

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th October 2014 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.

Present: Cllrs: James, L Haines, P. Lambkin, S. Jones, J. Rowlands, N. Price, R. Thomas, T. Van Rees, A. Jones, P Tonks

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

Visiting Speaker: Mr G. Green

Cllr James extended a warm welcomed the new co-opted member of the Council Miss Sarah Jones hoping that she would find her new role both interesting and productive.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no absences and therefore no apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

Cllr James noted that amendments had been appropriately added. No further issues were brought to the table. The minutes were approved as accurate by Cllr Rowlands and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.

3. Finance

The October balance sheet was discussed. It was noted that £3,500 had been returned to the reserve account in Swansea Building Society.

The balance sheet was recorded as accurate by Cllr N. Price and seconded by Cllr R Thomas.

4. Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr Rowlands enquired about the article about dog fouling which was to have appeared in the October grapevine. Some members thought there was an article in. Cllr Jones said she would check and if not ensured Members that it would be put into the November issue.

Cllr James brought up the issue of Green Event organisers leaving "tiger tape" around the Town and forest areas long after the event had happened. He felt this made the Town look unkempt. Many members agreed.

5. Traffic Calming

Cllr Thomas reported that the traffic strips had been placed on Ffos Road .

Cllr James outlined the meeting with Ms J Lancey from Powys County Council and Miss K Everson with regard to reinstating the horse warning signs. It was agree that two signs be placed on the Trunk Road at either end of the Town and two signs be placed on Dol-y-cod Road.

Cllr A. Jones reported that the speed camera van had been in the Town today (i.e. 15th October)

6. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr Lambkin reported that pipes were blocked on the Brynhnog Road off the A483 by the level crossing. It is a place where the river rises and this problem is causing flooding. It was suggested that County Highways be contacted to address the issue.

Action: Clerk to report the problem to County Highways.

Cllr Van Rees reported that he had heard nothing from Kirsty Williams regarding the Green Bring Site so no further developments with this issue.

He reported that the issue of drainage at the Parish field where new vicarage is to be built had been solved after negotiations between interested parties and that drainage from the site can be fed into highway drains.

He reported that a Quantity Surveyor has been employed to carry out an audit of specific alterations at the War Memorial building because it is a listed building. This may delay proceedings but is a necessary initial delay in order to proceed in accordance with regulations relating to listed buildings.

He reported that the issue of Bromsgrove Hall was beginning to be resolved and that PCC acknowledge the problem with the heating system.

Cllr Tonks reported that the “Cuppa with a Copper “ initiative , held in “Sospan Caffi” was well attended in October after a disappointing attendance at the September meeting. He felt this was due to better publicity about the event.

7. Planning

No planning issues were brought to the table.

Questions were asked about the ownership of “Snack Attack”. There was some conjecture but no evidence as to who currently owns the property.

8. Services

8.1 Any issues

Cllrs remain committed to the Green Bring Site but development is not forthcoming at the present time. Cllr James reported that a meeting set up to resolve the issue of access at Riverside had been set up but the Powys County Council representative did not attend and did not make contact to say so. This was not well received by all those who had taken time out to attend the meeting. Cllr Van Rees expressed his concern and would write to Powys regarding the matter. Cllr James reported that he himself would be writing as were the Police.

The meeting had been rescheduled for 15th October but Cllr James was unable to attend this. He was waiting further information about another date and would report back at the November meeting.

8.2 Public Toilets

Cllr James outlined the meeting that both he and Mrs Ball had had with Mr Holt of “Healthmatic” regarding refurbishment and management of the toilets. The proposal to close all but the disabled toilet and sell off the remainder of the building was the suggested way forward as the toilets would need a complete refurbishment to bring them up to modern day standards.

Cllr James proposed that tenders be sent out requesting an idea of cost for refurbishment from local tradespeople. It was felt that if this were to happen the Council needed to know the legal, up to date, specifications for refurbishment of a toilet facility.

Cllr Price offered to find such a specification.

Cllr Van Rees reported that there was a full cabinet meeting on the 16th October at which he would raise the issue for cost of refurbishment to toilets and suggested that if refurbishment were to happen prior to handing over the toilets then taking over the public toilets in Llanwrtyd would be a viable proposition. He also indicated that he would fight for an extension of the deadline.

After further discussion it was felt that a letter be written on behalf of the Council to Mr Prys-Jones seeking further information. During this discussion the visiting speaker Mr G Green arrived.

Cllr James welcomed Mr Green to the meeting and asked him to outline the case put forward in his letter to the Council for a camp site on the Old tip near the railway line. Mr Green expressed the importance of tourism to Llanwrtyd but felt that many who wanted to bring their tents, camper vans and caravans were being put off by the lack of adequate camping facilities within the Town. He felt that the Old tip was a perfect site as there was vehicular access via road and via the railway bridge to the site. He explained the history of the site and felt that 25 years on the site should be environmentally safe to develop. He expressed his frustration at the authorities in their constant negative responses to this issue. He would like to see a site in Llanwrtyd run by an independent commercial group.

