suggested that the Mobile Library Service might be diverted to the Towns if some Libraries close. The question was raised as whether the Mobile service should be discontinued in favour of retaining libraries as the vans used are becoming old and would require huge investment to be replaced

The issue of staffing has changed at the library and this would need to be relayed to Mr Macintosh as this might alter the options available.

Cllr Van Rees is to attend the Trefllys Community Council next month and will report their comments back to the Town Council.

It was agreed that a list of services offered at the Library be requested from Kay Thomas and that the Library should be highlighted as an asset to the Town and should be included in any signposting adopted.

The Clerk informed members of a "public drop-in consultation" session at the Library in Llanwrtyd on Tuesday 24th May 4:00pm-6:00pm.

Cllr J. Rowlands

- thanked Mayor James for his input at the opening of the Heritage Centre and informed members that the opening had been a successful event being officially opened by Roger Williams. He informed members of an

e-mail received from the Deputy Lieutenant (Sue Bowden) who suggested the project should be submitted to PAVO for volunteer of the year Award. This would need someone to nominate and submit the nomination and Cllr Rowlands requested that the Town Council submit the nomination.

Cllr Van Rees endorsed this proposal and all members agreed.

Cllr James asked Cllr Rowlands for more information and the Town Council would put the project forward to PAVO.

Cllr Rowlands informed members that the Tourism Fund for monies to market the Heritage Centre. He informed members that this was the Year of the Legend

Cllr James suggested that the Tourism Committee should liaise Committee had applied to the Welsh with Cllr Rowlands to further develop marketing the town as a whole.

Cllr Rowlands also requested that the idea of the flagpole on the Town Square be resurrected. He requested that costings be sought out from previous meetings.

Action: Clerk to find where costings went and if found bring back to the table for the next meeting.

Cllr Lambkin

- reported that there were two panes of glass cracked; one in the WAG office and one along Station Road .
- She informed members that the Man v Horse had been advertised worldwide and that there would be a great number of people in the Town over the weekend. She urged members to report any incidents to members of the organising Committee so they could be dealt with appropriately. Cllr Lambkin assured members that the fire Brigade and the Police were very supportive of the event. The issue of parking was raised. Cllr James suggested that residents be requested to put notices on their cars.
- With regard marketing the Town she was concerned that the Cambrian Woollen Mill was no longer functional and that they were advertising something that was not available. Clarification was needed on what is happening at the site.

Cllr Rowlands enquired about the Bryan Watkins Memorial Walk. Mrs Watkins had not as yet made contact with Cllr Davies and he did not feel it appropriate to put pressure on her.

11.0 Planning- no planning issues were brought to the table.

12.0 Twinning-Cllr J. Davies explained that the forthcoming Twinning was going to plan and reminded the Town Council that they would need to think of a gift to give to the Mayor/s when they arrived.

The Clerk informed members that a letter had been received from the Twining committee requesting a grant of £200.00 .All members were in agreement to award this grant.

13.0 Services

13.1 Public Toilets

Cllr James updated members on the Public Toilets and circulated proposals for development should the Town Council obtain the grant applied for.

The Clerk outlined ongoing issues with the loss of water at the site. An inspector had been and reported that a tap was still leaking and that a tank was filling up at regular intervals. A meeting is to be held with Welsh water on Wednesday 1st June to identify issues.

13.2 Library –as this was discussed earlier in the meeting with updates from Cllr Van Rees there were no further issues brought to the table other than the Clerk reading the information regarding the drop in session.

13.2 Surgery-much speculation from local residents was brought to the table by various Councillors. The Clerk outlined the position of Builth Practice and the Deputy Chief Executive with regard attendance at this evening's meeting. There is a possibility of attendance at the July meeting from both parties. In the interim Builth Practice had issued a statement received by e-mail and a letter received from Mr A Lawrie of the Health Board. Both letters outlined the position with the surgery and the taking over of the premises by the Health Board in October 2016. There remained a commitment from the Builth Practice to retain rooms at the surgery for visiting Drs but the Health board would use other rooms for their purpose, though the fine detail of this was still to be decided.

Cllr Van Rees requested copies of the letters.

Concern was raised that apparently good equipment was being discarded and it was felt that assurances needed to be sought that this was not equipment which the local Community had raised funds to provide.

Cllr Edwards suggested that the Town Council be proactive in its approach and put together a plan of what the Town's needs are and send them to Mr Lawrie so issues could be discussed when he did attend a meeting.

Action Clerk to write a letter to Mr Lawrie with the proposal that the Town council working with the Health Board to provide necessary facilities and services needed for the residents of Llanwrtyd.