He requested that the Town Council make representations to Powys County Council to voice support for the project and discover whether or not the site was now fit for purpose.

Cllr James thanked Mr Green for his presentation and, referring back to the original letter, sought clarification of the following issues:

The issue of loss of revenue to the Town was challenged in that in the original bids put forward by WAG to the Welsh Government would have included monies for camping.

A request was made for the name of the environmental consultant that had done the survey on the land. This was given as Mr G . Gately.

The issue of a commercial enterprise was questioned-in particular Cllr James voiced concerns about the Town Council being seen to give support to a commercial enterprise feeling that it could compromise the Council's position of independence.

Cllr James outlined proposals for a possible campsite at Plas y Cadno which would alleviate the problem.

Cllr James congratulated Mr Green on his recent award and asked if any of the monies talked about in a recent interview would be put towards this project. Mr Green responded that no monies were available for the project at this time. Cllr James opened up questions from other members at which point Cllr Van Rees declared an interest in that he owns the adjoining land to the proposed site and he left the meeting.

Several issues /observations and concerns were raised;

- Who owns the land (there is no absolute answer to this at the present moment in time)
- Is there a guarantee that toxicity levels are within guidelines and that the site is now fit to develop (there is no definitive answer to this as yet).
- Are there any available statistics on how many campers wanted to come but were put off by lack of camping facilities?
- Have the wildlife issues of the area been taken into consideration (there are otter families living in the area outlined for development).
- Development of Dolwen fields, with the possibility of a running track and developed car parking, could provide better access to the existing facilities on Dolwen Field.
- Victoria Wells site was mentioned as a possible site for future development
- Mr Green felt that a commercial enterprise would be better as there would be no Town Council responsibility but as yet didn't have a commercial organisation in mind.
- Some members thought that in principle the idea was a good one but to date there is not enough information available to make a decision of support. Cllr James suggested that some fact finding be done regarding toxicity levels and ownership of the land established.

Action: Cllr A.Jones agreed to contact Network rail about ownership

The Clerk is to write to Powys County Council for confirmation (or otherwise) of the land in question and to request latest toxicity levels and a record of their testing over the years.

Cllr James concluded the discussion about camping and Cllr Van Rees was recalled to the meeting.

Cllr James requested that Mr Green report back to both WAG and Green events about the overuse of "tiger tape". Mr Green agreed that too much was being used and was not always necessary and that he would feed back to event organisers.

Cllr James also revisited the issue of the public toilets and requested that Mr Green ascertain whether the original commitment of support from the Event community was still forthcoming.

He thanked Mr Green for his input into the meeting and that any findings regarding the Old Landfill site would be fed back to him.

Mr Green left the meeting. Cllr James charged all Councillors to think about the proposal of support for this project whilst information was gathered regarding ownership and suitability and requested the issue be brought back to the table in November to be actioned.

Action : Clerk to write to Powys county council requesting clarification if the above issues

9. Twinning

No issues were brought to the table with regard Twinning.

10. Dolwen Field

10.1 Play Area

The Clerk outlined a meeting with Mr Stevenson on Tuesday 14th October. He was working in the park and reported that it would be finished by the end of the day. He requested payment as soon as possible. There was some dispute as to whether the bench in the seating area had been formally agreed but he said he would do it if needed at an extra cost. Ms Lowe of LWParc suggested that local builders could be asked to fit the bench as long as it didn't negate any warranty on the area. It was proposed by Cllr Van Rees that we release £4000.00 of the final payment immediately and retain the remainder until the site has been inspected by Councillors and they are satisfied that all works are completed and that all paper work is handed over. This was seconded by Cllr P Tonks.

Cllr Rowlands enquired about the outstanding monies from the project and Cllr Price informed him of the decision to give the outstanding money to LWParc retaining £50.00 for postage and stationary costs incurred by the Council.

a. Pavilion

Cllr Price informed members that there had been a Pavilion Management meeting on Monday 13th October. Apart from Council members Only representatives from Red Kite Events were in attendance. The following information was disseminated to members:

The terms and Conditions of booking the pavilion with Camping is revised as follows;

1 night + camping =£70.00

2nights +camping =£80.00

3 nights + camping =£90.00

A deposit of £20.00 together with the booking form secures a booking for the exclusive use of that hirer.

The remaining monies (i.e. the remainder of the fee, together with income from the tents) to be paid within 21 days after the event.)

A maximum of three bookings can be made at one time. If however payment is not made within 21 days of the first booking then other bookings made are forfeited.

Charges for number of tents will be simplified to a standard charge of £5.00 per tent (regardless of size) e.g. 40 tents would generate £200.00

These changes would come into force on the 1st January 2015 with all event organisers being informed of the changes as soon as they have been revised .Hire charges for the pavilion only would remain the same at £12.00 per session (sessions being 7:30am-12:00noon;

1:00-5:00pm

6:00pm -10:00pm

A proforma would be given out with booking forms to provide some feedback with regard the condition of the premises at taking over point and after an event. This will enable the committee to know about and address any issues more promptly.