Clerk to send copies of the letters to Cllr T. Van Rees.

14.0 Dolwen Field

The Clerk sought clarification as to whether the Town Council wished to take up the contract for grass cutting with Powys County Council on the same basis as last year (i.e. 20 cuts at £76.00 per cut.) All members agreed to accept this.

14.1 Picnic in the Park

Cllr James informed members that everything was now in hand for the Picnic in the Park. It was suggested that the Co-responder team be asked to be present for the afternoon.

Volunteers were sought from members for the various jobs on the day to make things run smoothly. All posts were covered.

Action; Clerk to make contact with the co-responders to invite them to Picnic in the Park.

14.2 Update on Project in the Park

Cllr James outlined a feasibility study which had been done by Mr L. Thomas from local LWT estate Agents at a cost of £250.00. This was circulated among members. Cllr Rowlands felt that the Development Committee should take the project forward and report progress back to main Council as this is a major project and will require a great deal of effort. All members agreed. Cllr James felt that this was the first step in submitting an expression of interest to Arwain as we now have some idea of the total cost. It was felt that the Development Committee should take account of the original quotes as to which recommended surface for the running track be used.

15.0 Town Square and Green

15.1 Cutting of shrubbery round Red Kite. –a visitor to the Town had pointed out the shrubbery and felt it needed cutting back to reveal the whole of the Red Kite Sculpture.

Discussion then ensued as to the responsibilities within the Gardening club which is currently functioning without a Committee with the exception of a treasurer, Mr J. Seed. Concern was raised as to the condition of the Town regarding maintenance of flower beds, flower boxes and general weeding and care as there appeared to be little coordination/communication as to who was responsible for what.

The Clerk informed members that a grant request of £300.00 had been received from the treasurer, Mr Seed. This money to be spent on updating boxes etc. However there has been grant money in the past that was allocated for this job and as yet there is no evidence of improved boxes. The Town Council deferred a decision on the awarding of this grant and asked for clarification of what the last grant was used for and a specific plan of what any future grant would be used for.

Action. Clerk to write to Mr Seed with this request.

16.0 Correspondence

Item 1 on Agenda e-mail from Cllr Tonks

Item 4 on Agenda e-mail from Cllr Price re: Mayors position.

Item 12 on agenda Letter from Sam Greenhough of Llanwrtyd Twinning association requesting grant.

Item 13.2 on Agenda e-mail from Kay Thomas Principal librarian+ information regarding forthcoming survey.

Item 13.3 on Agenda

- Letter from Alan Lawrie Deputy Chief Executive of Powys teaching Health Board re; surgery.
- Statement sent via e-mail from Dr Walters at Builth Practice

Item 14.0 on Agenda e-mail from PCC re grass cutting contract.

Item 15.1 on Agenda

- letter from Mr J Seed Treasurer of the Gardening club requesting a grant of £300.00
- e-mail from Mrs R Rowlands requesting removal of Tourist Information notice on the side of the Spar shop

The e-mail from Mrs R. Rowlands requested that the sign for the TIC on the wall at Sapr be removed as it was misleading people who visited the Town. The tourist information Centre is no longer sited at the "Now Caffi Sospan"

Action; Clerk to ask Mr Dodds the caretaker if he can remove it.

Item 16.0 on Agenda Poster advertising Community Action for Red Squirrels event to be held in Victoria Hall on 24th May.

Item 16.1 on Agenda Local Government Ethical Framework.(to be formally adopted).

All Councillors were sent this Document prior to the meeting. Members were asked to formally adopt this change in legislation .The Local Ethical Framework was duly adopted by all members.

Item 16.2 on Agenda e-mail from New Commissioner for Well Being of Future Generations, Sophie Howe, outlining forthcoming discussion sessions.

The Clerk informed members of forthcoming sessions with the New Commissioner for Wellbeing of Future Generations. It was noted that no sessions were planned in Mid Wales. In light of this fact and the issues of surrounding use of the surgery together with the implications of the Well being act it was felt pertinent to invite the new Commissioner to the next Town Council Meeting and if this was not possible to a future Town council Meeting.

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

Signed

Date.....

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 15th June

Amendments.:

Cllr Lambkin requested at 14.2 Update on project in the Park
an addition to the first sentence “ done by Mr L Thomas from local LWT estate Agents at a cost of £250.00”

at 15.1 Rewording;
from “requesting removal of notice on Spar Shop
to
“requesting removal of Tourist Information Centre notice on side of Spar shop”