Members agreed that it sounded a clearer system and were happy to trial it .This was proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Rowlands.

The question was then raised as to how to proceed with charges for the Man v Horse event and for the remaining events of the year. Since Green Events do not charge per tent it was suggested that the average for all size tents be taken which would be £10.00 a tent under the old system After much debate it was proposed to charge a fee of £300.00 for Man v Horse and therefore a subsequent fee of £6.25 per tent to the end of the year when the new Terms and Conditions take effect.

Cllr Jams reported that the outlets to the showers in the Pavilion were regularly being blocked with silt and grass. It was reported by WAG members who used the field in August. It was requested that Chris Dodds be contacted to monitor the outlets and clean them on a regular basis.

Action: Clerk to contact to Chris Dodds

Cycle and Running Track

Cllr Rowlands reminded members of the proposed project and its current status. In order to go forward with fund seeking the Council need to demonstrate users of the track and potential numbers in terms of local groups as well as individuals. He reminded members of the two tenders received and indicated that a third would need to be sought to move forward. Cllr James outlined the possibility of including parking facilities to be included in the bid. This would give vehicular access to the pavilion and enable greater use of the premises.

Action: Cllr Price to approach initial interested bodies in the project with a view to holding a meeting to discuss a way forward.

11. Town Square and Green

11.1 Flag

It was decided to put the “flag” project on hold until we know whether Bethen would be returning in the future, as she is on secondment from her position. It was felt that this was her project and, together with the fact that winter is fast approaching, it was decided to put things on hold until the Spring of 2015.

12. Correspondence

Item 8.2 Letter from Powys County Council together with a copy of the cabinet report with regard Public Toilets

Item 8.2 further letter from Powys outlining specific running costs for the public toilets in Llanwrtyd (copy sent to all members).

Item 12.1 G mail from Building Control at Powys with regard replacing the “Victoria Road “ sign .

Item 12.2 E-mail from Friends of Healthcare in Builth Wells regarding a defibrillator in the local Community. Cllr Lambkin suggested it could be useful in Abergwesyn Hall and members advised her to take the issue to the Hall committee which she said she would do .Issues were raised about training in its usage but Cllr S. Jones assured members that no training was necessary as it was self-explanatory)

Action: Clerk to write a letter requesting clarification of whether we need another one and if so where would it be situated.

Item 12.3 Letter from Roger Williams’s office outlining the secured funding for the development of Llandrindod hospital.

Item 12.4 Letter from Western Power distribution with regard Temporary unmetered connections for Festive lighting.

Cllr Price outlined the costs of putting up and taking down of Christmas lights with half the cost being met by the festival committee. All members agreed and the motion was formally proposed by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by Cllr P Tonks. Cllr Price therefore requested that a cheque be drawn up and sent to Powys .Cllr Van Rees offered a vote of thanks to Cllr Price for his continued work in this area.

Item 12.5 G-mail from Powys regarding changes to Recycling collection days.

Item 12.6 Letter from Roger Williams’s office regarding Rural Open Sure signals.

Item 12.7 Letter from One Voice Wales with date of next meeting.

13. Miscellaneous

Cllr Lambkin reported that the toilet sign at Abergwesyn had been reinstated and wished to thank Chris Dodds for a job well done.

She enquired whether we had had any feedback from Ian Harris about the various jobs that the Council outlined in the September meeting. (no such feedback had been received)

Action: Clerk to follow up on issues with Mr Harris in readiness for the November meeting.

Signed

Date.....

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th November

Amendments

Cllr James requested an amendment at point 4 Anti- Social Behaviour.,second paragraph adding the word “Green “ in front of “event organisers”

Cllr Rowlands requested the following to be amended:

At point 6 “Feedback from Councillors”

From:

“He reported that the issue of drainage at the new vicarage had been solved after negotiations between interested parties and that drainage from the site can be fed into highway drains.”

To;

“He reported the issue of drainage at the parish field where the new vicarage is to be built had been solved”

At point 8 Public Toilets

An inclusion at the third paragraph “prior to handing over the toilets”

At point 8 Public Toilets at the bottom of page 3 : the following paragraph was requested to be reworded from:

Cllr James also requested a revisiting of the issue of the Public toilets and requested that the original support to maintain the toilets was revisited to gauge if the same commitment was still forthcoming.

To;

Cllr James also revisited the issue of the public toilets and requested that Mr Green ascertain whether the original commitment of support from the Event community was still forthcoming.

At 10.2 Pavilion :

Request for the inclusion “Apart from council members “

At 10.2 pavilion:

Charges for number of tents will be simplified to a standard charge of £5.00 per tent (ie family tents)

To be changed to;

Charges for number of tents will be simplified to a standard charge of £5.00 per tent(regardless of size)

Query at 10.2 Pavilion:

“Subsequent fee of £6.25 per tent to the end of the year when the new Terms and conditions take effect” –was this agreed?

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